

2017 d'ARENBERG

THE NOBLE MUD PIE



WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale and Adelaide Hills, South Australia
VARIETALS: Viognier (56%) Sauvignon Blanc (28%)
Semillon (10%) Pinot Gris (6%)
ANALYSIS: 11.8% alc/vol | TA: 11.5 | RS: 197.0 g/L | pH: 3.37

BACKGROUND: As a child Chester delighted in presenting his parents with carefully crafted mud pies. He often admits he has never really grown up and continues to make mud pies, now using the ingredients of the earth, water and sun.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Late harvesting from two vineyards took place by hand in small volumes when fruit flavors and the Botrytis cinerea infections were at an optimal point. Often there are multiple picking of each vineyard. The fruit was gently crushed before receiving a small amount of skin contact. The juice was separated via the gentle process of basket pressing. Fermentation occurs in a number of small tanks using neutral yeast to cope with the high natural sugar levels and to avoid dominating the fruit characters. The fermentation stopped naturally, retaining a considerable level of residual sugar.

TASTING NOTES: This wine is generous and rich yet has great freshness and acidity from the cooler 2017 vintage. Honey suckle, frangipani and lemon balm leap from the glass with concentrated citrus and pineapple strewn across the palate. The finish is long and intense with soft phenolics and fantastic length of flavor.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 91 pts Wine Spectator, 89 pts Halliday Wine Companion

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.

