

The Footbolt Shiraz 2012

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (100%)

The Weekly Review, March 2015

Ben Thomas

★★★★

The wine's named after the prized thoroughbred Footbolt, sold in 1912 to pay for the d'Arenberg property. In keeping with its name, the grapes are foot stomped before being basket pressed and aged for at least a year in French and American oak. Smooth and vibrant, it's filled with juicy plum, black cherry and blackberry flavours, plus a hint of vanilla, fine-grained tannins and a load of drinkability. It's a wine that tends to drink well with a few years under its belt, too.

Canberra Times, March 2015

Chris Shanahan

The wine bears the name of Footbolt, a racehorse whose success helped Joseph Osborn buy d'Arenberg's first vineyard in 1912. Osborn's descendants, d'Arry and son Chester, continue to run the business. The Footbolt remains one of Australia's big-value wines - an earthy, rustic and loveable expression of McLaren Vale Shiraz. The 2012 weighs in at a meaty 14.6 per cent alcohol but the sheer earthy richness of the fruit and bold, deliciously rough tannins push the alcohol.

West Australian, March 2015

Ray Jordan

Delightful medium-bodied shiraz from this very good year in McLaren Vale. Dusty tannins and fine-grained, understated oak support some rather attractive sweet fruit flavours. Smooth and seamless, with a nice dusty, savoury finish.

Manly Daily, March 2015

Rick Allen

With their diagonal red stripe, you'll never miss the d'Arenberg wines on the shelf - terrific marketing, when you think about it. This is medium bodied and juicy, a generous style of wine in typical d'Arenberg style. Ripe dark fruit flavours are at its core, a whiff of dark chocolate and a gentle sprinkle of spice. It's easy drinking and while it won't exactly sweep you off your feet, it's plenty satisfying and a good option for the local BYO.

