

2024 d'ARENBERG

THE HERMIT CRAB VIOGNIER MARSANNE



WINEMAKER:

Chester Osborn

REGION:

McLaren Vale, South Australia

VARIETALS:

Viognier (53.5%), Marsanne (46.5%)

MATURATION:

14% in seasoned French oak for 8 months

ANALYSIS:

14.0% alc/vol | TA: 6.0 g/L | pH: 3.33

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. About 4% underwent wild fermentation for extra complexity. 14% of the Viognier was fermented in seasoned French 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: Fragrant aromas of honeysuckle and jasmine lend an air of elegance to this wine. On the palate, ripe stone fruits take center stage, with peach and apricot leading the way, complemented by hints of cantaloupe, pineapple, and mango. The creamy texture is beautifully balanced by bright acidity, finishing with a hint of ginger.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not yet rated. Last vintage: Best Buy/Wine Enthusiast, 91 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. Consistently ranked as one of the Top 100 Wineries in the world by Wine & Spirits Magazine, this reputation is clearly recognized globally.

