

2014 d'ARENBERG STICKS AND STONES



WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Tempranillo (37%), Grenache (36%), Souzao (25%), Tinta Cao (2%)
MATURATION: 12 months in French and American oak
ANALYSIS: 14.5% alc/vol | TA: 6.7 g/L | pH: 3.54

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 NOTES: Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and then transferred to five ton headed down open fermenters. These batches remain separate until final blending. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation. The wine is then basket pressed and transferred to a mixture of seasoned French barriques to complete fermentation. The barrel ferments are aged on lees, and there is no racking until final blending. This wine does not undertake fining or filtration prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES: The Sticks & Stones is consistently great, year in, year out. The 2014 vintage is no exception. Medium bodied with blue fruits, spice, and a little hint of clove. Waxy, smooth and rounded. It is slightly more on the savory side with vanilla and some residual oak present. Good length, generous and mouth filling.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 90 pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate

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.

