2016 d'ARENBERG THE DEAD ARM

Review Summary

94 pts/Year's Best McLaren Vale "The Dead Arm is Chester Osborn's paean to his old vines struggling with eutypa, a fungus that kills one of the canes, leaving the vine to produce a more limited and concentrated crop than its siblings of similar age. He makes this in small, open-top vats, foot-treading the fermenting must, then using a basket press and a mix of new and old French and American oak barrels to finish it. Bottled without fining or filtering, it's a potent red that tastes like McLaren—ripe with sunbaked-strawberry and fresh purple fruit flavors, bold and intense yet floral, cool and friendly. The wine's rich tannins feel supple and gentle, the structure firmed up by acidity. This is built to age for a decade or more."

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine
February 2020

94 pts "Impressive richness and depth from the outset here. The nose has rich dark-plum, chocolate and earth aromas with such poise and richness. The palate is full-bodied with saturated plums and blackberries. Long, ribbony tannins."

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com
June 26, 2019

92 pts "Super color, a dark purple-red; a colossal wine that's full-bodied, tannic but shapely with jammy ripe fruit, lots of spices, violets and meaty aromas."

James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion
2020

100 Best Australian Wines 2019/20 "This is a quintessential Dead Arm with heroic tannins and cascading chocolate and plum fruit. It is dry, herbal and amaro-sour and the finish makes me wince a little but this is a good sign because there is serious depth and resonance here and the rigorous tannins and bitter acidity will nourish this wine for years to come. This is a classic d'Arenberg standard bearer wine and this vintage suits its havoc-wreaking attitude. I know it will leave Dead Arm admirers swooning with delight."

Matthew Jukes, MatthewJukes.com
2019

GOLD MEDAL   China Wine & Spirits Awards 2019

GOLD MEDAL   New Zealand International Wine Show 2019

OUTSTANDING   Langton's Classification 2018