



d'Arenberg

J.R.O AFFLATUS

Single Vineyard Shiraz 2012

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (100%)



The Name

This vineyard was one of the original plantings on the land Joseph Rowe Osborn purchased in 1912. Despite being teetotal, he was inspired to purchase vineyards for his family, a choice that continues to reap benefits today. You could say it was his afflatus (an impulse of creative power or inspiration).

The Vintage

A wet summer and winter in 2011 set the vines up perfectly for the 2012 vintage. Spring and summer were drier than normal, resulting in lower fruit yields. A small heat burst just prior to veraison assured a solid colour change, small berries and pronounced tannins in the grapes. The red wines from this vintage are black, solid and quite structured, the biggest year for some time; not oily but definitely gutsy.

The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are crushed gently and then transferred to five tonne headed down open fermenters. These batches remain separate until final blending. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation. The wine is then basket pressed and transferred to a mixture of new and used French and old American oak barriques to complete fermentation. The barrel ferments are aged on lees, there is no racking until final blending and no fining or filtration.

The Characteristics

A wine of undeniable intensity but expect it to be tightly wound in youth. Allowing it to open up exposes a wine with a dense ironstone like core, engulfed in black berry fruits and ripples of dark bitter chocolate. An understated scent of dried herb offers a nice contrast to the big brooding style of wine that the 2012 JRO Afflatus is. The mineral tannin and punchy acidity further enhance the ferrous nature of this wine. Classic example of a sleeper, with all the inherent characteristics that would indicate a long life in which the fruit notes will continue to be unlocked from the solid frame.



Harvest dates	3 March	Alcohol	14.5%
Residual sugar	1.2 g/l	Titrateable acid	7.2
pH	3.45	Oak maturation	20 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton