



d'Arenberg



SHIPSTERS' RAPTURE

Single Vineyard Shiraz 2012

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (100%)

The Name

Shipsters' Rapture is named in honour of Henry Shipster who owned the vineyard before the Osborns. The Shipsters are said to have delighted in their small plot of land, lovingly planting it to vines in the late 1800's.

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

Shipsters' Rapture in youth can appear a little tense, probably as a result of the flashes of pine and mint that accompany the dark, ripe, mulberry like fruits. A real contrast in characters showing elements from opposite ends of the flavour spectrum. The palate follows a similar theme, with dark, sweet and sooty like flavours matched with spicy pepper and more minty notes. The mint character gives an impression of mid palate elegance to the wine although the fine, mineral tannins point towards impressive longevity which will see that mid palate grow in richness and generosity. A classic example of elegance and power.



Harvest dates	2 March	Alcohol	14.8%
Residual sugar	0.8 g/l	Titrateable acid	7.2
pH	3.50	Oak maturation	20 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton