

PENFOLDS SPECIAL BIN RED WINES



**“Gentlemen, you will all stand
in the presence of this wine!”**

– ANDRÉ TCHELISTCHEFF 1901-1994



OVERVIEW: The Special Bin Red releases reflect a culture of research, experimentation and innovation at Penfolds. This goes beyond winemaking to consideration of vineyard site, vineyard management and fruit selection. When Max Schubert began his Grange project he used a ‘control wine’ to compare the results of his work with barrel fermentation and maturation in American oak. Although the control wine (several hundred dozen were bottled) showed “all the characteristics of a good, well-made wine in the orthodox mould”, the wine did not reach the standard of the first experimental Grange. “It did, however, set the guidelines for production and marketing of a whole range of special one-off red wines which have been sought after, vintage by vintage, to this day.” (Max Schubert).

Some of the Special Bin releases represent work in progress. Others highlight outstanding parcels of fruit. The 1962 Bin 60A is considered by many to be the greatest Australian wine ever made. Indeed, Max Schubert’s direct contemporary André Tchelistcheff (1901-1994), the founding father of the modern Californian wine industry, once demanded of a room of startled Napa Valley vignerons, “Gentlemen, you will all stand in the presence of this wine!”.

The 1962 Bin 60A is now over 40 years old and continues to impress tasters. James Halliday remarks, “This is a glorious, absolutely wonderful wine with potent cedar/blackcurrant/espresso aromas. The palate has magnificent texture, structure and length – a finely woven tapestry of innumerable flavours”. Bin 60A is eagerly sought after on the secondary wine market. While not reaching the giddy heights of old vintages of Grange, it attracts an impressive volume of bidding, usually from a swag of Australian winemakers eager to try the wine. Bin 60A is Penfolds’ most successful show wine ever, having won 19 trophies and 33 gold medals in a relatively brief period.

Bin 7 (also a two-thirds Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon/one-third Kalimna Shiraz blend) was a famous show wine of its day, but it never reached the legendary status of Bin 60A. The 1962 Bin 60 was the reverse of Bin 60A, a blend of one-third Coonawarra Cabernet/two-thirds Barossa Shiraz. Max Schubert once said, “It was never up to the Bin 60A, but it was still a bloody good wine”. The 1966 Bin 620, a 100% Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz blend, was almost as legendary as Bin 60A in its time. Certainly, it was a convincing example of Coonawarra’s potential as a fine Cabernet Sauvignon producing region.

The 1962 Bin 60A is considered by many to be the greatest Australian wine ever made.





PENFOLDS SPECIAL BIN RED WINES

The 1973 Bin 169 Coonawarra Claret and Bin 170 Kalimna Shiraz, released as single region wines, were originally earmarked to be blended together, perhaps becoming a 1970s version of Bin 60A. The panel noted that if the two had been released as a single blended bottling, it could well have been a much better wine.

When Penfolds purchased Bill Redman's Sharam's Block Vineyard in Coonawarra, Max Schubert was initially quite concerned about the reliability and vintage consistency of this cool-climate, maritime-influenced region. Cabernet Sauvignon, with its thick skins and small berries, can be quite grippy in texture, particularly after a cool growing season. Indeed, up to this period Coonawarra was more famous for its Shiraz-based wines. The success of many of these early experimental Bins – particularly Bin 60A and Bin 7 – highlighted the advantages of multi-district blending and the sheer potential quality of Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon. Indeed these early Special Bin Reds and unreleased experimental wines paved the way for the re-commencement of production of Bin 707 in 1976.

These early Special Bin Reds and unreleased experimental wines paved the way for the re-commencement of production of Bin 707 in 1976.

The release of Bin 80A, Bin 820, Bin 90A and Bin 920 (as their names suggest) are a homage to Max Schubert and his two most famous experimental wines. Using special parcels of fruit, these wines were largely vinified, matured and blended to Max Schubert's original specifications. At the time, the 1982 vintage was considered an extraordinary vintage. Bin 820, like most other wines from Coonawarra, has not evolved as predicted, although it was enjoyed by some members of the panel.

Ch'ng Poh Tiong says, "I really liked this wine with its perfumed cassis fruit, mature palate full of fresh acidity and ripe tannins". Bin 80A, Bin 90A and Bin 920, however, are all cellaring well. Indeed Huon Hooke declares the Bin 90A to be "A great wine with plenty of sweet plum Barossa Shiraz characters. It's very youthful and pristine with masses of beautifully ripe blackberry/cassis fruit framed by persistent, ample, fine-grained tannins. A future classic".

The Special Bins to date derive from Penfolds' own Coonawarra, Koonunga Hill and Kalimna Vineyards. Future releases may embrace new viticultural regions. Over the past decade Penfolds has planted vineyards in new and established wine regions. Winemakers will have a larger spectrum of regional provenance to choose from in the future.



PENFOLDS SPECIAL BIN RED WINES

1956 **Now**



BIN 136 MAGILL
BURGUNDY

Brick red. Scented and developed cedar/cigar box/meaty aromas. A soft, mellow, silky wine with coffee/cedar/mocha flavours and fine-grained tannins. Beautiful wine.

1962 **Now**

BIN 60 KALIMNA SHIRAZ COONAWARRA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Brick red. Intense sweet plum/prune/dried fig aromas with some raisin/bitumen notes. A mouth-filling palate with plenty of developed sweet mocha/berry/leather flavours, leafy, Cabernet-like tannins and lingering finish.

1962 **Now**



BIN 60A COONAWARRA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON KALIMNA SHIRAZ
Deep brick red. Intensely complex. Beautifully perfumed blackcurrant/coffee/dark chocolate/leather aromas. The palate is smooth and supple with mocha/black fruit flavours, lovely concentration and fine lacy tannins. A magnificent wine. A great Australian classic.

1966 **Now**

BIN 620 COONAWARRA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON SHIRAZ

Brick red. Rich blackcurrant/mocha/leafy/aniseed aromas. A substantial palate with deep set chocolate/truffle/leather characters and chewy firm dry tannins. Still has plenty of sweet fruit.

1967 **Now**

BIN 7 COONAWARRA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON – KALIMNA SHIRAZ
Brick red. Aromatic and developed blackberry/mocha/sandalwood/polished leather/marmalade aromas. The palate is rich and mature with opulent mocha/blackberry flavours and mouth-filling soft tannins. Finishes surprisingly firm and leathery.

1973 **Now**

BIN 169 COONAWARRA CLARET

Brick red. Developed cassis/mocha/dusty/leafy aromas. A lean wine with cassis/coffee/dusty/walnut flavours and sinewy tannins. Finishes dry, grippy and hard. Believed to be 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Also labelled as Bin CC. Drink up.

1973 **Now**

BIN 170 KALIMNA SHIRAZ

Brick red. Elegant prune/raspberry-comfit/spice/cedar aromas. The palate still has plenty of sweet raspberry/cedar/mocha fruit, mid-palate richness and fine-grained tannins. A lovely wine.

1980 **Now**

2020

BIN 80A COONAWARRA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON KALIMNA SHIRAZ
Brick red. Attractive aromatic sweet cassis/sandalwood/meaty/malt aromas with a hint of mint. A soft well-balanced wine with blackcurrant/malt/cedar flavours and supple fine chocolaty tannins. A classic Penfolds vintage.

1982 **Now**

BIN 820 COONAWARRA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON SHIRAZ

Brick red. Developed red cherry/blackcurrant/tomato leaf – slightly stewed fruit aromas. The wine is well-concentrated with cassis/blackberry jam flavours and fine grained, slightly leafy tannins.

1990 **2010**

2035

BIN 90A COONAWARRA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON KALIMNA SHIRAZ
Deep crimson. Intense fresh dark chocolate/malty aromas with a touch of cigar box. The palate is beautifully concentrated and balanced with lovely chocolate malt characters, mocha/grilled nut/sous-bois complexity, plenty of sweet fruit and lacy fine tannins. A superb wine.

Outstanding vintages



1990  2030 ★

BIN 920 COONAWARRA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON SHIRAZ

Deep crimson. Intense blackcurrant/plum/blackberry aromas with some dark chocolate/smoky/cedar notes. A superbly balanced, deeply concentrated wine with deep-set blackcurrant/chocolate/spicy fruit and rich ripe chocolaty tannins. Sumptuous!

Outstanding vintages ★