

2015 d'ARENBERG

THE LAUGHING MAGPIE SHIRAZ VIOGNIER



WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz (94%), Viognier (6%)
MATURATION: 18 months in French and American oak barriques
ANALYSIS: 14.5% alc/vol | TA: 7.2 g/L | pH: 3.49

BACKGROUND: In 2006, Chester added a small parcel of Roussanne to The Stump Jump White. A wine journalist described him as a 'wild pixie' for concocting such a crazy blend. Taking that as a compliment, Chester went on to make an even more audacious blend with Roussanne, this time combining it with Shiraz.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Small batches are crushed and then transferred to five tonne headed-down open fermenters where the Roussanne and Shiraz are co-fermented. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation. When tannin extraction is just right the wine is basket pressed and transferred to oak barriques. The barrel fermented component is aged on lees to slow aging and keep the wine fresher while also reducing the oak influence.

TASTING NOTES: Lovely dark, savory Shiraz fruits on the nose. Cocoa, blackberry, cedar, spice and roast meats. The palate has incredible depth but at the same time has a lovely elegance driven by a fine core of graphite like tannins and a deliciously mouth-watering acidity. Serious Shiraz but not of the sweet, jammy kind. Complex, dark, savory, powerful yet elegant. A wine that will continue to reward careful cellaring and is sure to seduce even the most sophisticated of wine palates.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not yet reviewed.

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.

