

2006 d'ARENBERG THE STICKS AND STONES

WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Tempranillo (45%), Grenache (38%), Tinta Cao (10%) & Souzao (7%)
MATURATION: 10 months in French & American oak barriques
ALCOHOL: 14.5% alc/vol

BACKGROUND:

The inspiration behind this name came from the age-old proverb 'sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me.' The unusual and quirky names that d'Arenberg's range of wines has never done the winery any harm. We also do use sticks (vine cuttings) planted into stony soils to produce the grapes that result in this wine.

WINEMAKING:

Parcels of Tempranillo, Grenache, and Shiraz are gently crushed and fermented in small batches in traditional headed-down open fermenters, followed by foot-treading. The skins are then gently pressed in traditional 19th century 'Coq' and 'Bromley & Tregoning' basket presses prior to maturation in French and American oak barriques for 10 months.

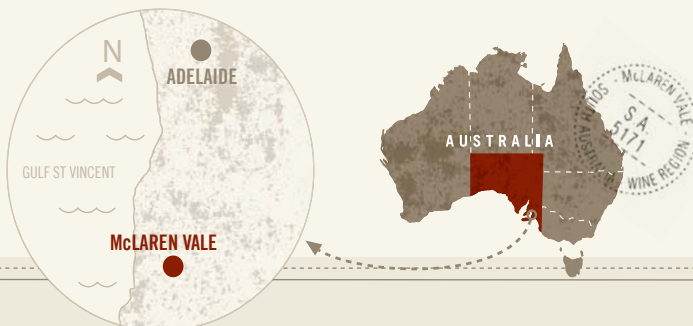
TASTING NOTES:

The floral nose is wonderfully earthy and balanced with blood plum and hints of violets. A subtle aged soft leather character is evident as the wine opens up. The palate is medium bodied with good weight. Red fruit and a pleasant boot polish character opens to tea leaves, spices, cracked pepper and dried herb on the back palate. The fine tannins are in check and provide for a long finish with spice characters lingering.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 91pts James Halliday's The Wine Companion, 90pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 90pts Wine & Spirits

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. Ranked among Australia's Top 10 Shiraz producers by Wine & Spirits Magazine in July 2007, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.



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