



## 2008 d'ARENBERG THE LAUGHING MAGPIE

### Review Summary



**94 pts - Best of the Best by Variety** “Good color; highly perfumed bouquet, with an abundance of black fruits, savory charcuterie, and a suggestion of violets; the palate is seamless and beautifully poised, with the acidity providing contrast to the lavish levels of fruit; a well-constructed example of the style.”

**James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion  
2011**

**91 pts** “It is deep crimson-colored with an alluring bouquet of cedar, lilacs, Asian spices, black cherry, and blueberry. On the palate it is medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and layered with savory fruit. Nicely balanced, it will evolve for 2-3 years and drink well through 2020.”

**Jay Miller, Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate  
December 2009, Issue #186**

**90 pts – Top Value** “Slightly more rich and voluptuous, the 2008 d'Arenberg The Laughing Magpie Shiraz-Viognier (94% Shiraz/6% Viognier aged for 10-months in a combination of French and American oak) is admirably fruited and exhibits loads of spice-driven berry fruits, underbrush, smoked game, and hints of violets on the nose. Juicy and lively on the palate, with a focused texture, racy acidity, and firm tannin, it too needs a short decant to shine. No harm in drinking now, yet it should also age gracefully as well.”

**Jeb Dunnuck, The Rhone Report  
March 2012**

**90 pts** “Inky purple. High-pitched dark berry and floral aromas are complicated by notes of black pepper and woodsmoke. Pliant, palate-coating dark fruit flavors are framed by velvety tannins, picking up a note of licorice on the back half. Surprisingly brisk, even taut, on the finish, which leaves spice and floral notes behind. This benefits quite a bit from aeration.”

**Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar  
July/August 2010**



**90 pts** “Starts off dark and a bit brooding, with aromas of plum, espresso and black olive, but shows hints of brighter fruit elements on the palate. Mouthfilling but dry on the finish, this is still very young; decant if serving now, or try 2013-2020.”

**Joe Czerwinski**  
**Wine Enthusiast, February 2010**

**TOP 100 BLUE-GOLD AWARD** “Lovely rich lifted nose. Good ripe tannin structure. Very balanced. Some mid palate intensity. A great match as the ripe tannins become sweet fruit. It works well and remains beautifully balanced right through.”

**2012 Sydney International Wine Competition**

**RECOMMENDED RED** “Another top summer red is the blackberry and mushroom infused d’Arenberg Laughing Magpie, an Australian blend of Shiraz and Viognier. Quite delicious now, but at the end there’s a maple and brown sugar touch that makes me think this one needs a bit of bottle age to become all it can be. Regardless, this is an example of what I would serve to avowed red drinkers while everyone else is enjoying bubbles, whites and rosés.”

**Ben Weinberg, Weinberg’s Wine Notes #105**  
**June 8, 2010**

**CRITICS GOLD**

**The Critics Challenge International Wine Competition 2012**