

2017 d'ARENBERG THE DEAD ARM

Review Summary



97 pts/WINE OF THE YEAR

London Wine Competition 2020

95 pts “Deep, dense purple/red colour, with concentrated chocolate and plum aromas and flavours, a fair degree of oak but not overdone, and a trace of reduction on the early nose. Dense, powerful, concentrated but all things in harmony. A biggie but a goodie.”

Huon Hooke
The Real Review
February 27, 2020

94 pts “Only Chester Osborn would name his icon wine after a disease, in this case, *eutypa dieback*, caused by a wood fungus that eventually kills off a cane on an old vine, leaving a dead arm that needs to be cut away. His collection of old-vine shiraz parcels includes a lot of vines with dead arms, which then concentrate their efforts on the fruit they grow on the arms that remain. This 2017 shows that concentration in a stately, plump wine, radiating sun from its blue-black fruit and contrasting earthiness in its rooty, radish-like tannins. Supple and elegant, this has the stature to age with grace.”

Joshua Greene
Wine & Spirits
January 21, 2021

94 pts “This is a very composed and nicely layered rendition of this top-end shiraz with aromas of cocoa, dark plums, blackberries, cinnamon, licorice and dark cherries. The palate has a very impressive build of ripe dark-fruit and chocolate flavors. Layered and expansive, it swells impressively through the finish. Smoothly resolved and gently spicy.”

Nick Stock
JamesSuckling.com
May 26, 2020

94 pts “Dark ruby. Black and blue fruits, candied licorice, pungent flowers and a hint of vanilla on the highly perfumed nose. Lush and broad on the palate, offering bitter cherry, cassis and blueberry flavors that turn spicier and firm up through the back half. Blends depth and energy with a sure hand and finishes impressively long and gently chewy, with slow-building tannins and resonating floral, dark berry and spice notes.”

Josh Raynolds
Vinous
September 2022



The Dead Arm, con't.

92+ pts "Locked up tight and ungiving on the nose, d'Arenberg's 2017 The Dead Arm Shiraz is nonetheless formidably dense and concentrated on the palate. Notes of charred wood join plums, raspberries and black olives in this full-bodied effort. With its current surly disposition, it appears to require decanting or several years' sleep in a cool cellar. Giving it air helped bring out purple raspberries and softened the considerable tannins, so I'm optimistic about its future evolution."

Joe Czerwinski
Robert Parker Wine Advocate
May 14, 2020

91 pts "Powerful, with concentrated juicy cherry, raspberry and wild strawberry flavors at the core amid tobacco notes and dusty tannins, plus a thread of crushed rock, fresh herb, and fresh, earthy loaminess. Plenty of harmony on the finish, where the tannins firm up."

MaryAnn Worobiec
Wine Spectator
November 15, 2020

91 pts "The relatively cool hand of the 2017 vintage has added touches of freshness and elegance to many classically rich, powerful wines like this one. Postcard McLaren Vale notes of plums, blackberries, peppery, earthy spices and a little well-placed oak lead the way. The distinction is in the palate, where muscular, highly textural, rustic tannins are balanced by bright, juicy fruit. Not for fans of cushy, soft-around-the-middle Shiraz, but tannin-craving red lovers will find much enjoyment."

Christina Pickard
Wine Enthusiast
October 19, 2020

90 pts "A fine spread of tannin and lingering length, but charm has been left at the door. Resin, stressed herb, alcohol warmth and baked plum flavours form the mainstay of the wine, and while it's hefty, it's a long way from being a peak release for this label."

Campbell Mattinson
Halliday Wine Companion
August 6, 2020

Best In Show By Quality
Best In Show By Varietal/Shiraz
Best In Show By Country

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