



2012 d'ARENBERG THE FERAL FOX PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER :	Chester Osborn
REGION :	Adelaide Hills, South Australia
VARIETALS :	Pinot Noir
MATURATION :	12 months in 5% new French oak barrels
ANALYSIS :	14.2% alc/vol 6.0 g/L TA 3.37 pH

BACKGROUND :

The feral foxes that inhabit the Adelaide Hills have developed an appetite for grapes and are often found eating low hanging bunches during vintage. d'Arenberg's not fussed though as the foxes act as crop thinners and enhance the quality of grapes that are too high for them to reach. It also has the secondary effect of providing a natural source of fertilisation when the laxative nature of the grapes take effect on the normally carnivorous foxes.

WINEMAKING :

Small batches are crushed and then transferred to two ton open fermenters. 15% whole bunches are added and the fruit underwent a three-day cold soak prior to wild fermentation starting. Regular foot treading takes place throughout the ferment followed by gentle basket pressing. The wine is then transferred to older French oak barrels to complete primary and malolactic fermentations and is aged on the lees for added complexity with no racking until final blending. This wine is unfinned and unfiltered.

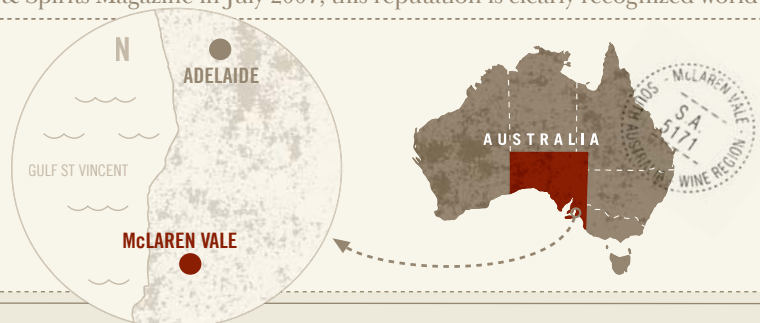
TASTING NOTES :

Fresh strawberry and raspberry notes waft from the glass with another layer of earthy leafiness revealed as the wine opens up. The palate is packed with fruits of the forest which are harmoniously balanced by more complex layers of cocoa powder, damp earth, white pepper and a subtle cigar box characters. The tannins are vibrant and fine, lingering for a long time with traces of ripe strawberry clinging willfully to them.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 90 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 89 pts James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion, 88 pts Wine Enthusiast

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 among Australia's Top 10 Shiraz producers by Wine & Spirits Magazine in July 2007, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.



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