

PENFOLDS BLOCK 42
CABERNET SAUVIGNON



“Tasting this bracket was a sensual pleasure - these wines just swamped all the senses.” - JAMES HALLIDAY



OVERVIEW: First planted in the mid 1880s, Block 42 comprises the oldest Cabernet Sauvignon vines in Australia and, for that matter, the world. Max Schubert was aware of this remarkable resource and he isolated and experimented with the crop at each vintage. In the early days he considered Block 42 a source of his Grange project – hence the release of the 1953 Grange Cabernet. However, the low yielding Block 42 (a section of the Kalimna Vineyard) provided neither enough fruit, nor the required consistency every vintage.

Max Schubert had a very clear idea of what constituted ideal Cabernet fruit – it had to have deep colour, concentration, power, pure fruit definition and chocolaty ripe tannins. Block 42 has always provided high quality fruit, but has rarely fulfilled the texture and weight required to be given the full Penfolds treatment, particularly the critical element of barrel fermentation. The impossibly rare 1948 Penfold Kalimna Cabernet Sauvignon from Block 42 is the earliest example of a modern Penfolds dry red table wine style.

The experimental 1961 and 1963 vintages were both precursors to the release of Bin 707. The 1963 Bin 64 Kalimna Cabernet, another Block 42 wine, won the Jimmy Watson trophy at the Melbourne Wine Show, providing further impetus. Max Schubert struggled with this grape variety at first. However, improved viticulture and the acquired wisdom of succeeding vintages resulted in the release of Bin 707, with the inaugural vintage, 1964, being produced entirely from Block 42 fruit.

Block 42 is a remarkable piece of viticultural dirt which has contributed very useful, if not essential, blending material for both Grange and Bin 707. During the 1970s and 1980s no Block 42 Kalimna Cabernet was made. The 1996 South Australian vintage, however, was generally exceptional, giving John Duval the option of making a single Block 42 wine once again. The sheer quality and balance of the Cabernet fruit harvested across all contributing regions in that vintage, allowed both a Bin 707 and a separate Block 42 to be vinified in 1996.

The 1996 Block 42 completed its fermentation in barrel and was then matured in new American oak hogsheads for approximately 18 months. The wine is largely a homage to the original 1953 Grange Cabernet, one of the most important wines ever released in Penfolds' winemaking history.

**PENFOLDS
BLOCK 42
CABERNET
SAUVIGNON**

First Vintage: 1948

Variety: Cabernet Sauvignon

Origin: Block 42 – Kalimna Vineyard, South Australia.

Fermentation: 10 tonne stainless steel static fermenter with wax lined, wooden header boards. Fermentation completed in barrel.

Maturation: 18 months in new American oak hogsheads (300 litres).

Comments: Block 42 played a critical role in the development of Grange and particularly Bin 707.





PENFOLDS BLOCK 42 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

1953 **Now** ★

GRANGE CABERNET

Medium deep, brick red. Sweet developed and superbly complex gamy/cassis/cedar/tobacco aromas. The palate is well-concentrated and beautifully balanced with sweet gamy/cassis/spicy/tobacco flavours interwoven with fine grained tannins. Finishes long and sweet. A very great wine.

1961 **Now**

BIN 58 KALIMNA CABERNET

Medium deep, brick red. Perfumed tobacco/earth/cedar aromas with grilled nut nuances. A firm but fruit-sweet palate with cedar/dried fig/chocolate flavours and fine sinewy tannins. VA (volatile acidity) noted on the finish.

1963 **Now** ★

BIN 64 KALIMNA CABERNET

Medium deep, brick red. Lifted but rich, dried earth/toasted nut/mocha/spice aromas. A substantial wine with ripe date/prune/mocha flavours, dense fine-grained tannins, great concentration, richness and length. An exceptional bottle. Jimmy Watson Trophy winner.

1964 **Now** ★

BIN 707 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Brick red. Complex sweet mocha/blackfruit/leathery/cedar aromas with some minty nuances. The palate is fully mature with plenty of tobacco/cedar/mocha-berry characters and fruit sweetness. The tannins are soft and fine. A long savoury finish.

1996 **Now** 2020 ★

BLOCK 42 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Deep red-purple. Intense blackcurrant/dark plum/dark chocolate aromas with some malt/nutty oak. A richly concentrated wine with deep-set cassis/dark plum/chocolate/vanilla fruit, ripe cedary tannins and plenty of flavour length.

Outstanding vintages ★