d'Arenberg

THE CUSTODIAN

Grenache 2015
McLaren Vale, Grenache (100%)

The Name

During the vine pull scheme in the 80's, d'Arry Osborn refused to remove his old grenache vineyards. Today d'Arenberg is the keeper of nearly one third of McLaren Vale's old bush vine grenache, earning the title of 'Custodian' of the variety.

The Vintage

A wet winter ensured good sub soil moisture and set up the vines well with healthy canopies. Spring was very dry with above average temperatures, a heavy downpour in January was a welcome relief. Mild conditions during the ripening period produced wines that show an abundance of spicy fruits with great colour and richness. Vintage started on 30 January, the earliest start on record by one day.

The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and then transferred to open fermenters. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation, the wine is basket pressed and transferred to a mixture of old French and American oak to complete fermentation and mature. The barrel ferments are aged on lees, and there is no racking until final blending. This wine does not undertake fining or filtration prior to bottling.

The Characteristics

The Custodian Grenache is known for its purity of fruit and the 2015 is no exception. Mulberry, plum, raspberry, rhubarb and blueberry. Pretty and confectionary but with an added layer of complexity that sits comfortably beneath the aforementioned fruits. Baking spice and baked earth. The palate is at once both lively and vibrant but with a generosity through mid palate texture. The length of the wine is supported by long chalky tannins. A wine that punches well above its weight. The Custodian can be enjoyed as a fresh, young Grenache but will be enhanced by a few years of careful cellaring rendering the wine more complex in flavour and seamless in structure.

Harvest dates	**11 Feb - 3 Mar**	Alcohol	**14.5%**
Residual sugar	**1.7 g/L**	Titratable acid	**7.4**
pH	**3.38**	Oak maturation	**9 months**
Chief Winemaker	**Chester Osborn**	Senior Winemaker	**Jack Walton**