

## 2016 d'ARENBERG THE DEAD ARM

### Review Summary



**94 pts/Year's Best McLaren Vale** “The Dead Arm is Chester Osborn’s paean to his old vines struggling with eutypa, a fungus that kills one of the canes, leaving the vine to produce a more limited and concentrated crop than its siblings of similar age. He makes this in small, open-top vats, foot-treading the fermenting must, then using a basket press and a mix of new and old French and American oak barrels to finish it. Bottled without fining or filtering, it’s a potent red that tastes like McLaren—ripe with sunbaked-strawberry and fresh purple fruit flavors, bold and intense yet floral, cool and friendly. The wine’s rich tannins feel supple and gentle, the structure firmed up by acidity. This is built to age for a decade or more.”

**Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine**  
February 2020

**94 pts** “The deeply colored, intensely extracted 2016 The Dead Arm Shiraz boasts gentle cedary aromas underlain by brooding dark berries. Rich, concentrated and full-bodied, it’s densely textured and packed with notes of blackberries, asphalt, black olives and dried spices. The oak is always in the background and actually adds an element of freshness to a wine that might otherwise seem heavy. The wine’s considerable tannins are fine-grained and should soften nicely with age, as they already turn almost silky on the finish. Cellar this outstanding effort for 3-4 years and drink it over the next couple of decades.”

**Joe Czerwinski, Robert Parker Wine Advocate**  
May 14, 2020

**94 pts** “Impressive richness and depth from the outset here. The nose has rich dark-plum, chocolate and earth aromas with such poise and richness. The palate is full-bodied with saturated plums and blackberries. Long, ribbonary tannins.”

**Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com**  
June 26, 2019

**92 pts/Cellar Selection** “Chester Osborn and his team’s red wines are rarely shy creatures, and this, one of the brand’s most famed wines, is no exception. Opening with a dense thicket of brambly berries imbued with Middle Eastern spices and mocha-like oak characters, this leads to a palate that’s rich and round with a bit of heat from the alcohol. The tangy fruit and chiseled, taut tannins, however, save the day. This is a monster of a wine that shouldn’t be touched anytime soon.”

**Christina Pickard, Wine Enthusiast**  
July 1, 2020



**92 pts** “Super color, a dark purple-red; a colossal wine that’s full-bodied, tannic but shapely with jammy ripe fruit, lots of spices, violets and meaty aromas.”

**James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion  
2020**

**100 Best Australian Wines 2019/20** “This is a quintessential Dead Arm with heroic tannins and cascading chocolate and plum fruit. It is dry, herbal and amaro-sour and the finish makes me wince a little but this is a good sign because there is serious depth and resonance here and the rigorous tannins and bitter acidity will nourish this wine for years to come. This is a classic d’Arenberg standard bearer wine and this vintage suits its havoc-wreaking attitude. I know it will leave Dead Arm admirers swooning with delight.”

**Matthew Jukes, MatthewJukes.com  
2019**

**GOLD MEDAL**

**China Wine & Spirits Awards 2019**

**GOLD MEDAL**

**New Zealand International Wine Show 2019**

**OUTSTANDING**

**Langton’s Classification 2018**