

2018 d'ARENBERG

THE LAUGHING MAGPIE SHIRAZ VIOGNIER



WINEMAKER:

Chester Osborn

REGION:

McLaren Vale, South Australia

VARIETALS:

Shiraz (95%), Viognier (5%)

MATURATION:

10 months in neutral French oak barrels

ANALYSIS:

14.5% alc/vol | TA: 7.4 g/L | pH: 3.378

BACKGROUND: The bushland that surrounds the d'Arenberg winery is home to the native Australian bird, the Kookaburra, famous for its distinctive laughing call. Chester Osborn's daughters named them "Laughing Magpies," and as the Magpie plumage is black with a stripe of white feathers, the Osborns thought this a great name for McLaren Vale's first ever Shiraz (black) and Viognier (white) blend.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and transferred to open fermenters, where Viognier and Shiraz are co-fermented. Foot treading is undertaken two-thirds of the way through fermentation, the wine is basket pressed and transferred to old French oak to complete fermentation and mature for up to 10 months. There is no fining or filtration.

TASTING NOTES: A classic northern Rhone blend, Shiraz with a little touch of Viognier. Very perfumed, black and red berries. A vibrant wine, where the Shiraz brings black fruits, plums, black cherries, and the small parcel of co-fermented Viognier brings stone fruits, like peach and a touch of apricot. The two varieties blend harmoniously, and provide a touch of a savory character through the finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 93 pts JamesSuckling.com, 93 pts Decanter

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. 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 450 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 majority of the vineyards are organic), 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.

