

Penfolds

# KOONUNGA HILL

CABERNET MERLOT 2003

Penfolds Koonunga Hill has established itself as one of Australia's favourite names in premium red wine. Since the first vintage in 1976 of Koonunga Hill Shiraz Cabernet, the brand's reputation has been built upon widespread acclaim. The release of Koonunga Hill Cabernet Merlot has successfully built upon this tradition, offering the Koonunga Hill assurance of quality in this contemporary varietal combination.

Koonunga Hill Cabernet Merlot is defined by its full-flavoured style with excellent varietal fruit. The wine makes moderate use of oak maturation to frame the natural structure and flavours of the component varieties in its make-up.

Koonunga Hill Cabernet Merlot is the fourth offering in this popular range, joining the Shiraz Cabernet, Chardonnay and Semillon Chardonnay.



VINEYARD REGION	A multi-regional blend sourced from premium vineyards across South Australia.
VINTAGE CONDITIONS	The 2003 growing season in South Australia was generally regarded as warm, starting with a dry winter and warm, clear spring. This was followed by some episodes of heat through the summer, whilst cooler weather towards the end of the season relieved the vines in the run up to vintage.
GRAPE VARIETY	Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot
MATURATION	Parcels of this wine were matured for 15 months in French oak hogsheads and French and American oak barriques.
WINE ANALYSIS	Alc/Vol: 14.00% Acidity: - pH: -
LAST TASTED	18-May-05
PEAK DRINKING	Now - 2008
FOOD MATCHES	Ideally suited to Beef, Lamb, Veal

Winemaker comments by Peter Gago

**COLOUR**

Rich, attractive dark plum red.

**NOSE**

The nose shows lifted, aromatic, blackcurrant and raspberry fruits along with distinctly varietal cabernet and merlot characters of mint and tomato flesh. There are attractive, but not overpowering, background characters of savoury oak and spice.

**PALATE**

This medium bodied wine shows textbook cabernet characters of black olive and rich ripe dark fruits, with its more dominant tannin on the front palate and finish. The softer, sweet plum characters of Merlot fill the mid palate. This is a supple wine with succulent fruit throughout supported by savoury oak, which delicious now, when fresh and juicy, will repay medium term cellaring.