

Penfolds Collection

Another year passes and the media scrum repacks for the annual preview tasting of the Penfolds Collection, this time at Magill Estate. The new Grange is always the major drawcard, but it's not always the wine of the day. It was unthinkable even a decade ago, but a Penfolds white wine is now making its presence felt.

2017 Penfolds Bin 51 Eden Valley Riesling Fresh and very limey, with tropical fruit overtones. Forward and full flavoured. Adequate acidity. Short term. (\$30.00) ★★★

2016 Penfolds Bin 311 Tumbarumba Chardonnay Prominent nougat and white peach aromas. The creamy palate shows fruit sweetness with good underlying acidity. (\$45.00) ★★★★★
Nine months in used French barriques

2016 Penfolds Reserve Bin A Adelaide Hills Chardonnay Impressive white peach with a touch of funkiness. The oak is beautifully integrated. This is a very classy, fine and creamy chardonnay, with a good acid line. (\$125.00) ★★★★★☆
Nine months in French barriques (40% new)

2015 Penfolds Yattarna Chardonnay This is a blend of Tasmanian and Adelaide Hills material. It's on the tropical side, but is enhanced by quality oak. The palate offers texture and acidity but lacks the length of the Bin A. (\$150.00) ★★★★★
Eight months in French barriques (65% new)

2016 Penfolds Bin 23 Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir Full, ripe dark cherry aroma plus dried herbs/stems. A solid pinot noir with very ripe flavours and tannins that lack fineness. Penfolds rather than pinot. (\$45.00) ★★☆☆
Nine months in French barriques (27% new)

2015 Penfolds Bin 2 Shiraz Mataro Dark berry aromas with typical mataro graphite. The palate is fairly solid, with plenty of flavour and furry tannins. (\$35.00) ★★☆☆
Twelve months in used French (83%) and American (17%) oak

Regions: *Upper Adelaide, Wrattobully, Barossa Valley, Padthaway, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek*

2015 Penfolds Bin 138 Barossa Valley Shiraz Grenache Mataro Very ripe dark berry aromas with a touch of confection. Rich ripe fruit backed up by soft tannins. (\$45.00) ★★★★★
*Twelve months in used French (66%) and American (34%) bogsheads
Shiraz 64%, mataro 20%, grenache 16%*

2015 Penfolds Bin 128 Coonawarra Shiraz The attractive dark berry aromas carry with them some spice and mint together with a slight volatile lift. The tannins are ripe and soft. (\$45.00) ★★☆☆
Twelve months in French bogsheads (30% new, 20% one year old, 40% two years old)

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2015 Penfolds Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz Ripe, fresh blackberry aromas dominate, backed up by a suggestion of vanilla/char oak. A substantial, balanced red that is true to style. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

Twelve months in used American hogsheads

Regions: McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley, Padthaway, Wrattenbully, Robe

2015 Penfolds Bin 150 Marananga Shiraz Very ripe dark berry with a whiff of oak. Fresh enough. Big, but impressively so. The tannins are on the furry side. (\$100.00) ★★★★★

Sixteen months in French (18% new, 18% one year old) and American (25% new, 39% one year old) hogsheads and puncheons.



2015 Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon Scent of ripe cassis with a spearmint overtone. The palate is satisfying, balanced by non-threatening tannins, but it's comparatively simple. (\$95.00) ★★★★★

Twelve months in French hogsheads (25% new) and American hogsheads (10% new, 18% one year old, 36% two years old, 11% three years old)

Regions: Wrattenbully, Coonamarra, Padthaway, McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley

October 10, 2017

2015 Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz Tends to fresh red fruits and mulberries bouquet-wise, and there's some toasty oak. This wine represents a step away from the traditional 389 style, relying more than ever on fruit from south-east South Australia. The fineness of tannins and nature of the flavour suggest that French oak may be the way to go in future if 389 keeps heading in this direction. (\$95.00) ★★★★★
Twelve months in American hogsheads (32% new, 37% one year old, 31 % two years old)

Regions: *Wrattonbully, McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley, Coonawarra, Robe, Padthaway*

2014 Penfolds St Henri Shiraz St Henri is very much back to form, and this one's not far short of the exceptional 2012. It's vibrant and spicy, offering blackberry/dark cherry characteristics. The palate is long and precisely balanced, with fine lingering tannins. (\$125.00) ★★★★★
Twelve months in very old, large oak vats

Regions: *Barossa Valley, Adelaide Hills, Southern Fleurieu, Wrattenbully, McLaren Vale*

2015 Penfolds Magill Estate Shiraz This wine is built on a base of impressive dark berry fruit. However the obvious toasty oak steals the show. No matter how long you cellar this wine, it will always be oaky. (\$130.00) ★★★★★
Eighteen months in new French (70%) and new American hogsheads (30%)

2015 Penfolds RWT Bin 798 Barossa Valley Shiraz Fresh, concentrated, luxurious dark berry and chocolate aromatics. The oak is well integrated into a long, intense, fine palate. Classic Barossa shiraz. (\$200.00) ★★★★★
Sixteen months in French hogsheads (83% new, 17% one year old)

2015 Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon This isn't a classic cabernet sauvignon in that it has nothing to do with the Médoc style – but it is a monumental wine. The powerful blackcurrant, dark plum and rose petal characteristics merge perfectly with the beautifully seasoned oak. I haven't tasted a better 707 than this one. (\$500.00) ★★★★★
Twenty months in new American hogsheads

2012 Penfolds Grange Chief winemaker Peter Gago kindly (and bravely) included the 2012 as a "sighter". Powerful, fresh dark berry and licorice intermingle with "sweet" toasty oak. This wine is firm, long and balanced, but has closed up and needs a lot of time. (\$725.00) ★★★★★
<http://canterburywines.net/Categories/Grange.htm>

2013 Penfolds Grange Vibrant. Not as brooding as the 2012. The aromas are more like dark cherries and raspberries. It's very modern and bright, with sympathetic oak. Long, fine and elegant. (\$850.00) ★★★★★
Twenty months in new American hogsheads

Regions: *Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Coonawarra, Magill Estate*

Lester Jesberg

Barrique = 225 litres, Hogshead = 300 litres, Puncheon = 500-600 litres

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