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d'Arenberg's Layered Shiraz Tiers: Lambswool to Cashmere

Michael Apstein | Wine Review Online, Oct 8, 2013

d'Arenberg Swinging Malaysian Single Site Shiraz 2010 (SRP \$85)

d'Arenberg has turned up the power here while simultaneously increasing the polish of this Shiraz. A luxurious wine, its suave texture is all the more impressive considering its power. A dense and dark earthy quality has replaced the flowery aspect found in their Laughing Magpie. A long and refined finish reinforces the wine's elegance. I suspect it will develop beautifully providing even more enjoyment over the years, but it's hard to resist now. This is cashmere.

95

d'Arenberg The Laughing Magpie Shiraz Viognier 2009 (SRP \$29)

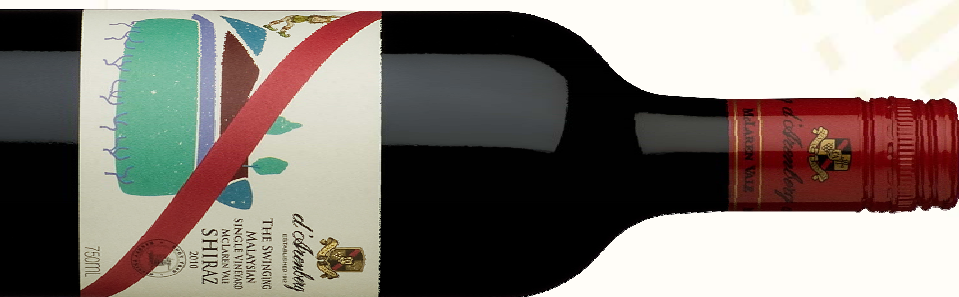
By blending a touch of Viognier with the Shiraz, as in the custom in France's Côte Rôtie, d'Arenberg has created a more layered wine compared to their super-value The Stump Jump. Both flowery and gamey, it is balanced, not bombastic. A wonderful lifted quality prevents it from being ponderous. Subtle peppery notes stud its appealing texture. If The Stump Jump is wool, this one is a very fine lambswool.

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d'Arenberg The Stump Jump Shiraz 2011 (SRP \$13)

Despite my lack of enthusiasm for the cutesy names the Australians attach to their wines, there is no overlooking the quality and value of this wine. It is a superb \$13 Shiraz. Surprisingly for the price, it delivers more than just fruit flavors -- there are subtle and intriguing gamey and savory notes. Not entirely polished, it has a charming rusticity compared to d'Arenberg's other very fine Shiraz. Stock up on this for the cool weather ahead. It's just what you need as the temperature drops and the hearty stews simmer on the stove.

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Amazing by d'Arenberg
Tiers