

# Penfolds Australia Collection 2021

**T**he annual Penfolds release was attended by a somewhat reduced scrum of scribes this year due to the impact of Covid, but I'm sure the rollout of purple prose of praise will maintain its normal flow. From my point of view, the average quality is as high as it's ever been, but 2017 is a good, rather than great, vintage for Grange. Here are my notes on the entire set, together with a surprising new release.

**2021 Penfolds Bin 51 Eden Valley Riesling** A very fresh and limey riesling with plenty of varietal flavour backed up by acidity that is more to the fore than usual. The strong acid line has "tightened up" this wine compared with the past few vintages. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

**2020 Penfolds Bin 311 Chardonnay** Rich, fresh peach, butter and nougat show out, together with prominent oak. Lively acidity really breathes life into the palate, but, by the same token, is a little too obvious on the finish. (\$50.00) ★★★★★☆

**From:** Tasmania, Piccadilly, Henty 41% new French barriques



**2020 Penfolds Reserve Bin 20A Adelaide Hills Chardonnay** Very much white peach/grapefruit aromatics with classy cashew oak and funky notes. The intensity texture, balance and length are exemplary.

Another world-class Bin A. (\$125.00) ★★★★★★

86% new French barriques

**2019 Penfolds Yattarna Chardonnay** New oak and funk strongly impact pink grapefruit aromas. Oak firmness comes through on the finish. The palate isn't as satisfyingly creamy as that of the Bin 20A.

(\$175.00) ★★★☆

**From:** Tasmania, Tumberumba, Adelaide Hills 55% new French barriques

**2020 Penfolds Bin 23 Pinot Noir** The perfumed strawberry and rose water aromas are enhanced by whiffs of whole-bunch and toasty oak.

This wine has structure and satisfying length. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

**From:** Tasmania, Henty, Adelaide Hills 24% new French barriques

**2019 Penfolds Bin 138 Barossa Valley Shiraz Grenache Mataro**

Quite floral, with a hint of red jubes that typifies grenache. The fruit

weight is backed up beautifully by fine tannins. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆

70% shiraz, 17% grenache, 13% mataro

**2019 Penfolds Bin 128 Coonawarra Shiraz** Very fresh red fruits with subtle oak. Straightforward, but well balanced by fine tannins and

regional acidity. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆

24% new French oak hogsheads

**2019 Penfolds Bin 28 Shiraz** Rich, ripe blackberry lifted by a touch of volatile acidity. A sizeable red with a firm structure. It's on the chewy

side but will soften. (\$50.00) ★★★★★☆

**From:** McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley, Padthaway, Wrattenbully  
No new oak

**2019 Penfolds Bin 150 Marananga Shiraz** Dark and red berry with "sweet" oak and slight volatile acidity. It's substantial, firm and ripe, but

is essentially a big Aussie red lacking finesse. (\$100.00) ★★★

32% new American hogsheads & puncheons.

**2019 Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon** Red fruits and blackcurrant aromas and flavours. Firm and fairly simple. (\$110.00)

★★★★☆

**From:** Padthaway, Coonawarra, Wrattenbully, McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley 27% new French and 8% new American hogsheads

**2019 Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz** The impressive fresh, intense, dark berry nose is graced by subtle oak. The palate is firm but balanced, and of excellent length. (\$100.00) ★★★★★☆

**From:** Padthaway, McLaren Vale, Coonawarra, Wrattenbully, Barossa Valley 25% new American oak hogsheads

**2019 Penfolds Magill Estate Shiraz** Opulent dark cherry and cedar show on the nose, together with red plums. Fine lingering tannins harmonise with great length of flavour and balanced oak. (\$150.00)

★★★★☆

26% new French and 6% new American hogsheads

**2019 Penfolds RWT Bin 798 Barossa Valley Shiraz** Blackberry and oak merge beautifully, and there's a hint of low-roast coffee bean. The fine, persistent tannins contribute to a long, poised palate. An

outstanding cellaring proposition. (\$200.00) ★★★★★

57% new French hogsheads

**2019 Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon** A big powerful cassis style with a strong oak overlay. This is a supercharged cabernet that is firm and driven by oak. (\$650.00) ★★★★★

100% new American hogsheads



**2018 Penfolds St Henri Shiraz** The pure blackberry nose so eloquently expresses shiraz that is fully ripe but super-fresh. There's no compromise here and no interference from oak. A fruit-driven red that is long and fine. If you wish to spend more than \$100.00 on a red wine,

this is value - comparatively. (\$135.00) ★★★★★

From: Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Port Lincoln, Robe, Padthaway, Clare Valley, Adelaide Hills

**2017 Penfolds Grange** The richness and ripeness of shiraz shows on the blackberry/red plum nose with a touch of VA lift and an oak overlay. It's classic Grange in that respect. The fineness of tannins is impressive. Although this is obviously a long-term wine, it definitely has appeal now. (\$950.00) ★★★★★☆  
From: Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale 100% new American hogsheads

And then (drumroll) with considerable fanfare, we were introduced to the latest high-profile player in the Penfolds line-up.

**2018 Penfolds Superblend 802-A Cabernet Shiraz** Very obvious, even raw, oak dominates both nose and palate, overcoming bright red and dark fruits. Flabbergasting. Experience tells me that no amount of cellaring will solve the oak issue. (\$900.00) ★★★  
From: Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Coonawarra, Wrattenbully, Robe, Clare Valley 100% new American hogsheads

802-B, a stylish, full-flavoured, balanced red, will be released next year.

Recommended retail prices are shown. You will do better with some diligent trawling of the Net.

Lester Jesberg

## Our Rating Scale

★★★★★	Outstanding	97-100 pts	Gold medal
★★★★☆	Highly Recommended	93-96	Gold/silver
★★★★	Recommended	90-92	Silver
★★★☆☆	Recommended	87-89	Bronze
★★★	Agreeable	85-87	Bronze
★★☆	Agreeable	82-84	
★★	Acceptable	80-82	
★☆☆	Acceptable	77-79	
★	Barely Acceptable	74-76	
☆	Unacceptable	71-73	
No stars	Undrinkable	<71	

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