



2008 d'ARENBERG THE FERAL FOX PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: Adelaide Hills, South Australia
VARIETALS: Pinot Noir
MATURATION: 12 months in 5% new French oak barrels
ALCOHOL: 14.5% alc/vol

BACKGROUND:

The feral foxes that inhabit these Pinot vineyards have developed a healthy appetite for grapes, as their favourite meal, rabbit, has become quite scarce in recent years due to decreasing populations. d'Arenberg aren't fussed though, these critters supply cheap labor in the form of crop thinning and the distribution of natural organic fertilizer, enhancing the quality of the grapes too high to reach!

WINEMAKING:

Hand-picked fruit was crushed in a gentle Demoisy open-mouthed, rubber-toothed crusher prior to natural yeast fermentation in open vessels with a large percentage of whole clusters included. Extended maceration ensued to achieve structure, body and length of flavour, followed by traditional foot-treading in wader-clad feet. The fermenting juice was then gently basket-pressed, followed by nine months maturation in French oak barriques.

TASTING NOTES:

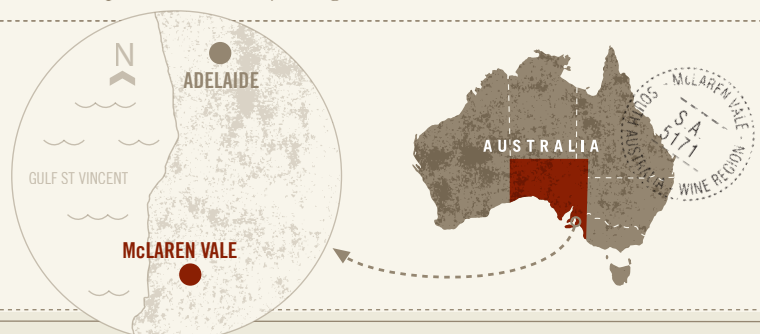
The nose is very floral and inviting with classic varietal fruits, most noticeably raspberry. The palate is full for a Pinot with red fruits including strawberry making way for balanced and restrained spiciness that includes a delicious lingering cinnamon character. The oak is subtle with lifted powdery fruit tannins providing structure and leading to a beautifully silky finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

89 pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, 88 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

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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