

2014 d'ARENBERG

THE LAUGHING MAGPIE SHIRAZ VIOGNIER



WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz (94%), Viognier (6%)
MATURATION: 10 months in French and American oak barriques
ANALYSIS: 14.5% alc/vol | TA: 6.9 g/L | pH: 3.52

BACKGROUND: The bushland that surrounds the d'Arenberg winery is home to the native Australian bird, the Kookaburra, famous for its distinctive laughing call. Chester Osborn's daughters named their two wild pet Kookaburras the "Laughing Magpies," and as the Magpie plumage is black with a stripe of white feathers, the name has stuck and the Osborns thought this a great name for McLaren Vale's first ever Shiraz (black) and Viognier (white) blend.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and transferred to open fermenters, where Viognier and Shiraz are co-fermented. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation, the wine is basket pressed and transferred to a mixture of old French and American oak to complete fermentation and mature for up to 10 months.

TASTING NOTES: Nice round, plump style of Shiraz. Loads of plum and black berry on the nose, with the small Viognier component adding exotic notes of spiced apricots. There's lots of ripe plum flavors, alongside graphite and dried herbs. It's a luscious, soft wine, finishing with restrained tannin and moderate acidity.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 91 pts JamesSuckling.com, 90 pts Wine & Spirits

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.

