



2009 d'ARENBERG THE STICKS AND STONES

WINEMAKER :	Chester Osborn
REGION :	McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS :	Tempranillo (54%), Grenache (25%) Tinta Cao (17%), Souzao (4%)
MATURATION :	10 months in French & American oak barriques
ANALYSIS :	14.1% alc/vol TA: 7.2 g/L pH: 3.3

BACKGROUND :

The inspiration behind this name came from the age-old proverb 'sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me.' The unusual and quirky names that d'Arenberg's range of wines has never done the winery any harm. d'Arenberg also uses sticks (vine cuttings) planted in stony soils to produce the grapes that result in this wine.

WINEMAKING :

Parcels of Tempranillo, Grenache, and Shiraz are gently crushed and fermented in small batches in traditional headed-down open fermenters, followed by foot-treading. The skins are then gently pressed in traditional 19th century 'Coq' and 'Bromley & Tregoning' basket presses prior to maturation in French and American oak barriques for ten months.

TASTING NOTES :

On the nose, notes of plum, blackcurrant and dark cherry truffle. Another layer of secondary aromas - mushrooms and earth characters - comes through making this a seriously complex wine. On the palate, flavors of red licorice, spice and peat characters. The hallmark of this vintage though is a rhubarb, ironstone-like note that adds an incredible core of mineral tannins and bright acidity. The wine is both lively and complex at the same time.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

94 pts James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion, 90pts Wine & Spirits

ABOUT d'ARENBERG

One of the undisputed kings of Australian Shiraz and Rhone varieties, d'Arenberg has managed to turn individuality into an art form by doing a whole lot of little things differently. The original vineyards were established by Joseph Osborn in 1912 in the McLaren Vale region of South Australia. A century on, the estate has grown to 345 acres, and the mantle now rests with 4th-generation winemaker Chester Osborn. By maintaining a focus on traditional winemaking and nurturing their old-vine material, the Osborns have successfully established themselves as one of the country's leading producers of expressive, characterful wines. Receiving the accolades Winery of the Year 24 times and Winemaker of the Year seven times, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.



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