

PENFOLDS BIN 128
COONAWARRA SHIRAZ



“Bin 128 has a strong regional imprint with sweet black fruit character and firm tannin structures.” – JOSEPH WARD



OVERVIEW: The first vintage of Bin 128 Shiraz was produced in 1962 and it remains a regionally defined Bin wine. The fruit is almost entirely sourced from the extensive company vineyards in Coonawarra. This region was first established as the Coonawarra fruit colony in 1890. Winemaking followed, but was not a commercial success. Bill Redman, one of the early pioneers, once said, “From 1890 to 1945 you can write failure across the face of Coonawarra”. By the 1950s, renewed enthusiasm and wine successes typified by the release of the now famed Woodley’s Treasure Chest Series, attracted more investment capital. Penfolds was a later entrant, largely because of Max Schubert’s preference for strongly flavoured and concentrated fruit. In 1960 he was persuaded by Bill Redman to purchase a parcel of Redman’s vineyard called Sharam’s Block.

Penfolds now draws fruit from a combination of company owned prime Coonawarra vineyard sites and selected independent growers. During the 1960s and early 1970s the fruit used to be crushed with the aid of an old car engine in a tin shed! The must was then transported by tanker up to Magill and later Nuriootpa for vinification. Investment in processing facilities during the late 1970s was enhanced by the parent company’s acquisition of Wynns Coonawarra Estate.

The original release of Penfolds Bin 128 reflected the perceived view of the day that Shiraz was a more reliable performer. Certainly the wine has been made every year regardless of vintage conditions. While winemaking practice is essentially the same, between 1979 and 1983 Penfolds gradually changed its barrel maturation programme from American to French oak to enhance regional and varietal definition. James Halliday observes, “There is not only a seismic shift in oak handling around 1981, but the viticulture has improved out of sight over this period”.

Vinification follows a traditional Penfolds house style of winemaking. The wine is matured in approximately 20% new, tightly grained one and two-year-old French oak for about 12 months prior to bottling. Joseph Ward notes, “There is a clear evolution happening with the Bin128s. It has a strong regional imprint with sweet black fruit character and firm tannin structures”. Peter Gago comments, “The restrained and aromatic cool-climate Bin 128 is an excellent foil to the rich warm-climate Bin 28 style”.

PENFOLDS

BIN 128

COONAWARRA SHIRAZ

***First Vintage:** 1962*

***Variety:** Shiraz*

***Origin:** 100% Coonawarra,
mostly from Penfolds vineyards.*

***Fermentation:** Stainless steel
tanks with wooden header boards.*

***Maturation:** 12 months in new
(20%) and aged (80%) French
oak hogsheads. The often-noted
changeover from American to
French oak was progressive;
it began in 1979 and was
completed by the 1983 vintage.*

***Comments:** In 1981 the wine
changed name from Bin 128
Claret to Bin 128 Coonawarra
Shiraz.*





PENFOLDS BIN 128

COONAWARRA SHIRAZ

1962 **Past**

Brick red. Developed cedar/mocha/sous-bois aromas. The palate is still concentrated with dry cedar/mushroom/leather flavours and fine chalky tannins. Drying out. Drink now.

1963 **Past – Now**



Brick red. Fine elegant old wine with mocha/tobacco/leather/sandalwood aromas. A fine grained, supple palate with mocha/vanilla flavours and excellent flavour length. Drink now.

1964 **Past**

Brick red. Very developed wine with meaty/gamy/mushroom/leathery aromas. The palate has faded with some savoury chocolate/mushroom notes and leafy tannins.

1965 **Now**

Brick red. A mature old wine with coffee/chocolate/mushroom aromas and flavours. Plenty of freshness and sweet fruit on the palate, but it is beginning to dry out. Drink now.

1966 **Now** 2006



Deep brick red. Rich ripe complex wine with berry/earth/mocha/autumnal aromas and rich chocolaty/mocha flavours. This is a multi-layered wine with lovely concentration and fine grainy tannins.

1967 **Now** 2007

Deep brick red. An earthy/savoury wine with some smoky/sweet spicy nuances. The palate is rich and earthy with chocolaty loose-knit tannins. Fine old mellow wine.

1968 **Now**

Brick red. Aged, slightly tired wine with mushroom/fig-jam/caramel aromas and flavours. A mature/evolved palate with some savoury notes and richness. Beginning to fade.

1970 **Now**

Brick red. Honeycomb/chocolate/vanilla/meaty aromas. A mature well-balanced wine with a lovely array of mature plum/chocolate/honeycomb flavours and strong almost assertive tannins. At its peak.

1971 **Now** 2008

Brick red. A fragrant wine with red cherry/prune/mocha/leather aromas. The palate is rich and complex with sweet leather/mocha/chocolate flavours and powdery loose-knit tannins.

1975 **Now**

Brick red. Menthol/cherry/tobacco aromas with hints of liquorice. A bittersweet but strongly flavoured palate with some solid gutsy fruit. Tannins build up a touch bitter and tight at the finish.

1976 **Now** 2007

Dark brick red. Intense ripe jammy/mocha/liquorice almost vintage port aromas. Plenty of concentration and sweet fruit on the palate, but tannins become quite hard and green at the finish.

1978 **Now** 2006

Medium brick red. Fresh redcurrant/vanilla/leafy aromas with some leather characters. Still holding up well with red fruits/chocolaty/herb flavours and fine tannins. Falls away at the finish. Drink soon.

1980 **Now** 2010

Brick red. A rich meaty wine with some complex earthy/choco-berry aromas. Excellent richness on the palate with mature flavours and soft, savoury, drying finish.

1981 **Now – Past**

Brick red. Complex mocha/toffee/earthy aromas with hints of herb/mint. Mocha/chocolaty flavours on the palate with pronounced gritty tannins finishing a touch green.

Outstanding vintages ★



1982 **Now – Past**

Medium brick red. A product of the vintage with leafy/prune/stewed aromas and flavours. The palate is tired with sinewy tannins and pronounced acidity.

1983 **Now**

Medium brick red. Aromatic prune/wintergreen/herb garden aromas. Moderately concentrated wine with bitter dark chocolate/leafy flavours and assertive tannins. Has lost much of its fruit.

1984 **Past**

Light brick red. Earthy over-developed aromas with some aromatic notes. A lean under-powered wine with a tough tannic finish.

1985 **Now** **2008**

Medium red. Dark chocolate/earth/cedar/licuorice aromas. An unyielding but substantial palate with soft fruit flavours but overwhelmed by harsh green tannins.

1986 **Now** **2010** ★

Medium red. Intense blackberry/cedar aromas with some mocha nuances. The palate is well-concentrated with blackberry/cedar/mocha flavours and persistent but balanced tannins.

1987 **Now**

Medium red. Tobacco/leafy aromas. The palate has some vegetal/minty leafy flavours and a sweet and sour mouth-feel. Drink up.

1988 **Now** **2006**

Medium red. Earthy/redcurrant/plummy aromas and flavours. The palate is austere with plenty of gritty tannins and fading fruit. Finishes lean.

1989 **Now**

Medium red. Stewed fruit/herbal/vellum aromas. A sweet and savoury wine with herbal/jammy characters and leafy dry tannins. A pleasant drink.

1990 **Now** **2020** ★

Medium deep red. A lovely refined wine with intense choco-berry/cedar/sandalwood aromas. A succulent, sweet fruited palate with plenty of choco-berry fruit flavours and fine ripe granular tannins. A wine showing elegance rather than power.

1991 **Now** **2010**

Medium red. Blackberry/plum/mocha aromas. Richly flavoured palate with plenty of sweet fruit, fine tannins and a tangy finish.

1992 **Now** **2008**

Medium red. A very tightly structured wine with some plummy/red fruit aromas and flavours. Leafy tannins build up to a very bitter finish. Fruit is under-powered.

1993 **Now** **2015**

Medium red. Powerful wine with intense blackberry/earth/bitumen aromas. The palate is massively proportioned with dense ripe tannins and deep set fruit. Finishes quite grippy.

1994 **Now** **2008**

Medium red. Complex earthy/meaty/chocolate aromas with some developed leather characters. Savoury palate with sweet earthy/choco-berry fruit and firm drying tannins. A good wine, maturing quickly.

1995 **Now**

Medium red-brick. A softer lighter style with red cherry/strawberry/cedar aromas and flavours. A lean palate with light fruit flavours and some chocolaty tannins. Drink soon.

1996 **Now** **2016** ★

Medium deep red. Intense blackberry/black cherry/plum/licuorice aromas. A rich but well-balanced wine with dark berry/licuorice flavours, fine but firm tannins and subtle oak.

Outstanding vintages ★



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1997 **Now** 2008

Medium red. Raspberry/blackberry aromas with some pepper/herbal nuances. A very concentrated tannic wine with plenty of sweet fruit flavours and some herbal/minty characters. Finishes very firm. Best enjoyed in the short term.

1998 **Now** 2018 ★

Deep red-purple. An opulently rich and seductive wine bursting with plum/blackberry/chocolate fruit. The palate is rich and round, with deep set chocolateberry/aniseed flavours and supple ripe tannins. A lovely wine.

1999 2005 2018

Deep red-purple. Fresh and intense blackberry/plum liquorice aromas. A well concentrated mouth-filling wine with plenty of ripe fruit, fine grained/savoury tannins and some new oak characters.

2000 2006 2015

Medium red-purple. Cherry/plum/blackberry aromas with nutmeg/new oak nuances. Richly textured wine with plummy/blackberry/red cherry fruit and ripe persistent tannins.

2001 2007 2020 ★

Deep red-purple. Intense but very youthful wine with crushed blackberry/raspberry aromas and some new oak. Immensely concentrated palate with deep-set juicy blackberry/raspberry fruit and pronounced tannins.

Outstanding vintages ★