

2017 d'ARENBERG

THE HERMIT CRAB VIOGNIER MARSANNE



WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Viognier (84%), Marsanne (16%)
MATURATION: 10% in seasoned French and American oak for 8 months
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 6.3 g/L | pH: 3.39

BACKGROUND: Many of McLaren Vale's vineyards are on free-draining soils underlain with limestone, formed by the calcareous remains of the local marine fauna including the Hermit Crab, a reclusive little creature that inhabits the cast-off shells of others. Thus the Osborn family thought the name appropriate for this blend, as it is best enjoyed with shellfish and seafood dishes.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Small batches of grapes were crushed and transferred to stainless steel basket presses. Fermentation was long and moderately cool to retain fresh fruit characters. 4% underwent wild fermentation for extra complexity. 14% of the Viognier was fermented in seasoned French and American Oak to add mouth feel and support the subtle Viognier tannins. Both components received similar treatment, but were not blended until the final stages of the winemaking process.

TASTING NOTES: Aromas of white peach, pear and green melon on the nose. The palate is textural and spicy, with flavors of honeydew melon, just ripe stone fruit and pickled ginger. It finishes slightly phenolic, adding some pleasing, mouth-watering grip to the back palate.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 89 pts Wine Spectator, 89 pts JamesSuckling.com

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 as one of the Top 100 Wineries and Top Value Brands in the world by Wine & Spirits Magazine in 2013, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.

