

# 2016 d'ARENBERG

## THE WILD PIXIE SHIRAZ ROUSSANNE



**WINEMAKER:** Chester Osborn  
**REGION:** McLaren Vale, South Australia  
**VARIETALS:** Shiraz (92%), Roussanne (8%)  
**MATURATION:** 18 months in French and American oak barriques  
**ANALYSIS:** 14.5% alc/vol | TA: 7.2 g/L | pH: 3.44

**BACKGROUND:** In 2006, Chester added a small parcel of Roussanne to The Stump Jump White. A wine journalist described him as a 'wild pixie' for concocting such a crazy blend. Taking that as a compliment, Chester went on to make an even more audacious blend with Roussanne, this time combining it with Shiraz.

**WINEMAKING NOTES:** Small batches are crushed and then transferred to five tonne headed-down open fermenters where the Roussanne and Shiraz are co-fermented. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation. When tannin extraction is just right the wine is basket pressed and transferred to oak barriques. The barrel fermented component is aged on lees to slow aging and keep the wine fresher while also reducing the oak influence.

**TASTING NOTES:** This intensely-colored wine is big in flavour, and personality. The nose is quite closed initially, but slowly evolves to reveal white pepper, cloves and five-spice. There's masses of dark plums and mulberries, with some pretty serious tannin (thanks to the Roussanne). The finish is mouth-watering and long, with lots of spice, and lots of acidity. This wine has the depth, and structure, to age for quite some time.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** 93 pts/Best Buy Wine & Spirits, 90 pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate

**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. Consistently ranked as one of the Top 100 Wineries in the world by Wine & Spirits Magazine, this reputation is clearly recognized globally.

