

# THE LAUGHING MAGPIE

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## Shiraz Viognier 2012

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (93%) Viognier (7%)

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### Gold Medal

Mundus Vini International Wine Award  
2016

### Gold Medal

China Wine & Spirits Awards - Best Value  
2016

### Gold Medal

Korea Wine Challenge  
2016

### Gold Medal

Mundus Vini International Wine Award  
2015

### Double Gold Medal

China Wine & Spirits Awards - Best Value  
2017

### Gold

Mundus Vini Summer Tasting  
2017

### 95 Points

James Halliday

*The Australian Wine Companion 2017*  
Matured in 50/50% French and American oak (8% new) for 20 months. It's odd how the co-fermentation of viognier can appear to intensify the regional signature, it's certainly written large here, but there's a spark of fresh fruit with a different pitch to its note. All this adds up to an impressive example of this key wine in the d'Arenberg menagerie. 14.4% alc.

Sean Mitchell

*Grape Observer*

d'Arenberg's Laughing Magpie shiraz viognier from the 2012 vintage is a good release. This year it's 93% shiraz and 7% viognier (down from 10% in 2011). Its aromatics are brooding; all cassia and baked fruits. Its palate is full bodied, balanced and even in impression. Will please.

### 94 Points

Peter Chapman

*Toowoomba Chronicle*

No Surprise to see the gold medals on the bottle. Luscious and ripe red fruits on an oaky background. One for now and two for the cellar.

Lyndey Milan

I love the lift which a bit of viognier gives to shiraz and this one is no exception. McLaren Vale has a deserved reputation for shiraz and here you'll find varietal flavours of dark fruits and spice with some savoury oak. With silky tannins and good length it is a very approachable wine - plus I love the imagery on the bottle.

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### 93 Points

**Andrew Smith**  
*The Winesmith*

Sunday lunch with friends is always awesome so I was pleased I had this wine up my sleeve to pull out. Into the decanter it went for 20 mins.

It offers a big and plush aroma of dark fruits and vanilla. The transition to the palate is seamless. The dense berry characters roll onto the tongue and coat the mouth with intense deliciousness.

But then the beast changes! It morphs into something extremely dry. Really grippy tannin kicks in followed by very toasty, walnut-style oak.

"Well that was unexpected" I thought to myself. "I love a big dry red" the other Andrew said. "That's a relief" I thought to myself. I had to go on this ride again so another mouthful was in order. Same intense berry characters followed by the same drying tannin and strong oak. The d'Arenberg 2012 Laughing Magpie certainly is big! It's a solidly built wine with the muscular tannin and oak heftily lifting the fruits and carrying them along. Even with our lasagne it was the same, although the food did help ease the tannin back. Before long the bottle was empty. "Well that stayed true all the way through" the other Andrew commented again. I definitely agree. Even after 45 minutes it didn't deviate from its hefty fruit opening to its bone dry finish.

In all honestly though this wine needs to lie down for the elements to integrate and soften. It's 5 years old now but I wouldn't touch it for another 5 years yet. For optimum enjoyment drink somewhere between 2022-2027! The label has 4 gold medals so far. I suspect it will pick up a number more in the future.

### 94 Points

**Natalie Maclean**

So damn delicious! Chester Osborn is a crazy genius with big red wines. Small batches of grapes are gently crushed with foot-treading happening on two-thirds of them. Juicy and full-bodied with a savoury, mouth-watering core that goes on forever. Aromas of fleshy black plums. Pair with grilled meats.

### 91 Points

**Nick Stock**  
*JamesSuckling.com*

This has a dose of viognier that adds a sheen of sweet-smelling stone fruits across more typical tarry aromas and blackberry shiraz fruits. The palate's smoothly rendered with dark plum, chocolate and licorice fruit flavors. Plush and approachable. Blend of 93% shiraz and 7% viognier.

### 92 Points

**Josh Reynolds**  
*Vinous*

Inky ruby. Smoke-accented aromas of ripe dark berries, game, pungent flowers and cola, joined by a hint of white pepper that emerges slowly and adds spicy lift. Concentrated, seamless bitter cherry, blackberry and fruitcake flavors become more energetic as the wine opens up. Round, even tannins shape the finish, which hangs on with impressive, dark-fruit-dominated persistence.