

2016 d'ARENBERG

THE IRONSTONE PRESSINGS



WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Grenache (70%) Shiraz (25%) Mourvèdre (5%)
MATURATION: 18 months in new and seasoned French oak barriques
ANALYSIS: 14.5% alc/vol | TA: 7.1 g/L | pH: 3.51

BACKGROUND: Most of McLaren Vale's acclaimed, historic vineyards are riddled with ancient, decomposed ironstone. Its extraordinary rusty red-brown color is derived from the iron oxides present in the stone. The larger pieces were cleared in the late 1880's and utilized in many of the buildings at d'Arenberg, most notably the old stables.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Small batches of grapes are crushed gently and then transferred to five tonne headed down open fermenters. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation. The wine is then basket pressed and transferred to a mixture of new and seasoned French oak barriques to complete fermentation. There is no fining or filtration prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES: A favorite of many of the cellar workers, this classic blend needs some time to unwind. The nose is fragrant, with intense McLaren Vale Grenache blood orange character, supported with ferrous and iodine notes. There's some initial fruit sweetness on the front palate, quickly morphing into a long line of concentrated red fruit and spice. The finish is tangy, with young, crunchy tannins, resulting in a wine with fantastic structure and incredible length.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not yet reviewed. 2015 vintage: 95 pts/Top 100 Australian Wines of 2018 JamesSuckling.com

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.

