

2014 d'ARENBERG THE DEAD ARM

Review Summary



97 pts “Mulberry and ripe plum nose, layers of flavor as one is peeled back another comes to the fore. It’s a wine to sip, savor and appreciate, somehow descriptive words seem scarce, the enjoyment in the mouth overriding words in the mind. It’s long stretching in a lazy way from beginning to end, the pleasure points beautifully caressed as the wine flows across them.”

Tony Keys, The Key Report
June 10, 2017

97 pts “If you haven’t been to d’Arry’s in McLaren Vale, you really haven’t lived. This iconic little restaurant is a must visit – great food and great wines. The Dead Arm is the pinnacle and this elegant 2014 is as stylish and refined as any released. Supremely balanced with a deep palate intensity that is controlled and effortlessly long. A wine that will live for many years yet is drinking so beautifully now.”

Ray Jordan, The West Australian
2017

96 pts “The Dead Arm Shiraz is one of the most iconic wines of McLaren Vale... On the nose there is a concentration of plum that gives way to star anise and cured meat, oak is there but very much secondary. Taut black fruits and redcurrant are the first impression on the palate, with bay leaf, coffee grinds and gentle oak spice that gain a touch of blue fruit on the mid palate before a web of drying tannin put it back in its place. The finish is all class, lightly spiced plum and dark cherry are wrapped in woodsmoke and earth. The length is significant.”

Patrick Eckel, Wine Reviewer
May 10, 2017

95 pts “Deep crimson-purple; ultra full-bodied and densely packed with the darkest black fruits, licorice, 70% cacao dark chocolate and ripe tannins. Will live forever.”

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion
2018



94 pts “Still primary, this wine’s wild blueberry and basil scents give it the feel of summer. Chester Osborne’s top selection of old-vine shiraz, this vintage of Dead Arm smells earthy and tastes dynamic, its black fruit density matching its gripping mineral intensity. Fresh, brisk and open, this has detail in its tannins that will continue to feed complexity into the wine as it ages.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine
October 2018

94 pts “The d’Arenberg wine range is giddy in its scope now, so much so that I don’t know what is meant to be flagship, so in my mind, and I guess many, this, Dead Arm, is The One. Good year for red wines from The Vale. It’s powerful, chewy, densely packed with dark fruits, warm spice, cedary licks and gritty tannins. It’s quite tight and firm in its present stage, but has the feel of pent up McLaren Vale shiraz that can go a distance. Perfume holds the invite in blackcurrant, licorice bullets, twigs-briar and fireplace wood scents, violets. Good release here. Very good, indeed.”

Mike Bennie, The Wine Front
May 23, 2017

93 pts “Inviting aromas of spicy plum and bright red fruit lead to a peaty, earthy palate with much darker bramble and chocolate notes. Sooty, irony minerality and balancing acidity, with firm acidity and grippy tannins from 18 months’ ageing in a mix of old French and US oak barriques. Structured, complex and delicious now, but will benefit from ageing. From its first vintage in 1994, The Dead Arm has become one of Australia’s most collectable wines, its name coming from the Eutypa Lata disease that causes one arm of the vine to die off, but leaving the other half with concentrated and intense grapes. For this vintage, 15% of the blend comes from vines that are 25 years old or younger, 50% from those that are about 50 years old, and the remaining 35% from ancient, gnarled vines that are up to 129 years old.”

Tina Gellie, Decanter Magazine
2018

92+ pts “Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2014 The Dead Arm Shiraz offers expressive blueberry, blackberry and licorice notes with hints of Provence herbs, tapenade, garrigue and cracked black pepper. Medium to full-bodied, the palate provided a taut backbone of firm, grainy tannins and refreshing acidity packed with black fruit and earthy flavor layers, finishing long.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate
August 2017

92 pts “A chewy and rich red with tannic and berry character. Dark chocolate and walnut undertones. Medium to full body, bright acidity and a clean and flavorful finish.”

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com
July 17, 2017



92 pts – Very Good+ “This opaque and very dark ruby colored Shiraz from d’Arenberg was our top scorer in our recent Big Blind tasting. It opens with a flinty wet stone and red raspberry bouquet with hints of vanilla chai. On the palate, this wine is medium bodied and balanced. The flavor profile is a mineral infused stewed plum with notes of black tea, blueberry and currant. We also detected some hints of black cherry mixed in as well. The finish features moderate drying dusty tannins that stick around for quite a while. The Tasting Panel suggested pairing this Shiraz with a ribeye steak.”

KensWineGuide.com
January 24, 2019

91 pts/Cellar Selection “In typical d’Arenberg style, this top-tier red is deeply hued and in need of many years in the cellar. Currently, it’s emanating aromas of Black Forest cake, dried mint, licorice, warm pavement and tangy cranberry. The palate is plush and chocolatey, with sinewy tannins and balanced acidity.”

Christina Pickard, Wine Enthusiast
February 2019

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL

China Wine & Spirits Awards ‘Best Value’ 2017

GOLD MEDAL

Mundus Vini Summer Tasting 2017

5 Stars

Winestate Magazine Mainfreight World’s Greatest Shiraz Wine Show