



2004 THE CUSTODIAN GRENACHE

Region

McLaren Vale, South Australia

Variety

Grenache

Maturation

12 month in new and older American and French oak barriques

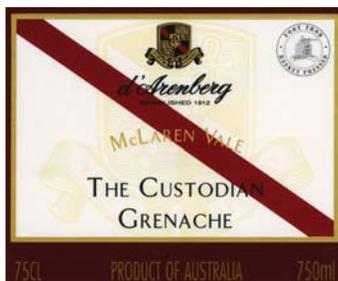
Technical Analysis

14.5% alc/vol

Tasting Notes

After excellent winter rains and then a warm wet spring the vineyards were set for a good start to vintage. Flowering was consistent, and crop sizes were more normal than previous years. It was the coldest January for 12 years followed by a warm to hot February and mild March which carried on into April to eventually become a very long Indian summer due to the mild autumn weather. Overall the fruit harvested had good levels of fragrance and varying flavor profiles with ripe, long, gritty fruit tannins.

As a young wine, 'The Custodian' shows a dark ruby-purple color, and distinctive rich, ripe, lifted plum, cherry and deep blackcurrant aromas, on top of earthy, spicy, violet, musk and raspberry smells - the essences of Grenache. Touches of white pepper, tobacco, cinnamon and spice follow onto the full-bodied juicy palate. The rich plum and sweet blackberry fruit nuances are lifted by gentle vanillin and coffee-mocha oak derived flavors, as well as crunchy, fine-grained fruit and mineral tannins.



After some bottle ageing the color becomes a graduated glowing red-brown and the young fruit scented aromas and flavors gradually transform into velvety rich, spicy, strawberry jam, creamy chocolate, earthy and smoky edged aromas. This integration and complexity develops on the palate too, where the young tannin slowly falls away to reveal a seamless, soft sweet rolling middle palate mulberry and prune like fruit with tertiary biscuit, coffee and chewy old leather flavors before a long, soft, dry mouth filling fine acid finish.

Background

d'Arenberg's rich, luscious reds have always been grenache based and no other Australian winery has so proudly represented the varietal. Hence the name 'The Custodian' as d'Arenberg has kept watch and ward over grenache for 40 years.

Additional Notes:

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