



d'Arenberg is one of the most significant wineries in McLaren Vale. In 1912 Joseph Osborn, a teetotaler and director of Thomas Hardy and Sons, purchased the well established Milton Vineyards in the hills just north of the townships of Gloucester and Bellevue, now just known as McLaren Vale.

Joseph's son Francis Ernest ('[Frank](#)') Osborn left medical school, choosing to forsake the scalpel for pruning shears. Fruit from the 78 hectares of vineyards was sold to local wineries until his own cellars were complete in 1928. Dry red table and fortified wines were produced in ever increasing quantities to supply the expanding markets of the Empire.

In 1943 Frank's son Francis d'Arenberg, universally known as 'd'Arry', returned from school, age 16, to help his ill father run the business, eventually assuming full management of d'Arenberg in 1957. d'Arry bottled the first of the famous diagonal **red stripe** labelled wines two years later.

Enter the fourth generation, d'Arry's son Chester d'Arenberg Osborn. After graduating from Roseworthy College and touring other Australian and European wine regions, Chester took over the reins as Chief Winemaker in 1984. He immediately set about rejuvenating the old cellars and 19th century vineyards. He invested in new oak, refrigeration and lots of small stainless steel tanks which resulted in immediate white dividends with his Dry Dam Riesling, the Broken Fishplate Sauvignon Blanc, Olive Grove Chardonnay and botrytis affected Noble Riesling all winning gold medals and trophies at wine shows.

