



2002 THE IRONSTONE PRESSINGS GRENACHE SHIRAZ MOURVEDRE

Region

McLaren Vale, South Australia

Varieties

Grenache (70%)

Shiraz (25%)

Mourvedre (5%)

Maturation

10 months in new, one and two year old French and American oak barriques

Technical Analysis

14.5% alc/vol

Background

Most of McLaren Vale's acclaimed and ancient vineyard land is impregnated with ancient, decomposed laterite granite known as "Ironstone". Its extraordinary rusty red-brown color is derived from the iron oxides present in the stone. The larger pieces were cleared from the vineyard late last century and utilized in many of the buildings at d'Arenberg and in the district.

It is indeed fitting that "Ironstone" is the first name given to this old Osborn family favorite as it helps, both above and below ground to produce our traditional pressings wine.



Tasting Notes

The 2002 season was characterized by a cold, wet winter and spring, which produced lower yields with good, thick-skinned berries. The cool and dry summer ripened fruit gradually and a warm, dry autumn allowed the grapes to ripen fully, producing some of the best and most exotic characters seen for many years.

In its youth, d'Arenberg's Ironstone Pressings has a deep, dark plum-purple color matched by just as intense black cherry, spice, plum, strawberry, a little liquorice and brooding blackcurrant aromas. Mulberry, ripe plum and fresh pepper dominate the rich full-bodied palate before a long, intense, rolling, dark cherry spice and gritty tannin finish.

Eventually, the Grenache and Shiraz blossom as rich, sweet, violet-like scents, with spicy based aroma, before malty, sweet, dark chocolate flavors and crunchy, chewy textured black olive, spicy ginger and long fleshy textures. The Mourvedre adds dried herbs and iodine characters, which are very persistent, matched with slightly chalky tannins.

The hallmark of vigorous, fine piquant tannin and acidity continue to reside with The Ironstone Pressings after some considerable time, as have previous vintages since the late 1950's.

Additional Notes:

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