



d'Arenberg



THE INNOCENT WEED

Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre 2022

McLaren Vale, Grenache (48%) Shiraz (48%) Mourvèdre (4%)

The Name

Innocent weed is far from innocent. Favours the same sandy soils in which our Grenache thrives, its seeds are covered in very sharp thorns which stick to passersby and spread throughout the vineyard. Without the use of herbicides, these plants and others that continually grow add organic material to the earth, increasing the microflora to foster a healthier, 'alive' soil. This in turn means better grapes, more reflective of the terroir.

The Vintage

It has been a good winter, the early Spring rains set the vines up very well. November was about 3 degrees colder than average and so the set was variable, especially Mourvèdre which suffered the worst. Luckily, many varieties still had quite a large potential crop, so yields ended about 15% down from 2021 (which was a big crop year). December was bone dry, but January saw 33mm compared to 20mm average. This too set the vines up very well. There was almost no rain and very mild conditions in February, March and April, free of hot or cold spells which resulted in very good leaf retention and ripening. All varieties resulted in outstanding wines. At this stage, it is early to call the vintage but I believe the reds from this vintage are the best I have seen in years. They show great colour, fruit, fruit fragrance, richness, acidity, tannins and style. The Red skins were very thick and crunchy and no shrivel was seen, resulting in high tannin content, causing us to pull juice off the skins sweeter than usual, to achieve the desired results.

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 then aged in French oak for up to 12 months.

The Characteristics

A serious GSM with dark brooding notes, significant fruit weight and ample supporting tannins. The minimalistic organic practices that have been adopted in the vineyard bolster the earthy, ferrous notes in the wine which are immediately to the fore. As the veil starts to lift, the savoury notes are met by waves of generous berry fruits....blueberry, plum, cassis. Hints of spice add an altogether new dimension and accentuate the long, lingering finish. An incredibly versatile wine that would be equally suitable paired with casseroles and curries, as it would be alongside an antipasto platter.



Harvest dates	5 Mar - 25 Mar	Alcohol	15.0%
Residual sugar	1.2 g/l	Titrateable acid	6.5
pH	3.45	Oak maturation	12 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton