

2012 d'ARENBERG STICKS AND STONES

WINEMAKER :	Chester Osborn
REGION :	McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS :	Tempranillo (60%), Grenache (30%) Souzao (5%), Tinto Cao (5%)
MATURATION :	12 months in French & American oak barriques
ANALYSIS :	14.1% alc/vol TA: 6.9 g/L pH: 3.52

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 each varietal 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 20 months.

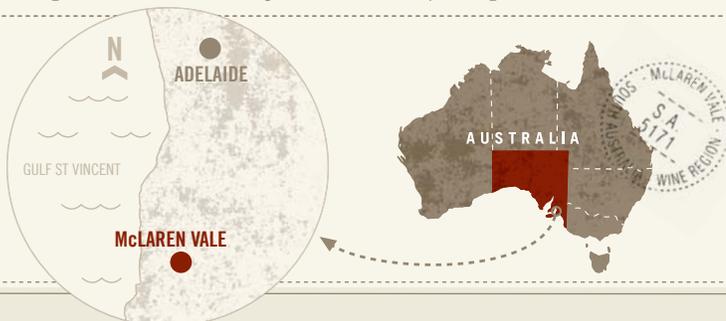
TASTING NOTES :

Tempranillo provides tomato leaf and baked red fruits, linear shape and length. Grenache lends juicy blueberry and plum with just a hint of clove, along with succulence and fine, gritty tannins. Tinta Cao offers more purple fruits and a lovely crunch to the palate and finally, Souzao, that exotic beast, can be thanked for its contribution of crushed flowers along with roasted meats and herbs. The wine also benefits for some a few years in the cellar before release. All in all, this is a wonderfully interwoven wine with well-balanced structural components and a suavity and opulence that only comes with age.

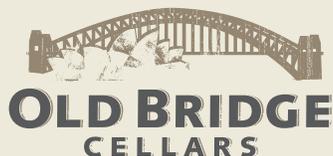
CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 91 pts Vinous

ABOUT d'ARENBERG :

One of the undisputed kings of Australian Shiraz and Rhone varietals, 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 fourth-generation winemaker Chester Osborn. By maintaining a focus on traditional winemaking and nurturing their old-vine material, the Osborn clan has successfully established themselves as one of the country's leading producers of concentrated, characterful wines. Ranked as one of the Top 100 Wineries and Top Value Brands in the world by Wine & Spirits Magazine in 2013, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.



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