

2008 d'ARENBERG THE FOOTBOLT SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER:	Chester Osborn
REGION:	McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS:	Shiraz
MATURATION:	12 months in new & older French & American barriques
ANALYSIS:	14.5% alc/vol 6.9 g/L TA 3.38 pH

BACKGROUND:

Joseph Rowe Osborn, a South Australian racehorse owner of the early 1900s, happened upon a chestnut colt named "Footbolt" who delivered a winning streak of six races early in his career. From the winnings, Joseph was able to purchase the first of the d'Arenberg vineyards, and establish what are now the oldest vineyards in McLaren Vale.

VINTAGE 2008:

2008 is a tale of two vintages for red wines in McLaren Vale. Winter rains set the vines up perfectly with healthy, balanced canopies. A cool January and February meant stress-free ripening, and for early-picked parcels, flavor ripeness at reasonably low sugar levels and high natural acidity. A sustained heat wave in early March resulted in rich, ripe characters, thus Footbolt, being a blend of the early and late parcels, shows a balance between ripe fruit and bright acidity.

TASTING NOTES:

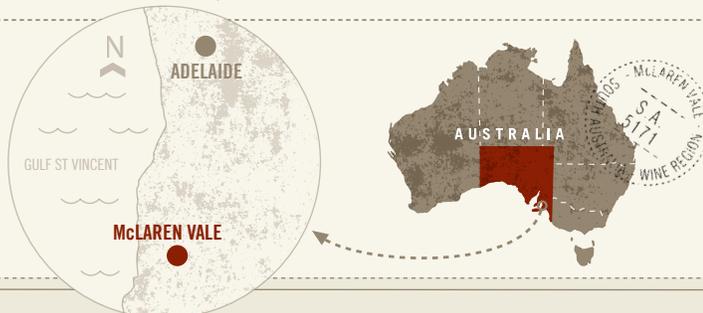
The 2008 Footbolt shows off a brooding nose of dark red cherries, rhubarb and cardamon spices, with underlying earthiness. The generous palate is well-structured, with juicy blood plums and mulberries on the mid palate, rounded out by cinnamon spice from seasoned oak and balanced acidity to keep the ripe fruit in check. Firm, powdery tannins provide a memorable finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

90 pts/Best Buy Wine & Spirits, 89 pts Wine Spectator, 88+ pts Stephen Tanzer

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.



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