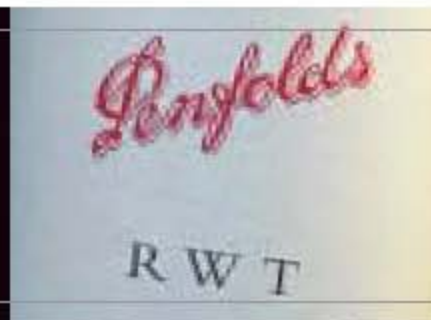




PENFOLDS RWT
BAROSSA VALLEY SHIRAZ



“This wonderfully consistent group of wines rises above the vagaries of vintage – a very classy display of fruit framed by supple tannins.” – JAMES HALLIDAY



OVERVIEW: Penfolds RWT Barossa Valley Shiraz was released largely in response to Penfolds' increased access to outstanding Barossa Valley Shiraz fruit and emerging recognition of regional provenance among collectors and wine enthusiasts.

In many respects the wheel has turned full circle. During the early 1960s Penfolds released its highly regarded Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz, a 100% Barossa Shiraz. While this was originally a single vineyard wine, the winemaking emphasis was on the house style absolutely central to the Penfolds winemaking philosophy. Increasing demand and finite resources in the Barossa resulted in this wine becoming a multi-regional blend.

Since the Nuriootpa winery was established in 1911, the Barossa has featured in many Penfolds wines. Barossa Shiraz is a fundamental component of Bin 28, Bin 389, St. Henri and, of course, Bin 95 Grange. The idea of making a 100% Barossa Shiraz once again, reflected growing interest and enthusiasm for regional definition and individual vineyard sites. Certainly the Barossa Valley is considered one of the classic wine regions of the world. Barossa Shiraz is quintessentially Australian with some of the world's oldest genetic Shiraz vine material. Settled by both English and Silesian immigrants during the mid 19th century, the region also has a unique heritage.

The development of Penfolds Red Winemaking Trial (RWT) reflects extraordinary progress in viticulture and winemaking. The two disciplines are increasingly intertwined, as growers and winemakers work together in search of optimum balance, ripeness and flavour. Identifying the best vineyard sites around the Barossa Valley, securing a regular supply of independently grown fruit, and establishing a clear idea of winemaking philosophy, are the key elements to Penfolds RWT.

RWT draws fruit from 20 to 100 year-old vineyards arcing across the west and north-west of the Barossa Valley, mostly independently grown. The dry, hot northern district, which centres around Kalimna, Moppa and Ebenezer, is largely open, sweeping country of alluvial plains, with red loam and red brown clay soils dissected by gullies and rivulets. Stands of eucalypt trees and scrub provide natural windbreaks.

PENFOLDS RWT BAROSSA VALLEY SHIRAZ

First Vintage: 1997

Variety: Shiraz

*Origin: Barossa Valley,
South Australia.*

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

*Maturation: 12-15 months
in 50-70% new French oak
hogsheads (300 litres).*

*Comments: Packaged in
laser-etched bottles.*





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Most of the Shiraz is dry grown. The best vineyards produce fruit of voluptuous intensity, ripe tannins, and juicy flavours. The central west district around Stonewell, Marananga and Seppeltsfield is an undulating landscape, a rumbled patchwork of vineyards, many planted several generations ago. At vintage time the fruit is batch vinified and then classified according to intensity, texture and concentration. Each parcel is like a jigsaw piece.

Ultimately winemakers seek fruit with strong aromatic qualities, fine textures and overall opulence. The RWT Shiraz has a very seductive style with a plum/blueberry fruit profile and fine ripe tannins underpinned by savoury French oak. Peter Gago observes, “The RWT wine style is an excellent foil to Penfolds Grange. While vinification is followed along similar lines, including partial barrel fermentation, RWT differs because of its more fleshy, regionally distinctive fruit selection, and the use of French rather than American oak”.

Since its first vintage in 1997, collectors have recognised the sheer class of RWT. Already the wine has a strong secondary market following, illustrating its collectability and cellaring potential. Joanna Simon says of RWT “All the vintages are outstanding. The wines are very consistent with lovely succulent fruit and concentration. The 1998 stands out, but the 2001 could well equal it”. James Halliday notes, “This wonderfully consistent group of wines rises above the vagaries of vintage – a very classy display of fruit framed by supple tannins”.





PENFOLDS RWT

BAROSSA VALLEY SHIRAZ

1997 **Now** 2011

Medium red-purple. A fragrant wine with blackberry/plum aromas and traces of mint. The palate is supple and round with fleshy rich concentrated blackberry/plum fruit, fine tannins and subtle oak. Outstanding for vintage.

1998 **Now** 2020 ★

Deep red-purple. A powerfully concentrated wine with luscious blackberry/spice/chocolate aromas and savoury oak. A rich, beautifully proportioned palate with opulent raspberry/blueberry/blackberry/chocolate flavours and ripe slinky tannins. A wine with enormous depth and persistence.

1999 2006 2020 ★

Deep purple-red. Intense blackberry/plum aromas with nutmeg/malt oak. The palate is densely packed with lovely fruit sweetness, plenty of savoury oak and ample fine tannins. A top Barossa vintage.

2000 **Now** 2015

Medium red-purple. An earlier drinking style with spicy/raspberry/minty aromas and some grilled nut/oak complexity. The palate is medium concentrated and supple with some raspberry/chocolate fruit, plenty of savoury oak and loose-knit tannins.

2001 2008 2023 ★

Medium purple-red. A rich intense wine with potent blackberry/blueberry/plum fruit and savoury oak. A beautifully concentrated fleshy wine with deep-set black fruit flavours, abundant ripe tannins and integrated oak. A wonderful wine.

Outstanding vintages ★