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THE DEFINITIVE GRANGE GUIDE

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Penfolds Grange price history

The 1951 vintage was an experimental wine and the wines were largely given away. Hammer prices are currently hovering around the \$40,000 mark. The 1952 vintage, regarded as the first commercial release, was probably sold at around 15 shillings (\$1.50). The 1953 vintage was being sold for around 17s 6d (\$1.76). It is unlikely there would have been significant price changes for the 1954, 1955 and 1956. The 1957, 1958 and 1959 were "secret" Granges and were largely given away. The 1959, however, was released commercially as well with a base price of around \$1.50 and \$1.75. This is of course, largely guesswork, because information is scarce. There is no reliable source for the release prices from 1963 – 1972 so these are largely "guesstimated". We occasionally see original price stickers. 1971 for instance was sold for \$11.90 at release but was also discounted under \$10.00. Most of the prices from the mid 1970s and the 1980s are based on listed published prices.

Decimalisation in 1966 did not create huge price increases. Healthy price increases occurred with the successive releases of 1982 to 1989 Grange. This was a golden period for Grange on the Australian secondary wine market.

The 1990 vintage – acknowledged as a great South Australian vintage – was released with further hefty price increases. The hype surrounding this vintage was extraordinary. Export markets were beginning to take allocations and there was a perceived feeling of short supply. The release price of 1990 Grange had a huge effect on the value of ultra-fine Australian wine. Henschke Hill of Grace was the major beneficiary with an astonishing 150% increase in overall auction values in a single year.

It was not until the release of the 1990 vintage that international market perceptions of Grange changed. In 1995 the highly influential Wine Spectator magazine named the 1990 Penfolds Grange as its wine of the year, for the first time choosing a wine produced outside California and France. In the same year powerful US wine writer Robert Parker Jr proclaimed Grange as "the leading candidate for the richest, most concentrated dry red table wine on planet earth." The confluence of media hype and economic prosperity saw an unprecedented and exponential increase in global demand for Grange. The wine is now regularly traded at auction around the world. Its price movements are followed with the same level of interest – by collectors – as Bordeaux's first growth Chateau and Burgundy's Grand Cru.

Grange only became a global secondary market wine during the 1990s. While it is now regularly sold by the major wine auction houses around the world, the Australian market is still overwhelmingly dominant. During the 1960s and 1970s, prices tracked at fairly moderate increments. A strengthening fine wine market – based on an ascendant boutique Australian wine scene – allowed prices to evolve rapidly during the late 1980s. In 1987, Penfolds released the 1982 at over \$50 – something of a milestone and a quantum leap on the year before. These boom years – supported by wealth generated across the Pacific Rim – saw Grange cement its place as Australia's top secondary market wine. In 1991 ('86 vintage released) Grange headed up the inaugural Langton's Classification of Australian Wine.

Generally wine prices faltered in the early 1990s during the Australian recession – but Grange prices held on. By the end of the 1990s market strength re-appeared and the Australian cult wine scene came into prominence – effectively creating a sluggish market for Grange for 18-24 months. The crash of the cult wine scene in early 2001 and the release of the excellent 1996 alleviated the Grange market malaise. Indeed the strength of renewed interest was stark proof that track record, enduring quality and reputation are key drivers when it comes to a wine's performance at auction. Grange prices again spiked after the release of the celebrated 1998. A period of short supply and high volume of bidding saw prices escalate. The speculative market, however, subsided during the early 2000s. The superb 1999 vintage – living in the shadow of the 1998 – has performed slowly for years, but in recent times has moved up significantly as buyers recognise its potential. The small vintage 2000, a millennium wine and very tightly allocated – has performed beyond expectations. The most recent vintages of Grange are generally still available on the primary markets. Auction values relate to overall availability and vintage reputation. Certainly pricing in the primary market has a direct link with secondary wine market movements. With the increasing world wide interest in Grange perceptions of short supply and increasing First Growth stature in the global secondary wine market, prices are likely to remain firm in the foreseeable future. The current release, 2003 vintage, although not seen as a blockbuster never the less has been well received, but there is no question that the 2004 vintage will re-ignite the Grange flame once again.

Frequently asked questions about Penfolds at auction.

Why is Penfolds Grange such an important secondary market wine?

Penfolds Grange is a cornerstone of the Australian secondary (auction) market with a reputation and track record that rivals some of the great classified growths of Bordeaux and Burgundy. From around the mid 1960s, Grange could be found in most Australian wine collector's cellars. The 1955 vintage was listed by the American wine consumer advocate Wine Spectator as one of the greatest wines of the 20th Century. It has won such accolades numerous times and is the only wine to be heritage listed by the South Australian National Trust. The highly influential Langton's Classification of Australian Wine acknowledges Penfolds Grange as Australia's leading secondary wine market. Volume of supply and demand makes it one of the most highly traded wines at auction

anywhere in the world. It has over a half century of history and price data making it the most researched and talked about Australian wine. The fame of Grange has reached far and wide. Aside from the marvellous tastings, the remarkable auction values and the controversies, it is really Grange's aesthetic quality that makes it such an extraordinary thing. It is one of the few wines in the world which is treated like a treasured piece of art work – by all walks of life. If there's ever a wine that can be called an experience – it is Grange. That is why it is followed with great interest by all observers of the Australian fine wine market.

What are the best performing investment/ collectible Granges?

The Grange market increasingly falls into two categories; Rare Grange (1951-1963) and Vintage Grange (1964 - present).

Rare Grange

The early experimental Granges were largely given away meaning in principle the beneficiaries have made some outstanding returns! Even the early commercialised vintages – sold into the market for a few dollars represent good investments today. It is unlikely – however – that any buyer or recipient really looked at the investment value of Grange during the 1950s and 1960s. These early supporters enjoyed Grange because it was a really interesting wine. It was not until the 1980s that Grange really made its name as an investment type wine. The rarest Granges are 1956, 1957 and 1958 – because they were made without authorisation and produced in miniscule quantities. The most valuable Granges are 1951 (the first experimental vintage) and 1952. Interestingly the 1951 was kept back as museum stock for years. It wasn't until the mid to late 1980s that collectors were able to secure bottles. This is one of the reasons that the labels and general appearance of the bottles are often in better condition than other vintages from the 1950s. The value of the 1951 is intrinsically linked to its historic significance – it is the most important wine ever to be made in Australia as it set the direction of contemporary Australian winemaking. The market for rare Grange is not as liquid as Vintage Grange and therefore exposed to both volatility and malaise. It's a highly specialized area of the secondary market. A complete collection of Grange – in pristine condition and signed by Max Schubert – the creator of Grange – once sold for just under \$250,000.

Vintage Grange

Vintage Grange plays a major role in the Australian secondary wine market. It is seen as a key indicator. Indeed for many years Access Economics – a think tank – used the 1971 vintage as an economic yardstick. For many years this wine out-performed other alternative investments including race horses, taxi plates and rare coins.

The best performing Vintage Granges in the current market are 1986, 1990, 1991, 1998 and 1999. 2000 – not a recognised vintage – is a millennium wine and still tracks above expectations. The 2002 is also highly regarded and performs well at auction. 30th and 40th Anniversaries also drive prices up.

Has international recognition brought a greater status to Grange at auction?

1990 Grange's exposure as Wine Spectator's "Wine of the Year" (the first 'outsider' wine) certainly propelled sentiment. The mid-1990s was a highly successful period for Penfolds with extraordinary media focus – no doubt adding some sparkle to the market. It was also a time of great vertical tastings and when traders – such as Anders Josephson – emerged as important market influencers. The Asian market also came to prominence – particularly Singapore and Hong Kong. These buyers had a profound effect on the secondary wine market changing the pattern of buying and the way of cataloguing fine wine. Anything that deviated off pristine condition – including minor scuffs on labels or capsules – was simply ignored. Once considered idiosyncratic this expectation has become standard across all markets and is a contributing factor to the increasingly high quality of personal and public wine storage. Robert Parker Jr's influence in Asia is generally strong. He has been a champion of single vineyard Shiraz and became a lightning rod for the cult wine scene. He has tasted all of the Granges and even gave the 1976 a 100 points. Parker's influence on the Grange market itself is marginal. The wine is steeped in folklore and has a life of its own. Australians are very proud of Grange – many of the buyers are ordinary people who may not even be aware of Robert Parker Jr. On the other hand 99 points for the 1998 Grange no doubt generated interest. But Australian taxi drivers probably had more influence!

What role did Grange play in the fall of the Cult wine scene?

Grange is the only Australian wine in the market – with the possible exception of Henschke Hill of Grace – which can really claim icon status. It has certainly prepared much of the groundwork for ultra-fine Australian wine. But it should be seen as distinct from the recent phenomena of cult wine. Consistency, aging potential and pedigree has earned its own club of one.

How much does condition and provenance affect the price of Grange?

Penfolds – through its Red Wine Clinic programme – has made provenance a major issue at auction. Anything that deviates from pristine condition is now subject to downward price pressure.

Previous cellaring conditions are an issue – but not as great as some people would like to think. Indeed Langton's believe that the wine trade in Australia (and the UK) uses the issue of provenance as a weapon of doubt – a way of casting influence with their clientele. Experience with the clinics has shown that wine bottles that appear in good condition are generally ok. Anything with level problems or leaking capsules or even damaged/mouldy labels – can all suggest questionable provenance/ past cellaring conditions. These wines are always catalogued accordingly and generally achieve the prices they deserve.

A successfully cliniced bottle – topped up, re-capsuled and given a clinic label and winemakers signature – will generally provide extra confidence to buyers. In Australia the concept of topping up is well received. Indeed the Penfolds Red Wine Clinic has become a part of the fine wine landscape in Australia. Generally re-corked wines from the 1970s and 1980s do not attract a premium. In theory prices are restored to par value. Increasingly the Penfolds Red Wine Clinics adds an assurance value to mature bottles. Buyers – seeking the best provenance possible – are now paying premium prices for “cliniced” bottles in mint condition – especially for experimental wines and older vintages.

Does the winemakers signature make a difference in price?

There is generally a premium paid for old bottles of Penfolds wines with the signature of Max Schubert – the creator of Grange. Indeed they add extra rarity value to Grange collections. It is difficult to determine exactly what the premium is because the rare Grange market is so specialised and prices vary widely. It is about 10-20% extra within the life of an auction itself. Signatures of Don Ditter, John Duval, and current Penfolds Chief Winemaker Peter Gago generally only get premiums at charity auctions!

If Grange is the “world's most consistent performing fine wine” – then why do vintage prices vary so much?

There was a time when the secondary market played little attention to the vagaries of vintage. Australia almost always had benign years, the wines were relatively cheap and expectations were generally low. However, this has all changed hugely in the last forty years. Recognition of vintages has become a very important feature of fine wine. While Grange is a multi-vineyard – often multi-regional wine – it still reflects the conditions of vintage. The overall winemaking philosophy allows for consistency of style and quality, but vintage conditions will bring a stamp of its own. There is not such a thing as bad Grange – but they are all different to each other. The light and shade across vintages is as palpable as any other series of great wines. The market appreciates this and also the historic idiosyncrasies of Grange. For instance 1972 is considered as a dud year – although it is a glorious wine. Grange was bottled in both South Australia and New South Wales until the 1970s – so there must be some form of bottle variation – not necessarily qualitative or quantifiable as the clinics have never revealed a meaningful difference. Buyer sentiment is always driven by the perception of quality, reputation and short supply. There is possibly a market phenomenon which won't allow more than a few stellar vintages in a ten year period.

Does Penfolds Grange always achieve the highest prices at auction?

Penfolds Grange – across vintages – has a very commanding price position. The highly prized single vineyard wine Henschke Hill of Grace Shiraz regularly achieves over \$400 – especially for top vintages. It generally surfs in the wake of Grange prices and is the beneficiary of the pull push effect. That is every time Grange prices move up, Hill of Grace prices follow and vice versa. Rockford Basket Press Shiraz rarely achieves more than \$250 although it is enjoying strong upward price movements at the moment. Rare vintages of Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon can achieve over \$400 (ie. 1964). Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon, Cullen Diana Madeline Cabernet Merlot, Wendouree Shiraz and Mount Mary Quintet track between \$120 and \$200. Bass Phillip Reserve Pinot is so utterly rare it can drag up to just under \$300. As you can see Penfolds Grange is the only wine in the Exceptional category of Langton's Classification of Australian Wine that achieves the same sort of prices as First Growth Bordeaux or Grand Cru Burgundy.

What other Penfolds wines perform on the secondary wine market?

Penfolds - especially Grange - has always performed reliably well through the thick and thin of the secondary market. Collectors and wine enthusiasts have a strong affection for the wines. Through a long track record of performance, recorded histories of tastings, and plenty of anecdotal stories and experiences, they know exactly what to expect. Even with changes in ownership, Penfolds has maintained a strong production focused image where quality, consistency and heritage are seen as vitally important. It's a great reputation to have – especially in times of uncertainty.

- Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon – which is classified Exceptional by Langton's – is a top performer at auction. While Penfolds has reshuffled its portfolio, the secondary wine market still sees this wine aligned with Grange. It's made the same way and has always been something of a consort. It must be remembered that Max Schubert always had Cabernet Sauvignon at the back of his mind during the Grange experimental years. Bin 707 tracks at about half the price of Grange so buyers see the wine as great value.
- RWT Shiraz belongs to the strong Barossa Shiraz genre. It is a highly evocative style. While it is distinctly Penfolds it does show beautiful regional character. It does not have the same track record as Bin 389, Bin 707 or St Henri, but does share similar market strength.
- St Henri Shiraz is a sentimental favourite among Australian auction buyers. It has always performed solidly but never spectacularly. The wines are often considered as old fashioned but as the Rewards of Patience shows, this is really perception rather than necessarily reality; one opinion against another. If anything St Henri is undervalued considering the history of this wine. Further vintages from the 2000s are exciting wines.
- Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz is regarded as an important auction wine. It regularly attracts high volume of bidding and interest. Indeed it is the quintessential Penfolds wine and offers tremendous value and quality. It is arguably the most popular cellaring wine on the auction market. Older vintages achieve similar prices to St Henri.
- Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon, Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz and Bin 128 Coonawarra Shiraz are always well sought after and regularly feature at auction. They are renowned for their reliability and consistency – but they are not treasured in the same way as the icon and luxury wines. These are some of the very best value Australian fine wines.
- The new 2004 Block 42 Cabernet and 2004 Bin 60A Cabernet Shiraz have debuted at strong prices. This falls in line with all Penfolds experimental wines. Collectors love them.
- Yattarna Chardonnay after an initial flurry during the late 1990s, performs moderately. Indeed white wines are generally not strong performers on the secondary wine market unless they are special vintages. The youngest vintages are the most sought after.

The most famous experimental Penfolds Wines are;

- 1948 Block 42 Kalimna Cabernet Sauvignon
- 1962 Bin 60A Kalimna Cabernet Coonawarra Shiraz
- 1966 Bin 620 Coonawarra Cabernet Shiraz
- 1967 Bin 7 Kalimna Cabernet Coonawarra Shiraz
- 1980 Bin 80A Coonawarra Cabernet Kalimna Shiraz
- 1982 Bin 820 Coonawarra Cabernet Shiraz
- 1990 Bin 90A Coonawarra Cabernet Barossa Valley Shiraz
- 1990 Bin 920 Coonawarra Cabernet Shiraz
- 1996 Block 42 Kalimna Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2004 Block 42 Kalimna Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2004 Bin 60A Coonawarra Cabernet Barossa Valley Shiraz

PENFOLDS GRANGE 1951 – 1956

1951

\$35,000 – \$45,000

The first experimental Grange and extremely rare. A valuable collector's item because of its historical significance. Rare hand blown bottles. Largely the wine has a dull tawny colour and skeletal palate structure with little flesh and fading tannins. Very rare. 100% Shiraz.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide) Blend. A hot, very dry growing season. 100 cases/3 Hogsheads made. Released as Bin 1.

1952

\$12,000 – \$16,000

First commercial vintage. Medium deep brick red.

Intense herb garden/ roasted meat aromas with some demi-glace/ wet bitumen notes. Sweet roasted meat/ demi-glace/ dark chocolate flavours and lacy fine tannins. Finishes dusty but long and sweet. Very rare. Well past its prime. 100% Shiraz.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide) blend. Average growing season with normal rainfall conditions. Around 100/150 cases made at less than \$1 a bottle at release. Some half bottle "pints" were also produced. Released as Bin 4 and Bin 4A.

1953

\$12,000 – \$16,000

Medium brick red. Lovely fresh Provençal herbs/ violet/ mocha/ apricot aromas with hint of demi-glace/ polished leather. Remarkable old wine with complex roasted meat/ herb garden/ polished leather flavours and slinky dry tannins. This is a great Australian wine and still drinking beautifully. Very rare. 87% Shiraz 13% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa) Blend. 260 cases made. Some half bottles (375ml) were released. First vintage – and then uninterrupted - use of Kalimna fruit – hence the term "Mother Vineyard". Released as Bin 2 (also Bins 10, 86C and 145).

1954

\$10,000 – \$14,000

Medium brick red. The wine is now in decline. It's showing lifted Amontillado/ demi-glace/ salty aromas and flavours. There's still some fruit sweetness but the tannins are gritty and dry. A mineral finish with some cedar/ graphite notes. Still has some charm but well past its peak. Very rare. 98% Shiraz 2% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley) Blend. Internal criticism of Grange led Max Schubert to lighten the style slightly. Only nine months in oak. Cool to mild growing season followed by a mild to warm vintage. Released as Bin 11 and Bin 12.

1955

\$2,500 – \$3,500

Deep brick red. Coffee/ mocha/ gamey/ grilled meat aromas with some camomile/ leather notes. Sweet meaty/ gamey/ mocha/ dark berry flavours and soft – slightly sappy green tannins. The fruit is beginning to fade now. A famously great vintage. Now quite rare. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), McLaren Vale Blend. The most decorated Grange – winner of 12 trophies and 52 Gold medals on the Australian wine show circuit. Spent only 9 months in oak. A favourite of Max Schubert's, partly because it won a gold medal in the open claret class at the 1962 Sydney Wine Show – some members of the judging panel had previously been vocally critical of the style. A mild to warm growing conditions – interrupted by above average rainfall. A warm dry vintage followed. Chosen by the US publication - Wine Spectator Magazine – as a "Wine of the Millennium". Most common as a later release (after show success) is Bin 95 (also Bins 13, 14, 53, 54 and 148A).

1956

\$10,000 – \$14,000

Medium brick red. Mocha/ molasses/ amontillado/ vellum aromas suggesting slight over-development. The palate is well concentrated with sweet mocha/ molasses flavours, fine grippy tannins. Finishes firm and tight with touch of saltiness. Past its best but still interesting. Very rare. 96% Shiraz 4% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley) Blend. Only nine months in oak. A cool mild growing season. Released as Bin 14 and Bin 53.

PENFOLDS GRANGE 1957 – 1962

1957

\$10,000 – \$14,000

Deep brick red. Fresh sea-breezy/ chocolate/ mint/ violet aromas with some herb garden notes. The fruit is beginning to fade but it still has some mint chocolate/ earthy flavours and fine chalky but pronounced tannins. The tannins build up quite leafy and dry at the finish. Just holding. Very rare. 88% Shiraz 12% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), McLaren Vale Blend. A so-called "Hidden Grange" because the wine was made without the knowledge of Penfolds management – who had ordered Max Schubert to cease production. Matured in previous year's Grange barrels. A mild dry growing season. Released as Bin 50 and Bin 113.

1958

\$8,000 – \$12,000

Deep brick red. Very complex rich dark chocolate/ peat/ malt whisky/ herb garden aromas with some overdeveloped orange/ clove notes. Sweet fruit/ rich dark chocolate/ malty flavours and leafy/ gritty tannins. The fruit fades towards the finish leaving an austere slightly acidic finish. This is well past its prime but its holding firm. Very rare. 94% Shiraz 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale Blend. A "Hidden Grange" Mild to warm growing season. Released as Bin 46 (also Bins 14, 47 and 49).

1959

\$2,500 – \$3,500

Deep brick red. Dark cherry/ bitter chocolate/ demi-glace aromas with hint of malt/ marmalade. Sweet dark chocolate/ mocha/ herb garden flavours and fine grained chalky – almost stemmy tannins. Finishes oily dry but still has great flavour length. It's starting to lose freshness. Rare. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley) Blend. Cool to mild growing season followed by a warm dry vintage. Released as Bin 95 (also Bins 46 and 49).

1960

\$1,000 – \$1,400

Medium brick red. Beautiful dark chocolate/ grilled meat/ herb garden aromas with some demi-glace/ apricot notes. The palate is well concentrated, developed and fresh with lovely fruit richness, demi-glace/ plum/ dark fruits/ apricot flavours and fine lacy/ chalky loose knit tannins. A lovely old wine. Finishes silky, minerally and long. Rare. 92% Shiraz 8% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley) Blend. A hot dry growing season. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bin 49).

1961

\$700 – \$1,000

Medium brick red. Fresh bitter chocolate/ cedar/ almond/ bitumen aromas. Complex old wine with bitter dark chocolate/ bitumen/ tea leafy/ marmalade flavours and slinky dry tannins. Finishes long and sweet. Still holding. Rare. 88% Shiraz 12% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate/Morphett Vale/Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Coonawarra Blend. A hot dry growing season with hot vintage conditions. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bin 395).

1962

\$800 – \$1,200

Deep red brick. Intense chocolate/ mocha/ menthol aromas with some herb garden/ demi-glace notes. Sweet mocha/ herb garden flavours/ chocolaty, fine grained tannins and underlying cedar/ vanillin notes. Finishes chalky firm, long and sweet. A very beautiful old vintage. Rare. 87% Shiraz 13% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Adelaide Hills Blend. Barossa Valley fruit becomes ascendant component. Ideal warm – fairly dry – growing season followed by a warm, dry vintage. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bins 59, 59A and 456).

PENFOLDS GRANGE 1963 – 1969

1963

\$700 – \$1,000

Deep brick red. Utterly superb wine with intense perfumed demi-glace/ rose-petal/ apricot/ camomile aromas. Rich chocolaty/ apricot/ demi-glace flavours and sweet velvety tannins. Finishes chalky firm with lovely fruit sweetness and flavour length. Outstanding – a very great wine. Will continue to hold for many years. Rare. 100% Shiraz.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Morphett Vale/Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide) Blend. A warm dry growing season. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bin 65).

1964

\$500 – \$700

Medium brick red. Fresh herb garden/ camphor/ prune/ molasses aromas. The palate is sinewy and dry with leather/ walnut/ prune flavours and slinky/ leafy tannins. Finishes firm and long. Rare. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Magill Estate (Adelaide), Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley Blend. A wet growing season followed by a fine cool vintage. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bins 395, 66, 67 and 68).

1965

\$500 – \$700

Medium deep brick red. Intense earthy/ bitumen/ cedar/ marmalade aromas. Well concentrated but elegant wine with earthy/ dark chocolate/ cedar/ herb flavours and fine chalky/ chocolaty tannins. Finishes leafy firm. Rare. 95% Shiraz 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), McLaren Vale Blend. Jimmy Watson Trophy Winner – a prestigious Melbourne Show award. A warm dry growing season. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bins 69, 70 and 71).

1966

\$500 – \$700

Medium deep brick red. Lovely complex but fresh grilled meat/ mocha/ chocolate/ violet aromas. Archetypal Penfolds Grange with sweet meaty/ dark chocolate/ cedar/ graphite flavours, lovely mid plate richness and slinky firm loose knit tannins. Finishes long and sweet. Still has plenty of time ahead. Rare. 88% Shiraz 12% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide) Blend. A dry growing season was followed by an ideal warm vintage. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bins 71 and 72).

1967

\$600 – \$800

Medium deep brick red. Fresh meaty/ mint/ Provençal herb aromas with touches of plum/ liquorice. The palate is elegantly structured with meaty/ ground coffee/ mint flavours and fine grainy slightly leafy tannins. Finishes chalky firm but long and fruit sweet. Increasingly rare. 94% Shiraz 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide) Blend. A warm dry growing season. Won the Jimmy Watson trophy at the Melbourne Show – for a second time. A generally dry growing season followed by a warm vintage. Released as Bin 95 (also Bin 74).

1968

\$400 – \$600

Medium brick red. Intense fragrant herb garden/ mocha/ cedar aromas with some earthy/ rustic notes. Complex cedar/ herb garden/ rustic flavours with leafy firm tannins and underlying malt oak. Finishes brambly dry. Drink up. Increasingly rare. 94% Shiraz 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), Clare Valley, Adelaide Hills, Coonawarra Blend. A hot dry vintage with only intermittent rains during the growing season. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bin 826).

1969

\$400 – \$500

Medium brick red. Lovely fragrant dark chocolate/ mocha/ red berry aromas with some meaty complexity. Fresh richly concentrated wine with plenty of dark chocolate/ mocha redcurrant flavours and fine slinky dry tannins. Builds up a touch sappy at the finish. Finishes long and sweet. Drink up. 95% Shiraz 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Morphett Vale (Adelaide), Clare Valley, Coonawarra Blend. Mild, wet conditions prevailed during the growing season and vintage. Released as Bin 95 (also as Bin 826).

PENFOLDS GRANGE 1970 – 1975

1970

\$300 – \$400

Medium brick red. Intense liquorice/ polished leather/ black olive/ Provençal herb aromas. Well developed savoury and sweet palate with black olive/ polished leather/ herbal flavours and fine cedary tannins. Drink soon. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide) Blend. A dry mild growing season and vintage. Standardisation of Bin numbers starts – all vintages are now released as Bin 95.

1971

\$600 – \$850

Medium deep brick red. A classic Penfolds year with an unusually low alcohol of around 12.3%. An immensely complex and mature wine with lifted smoked meat/ dark chocolate/ mocha/ liquorice aromas. A silky smooth wine with rich dark chocolate/ espresso coffee/ tobacco/ cedar flavours, underlying vanillin nuances and fine lacy satin tannins. Finishes sinuous, long and bitter sweet. 87% Shiraz 13% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), Clare Valley, Coonawarra Blend. "If you had to point to a wine which fulfilled the ambitions of Grange it would have to be the 1971." – Max Schubert, 1993. Topped the Gault-Millau Wine Olympiad in Paris in 1979 – beating some of the best Rhone wines and creating a sensation. A great South Australian vintage; ideal, generally warm conditions throughout the growing season and vintage. Alcohol originally stated 11.5% but records and analysis reveal 12.3%.

1972

\$280 – \$350

Medium deep brick red. Lovely cedar/ sweet fruit/ hazelnut/ polished leather aromas. The palate is well concentrated with plenty of fruit sweetness/ mocha/ polished leather/ hazelnut/ walnut flavours and fine lacy cedary tannins. A controversial vintage, but often brilliant. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide), Coonawarra Blend. A very good Grange vintage – but a batch was unintentionally oxidized during bottling – resulting in significant bottle variation. A mild dry growing season and vintage.

1973

\$300 – \$380

Deep brick red. Evolved meaty/ prune/ molasses aromas with some mint/ menthol notes. Richly flavoured but quite rustic with prune/ meaty flavours and leafy/ brambly tannins. Still has plenty of flavour length. 98% Shiraz 2% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide) Blend. A dry growing season followed by a cool vintage. Last vintage made in open wax-lined concrete fermenters (completed in barrel) at Magill Estate.

1974

\$400 – \$500

Medium deep brick red. Intense seaweed/ iodine/ prune aromas with some herb garden/ orange peel notes. Sweet prune/ herb garden/ marmalade flavours and slinky dry tannins. Finishes surprisingly long but the fruit is overdeveloped. 93% Shiraz 7% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide) Blend. Winemaking transferred to Nuriootpa. Vinification in stainless steel tanks – completed in barrel. A very wet growing season made more difficult by the outbreak of downy mildew just prior to harvest.

1975

\$260 – \$350

Deep brick red. Intense aniseed/ liquorice/ dark fruit/ mocha aromas. Lovely concentrated wine with dark fruit/ mocha flavours, underlying miso-soup/ savoury oak and dry chalky touch muscular tannins. Finishes very firm and hard but it has plenty of flavour length. A "dark horse" vintage. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Coonawarra Blend. A cool summer was followed by a mild dry vintage.

PENFOLDS GRANGE 1976 – 1982

1976

\$550 – \$650

Deep brick red. Intense dark chocolate/ mocha/ liquorice aromas with some roasted/ earthy/ meaty notes. The palate is concentrated and sweet fruited with deep set dark chocolate/ mocha/ prune/ liquorice flavours and fine sinewy firm tannins. Regarded as a great Grange vintage, but bottles are increasingly variable. The best bottles have levels at base or into the neck or have passed successfully through Penfolds Wine Clinics. 89% Shiraz 11% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide). The 25th Anniversary of Grange. Max Schubert considered it "More in the old style: a good vintage". The first Australian wine to cross the \$20 barrier. An ideal warm dry growing season.

1977

\$330 – \$450

Deep brick red. Fresh blackberry/ camphor/ cedar/ herb garden aromas. Complex cedar/ blackberry/ apricot flavours, slinky fine tannins and underlying savoury oak. Finishes powdery dry. Drink soon. 91% Shiraz 9% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), Clare Valley Blend. Cool mild condition prevailed during the growing season.

1978

\$360 – \$450

Deep brick red. Mocha/ blackberry aromas with some demi-glace/ vellum/ menthol nuances. Lovely concentrated wine with plenty of sweet fruit/ mocha/ blackberry/ camomile/ graphite flavours and chocolaty fine tannins. Builds up dense and chalky but possesses lovely minerality and flavour length. This is a very good Grange year. Probably drinking at its very best now. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), McLaren Vale, Clare Valley, Coonawarra Blend. A warm dry growing season followed by mild vintage conditions.

1979

\$300 – \$370

Magnum \$2,000 – \$2,600

Deep brick red. Fresh blackberry/ redcurrant/ chocolate/ prune aromas with some vanilla notes. A solid wine with redcurrant/ back fruit/ dark chocolate/ panne forte flavours and powerful chocolaty tannins. Finishes hard with some smoky/ bitumen notes. 87% Shiraz 13% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), McLaren Vale Blend. An unusual wet – but hot - growing season. Magnums first released. Last vintage bottles using off-white foil capsules.

1980

\$280 – \$350

Magnum \$1,000 – \$1,500

Deep brick red. Fresh minty/ bitumen/ menthol/ earthy aromas. The palate is elegant with sweet mocha/ cedar/ mint flavours and slinky/ leafy tannins. It finishes sinewy and dry but long and flavourful. 96% Shiraz 4% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), McLaren Vale, Coonawarra Blend. A fine warm growing season followed by cool but late vintage.

1981

\$280 – \$350

Magnum \$1,000 – \$1,500

Deep brick red. Earthy/ meaty/ cedar/ demi-glace aromas with some farmyard/ silage characters. Sweet liquorice/ meaty/ cedar/ graphite flavours and fine, loose knit chalky tannins. Finishes firm and tight. 89% Shiraz 11% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide), Clare Valley, Coonawarra Blend. A warm hot – drought affected – summer followed by a warm dry vintage.

1982

\$280 – \$330

Magnum \$900 – \$1,100

Deep brick red. Perfumed red cherry/ redcurrant/ tea leaf/ aromas with some raisin notes. Rich red cherry/ damson plum/ tea leafy flavours with fine slinky/ chocolaty tannins and underlying savoury notes. An idiosyncratic Grange at its peak of development. 94% Shiraz 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate/Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide), Clare Valley Blend. A mild growing season followed by a hot vintage.

PENFOLDS GRANGE 1983 – 1988

1983

\$300 – \$350

Magnum \$1,200 – \$1,500

Deep crimson. An intense herb garden/ mocha/ cedar aromas with smoky/ graphite nuances. Ripe dark chocolate/ mocha fruit, underlying savoury oak and ripe fine slinky tannins. Finishes firm with plenty of flavour length. 94% Shiraz 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), Modbury Vineyard Blend. A bizarre growing season marked by drought, the Ash Wednesday bushfires and March flooding. A very low yielding vintage resulting in wine of immense concentration.

1984

\$250 – \$300

Magnum \$900 – \$1,100

Deep crimson. Evolved mocha/ dark berry aromas with cedar/ menthol notes. Ripe concentrated wine with deep set mocha/ dark berry fruit, underlying malt oak characters and chocolatey firm tannins. Very dense plush wine with plenty of fruit sweetness and flavour length. Drinking beautifully now. 95% Shiraz 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), McLaren Vale, Clare Valley, Coonawarra Blend. A cool growing season followed by a cool dry late vintage.

1985

\$250 – \$300

Magnum \$900 – \$1,100

Deep crimson. Intense espresso/ herb garden/ cedar aromas with some developed walnut notes. The palate is richly concentrated with dark chocolate/ herb/ cedar/ malt flavours and sinewy/ savoury dry tannins. Finishes firm and tight. 99% Shiraz 1% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide) Blend. Cool to mild growing season and vintage – punctuated by intermittent rains. Late rains delayed picking.

1986

\$500 – \$600

Magnum \$1,400 – \$1,800

Deep crimson. Intense dark liquorice/ mocha/ cedar/ sweet fruit aromas with malty/ smoky oak notes. A richly extravagant palate with complex liquorice/ deep set mocha-berry flavours and dense ripe fruit. Finishes chalky firm but superbly long and flavourful. A great Grange still on the ascendancy. 87% Shiraz 13% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, McLaren Vale, Modbury Vineyard (Adelaide) Blend. A mild relatively dry growing season and vintage. An important and very successful vintage.

1987

\$260 – \$330

Magnum \$800 – \$1,100

Medium crimson. Intense menthol/ dark chocolate/ mocha/ herb aromas. Sweet dark chocolate/ minty/ herb garden flavours, underlying malty new oak and sinewy/ sappy tannins. Finishes very firm and dry. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale Blend. A cool vintage – marked but October hailstorms – and variable yields.

1988

\$280 – \$350

Magnum \$800 – \$1,100

Medium crimson. Lovely mocha/ redcurrant/ brambly/ roasted aromas with underlying vanilla/ menthol notes. Well concentrated wine with mocha/ demi-glace/ vanilla/ menthol flavours and savoury, dry, soupy tannins. Finishes chalky firm. 94% Shiraz 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Padthaway, McLaren Vale Blend. Ideal growing season followed by a warm dry vintage.

PENFOLDS GRANGE 1989 – 1994

1989

\$260 – \$350

Magnum \$700 – \$900

Medium crimson. Fresh aromatic redcurrant/ musky/ tea leaf aromas with some liquorice. Sweet redcurrant confit/ blackcurrant pastille flavours, plenty of fruit sweetness, underlying vanillin oak and chocolaty, dense dry tannins. 91% Shiraz 9% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale Blend. Extreme heat and heavy March rains followed an ideal warm growing season.

1990

\$500 – \$600

Magnum \$1,500 – \$1,800

Deep crimson. An ethereal wine with blackberry/ plum/ chocolate/ liquorice aromas and plenty of mocha/ malt oak notes. A rich ripe immensely concentrated wine with generous, sweet blackberry/ plum/ dark chocolate flavours, mocha oak, some earthy flavours and velvety smooth tannins. Finishes long and chocolaty. A superb Grange 95% Shiraz 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Coonawarra Blend. Voted Red Wine of the Year by Wine Spectator magazine in December 1995. A very great Australian vintage with a perfect warm dry growing season and harvest.

1991

\$330 – \$400

Magnum \$1,000 – \$1,300

Deep crimson. A lovely wine with intense liquorice/ vanilla/ dark chocolate/ dark berry with some cedar notes. A dense, multi-layered palate with plenty of sweet dark chocolate/ malt flavours, cedary tannins and underlying new oak. Finishes chalky firm. Lies in the shadow of 1990 but a great Grange vintage.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale Blend. A warm dry year with even ripening conditions. Vintage started early.

1992

\$280 – \$330

Magnum \$800 – \$1,200

Deep crimson. Ripe blackcurrant pastille/ dark chocolate/ Provençal herb aromas. The palate is well concentrated with pure blackcurrant/ dark cherry flavours, savoury/ malty oak and long fine grainy/ cedary tannins. Finishes long and bitter sweet. An elegantly structured Grange with a good future. 90% Shiraz 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Coonawarra, McLaren Vale Blend. A cool to mild growing season marked by intermittent rains.

1993

\$260 – \$340

Magnum \$900 – \$1,200

Deep crimson. Redcurrant/ silage aromas with some graphite/ smoky/ gamey notes. An early drinking Grange with redcurrant/ earthy flavours, dense soupy – slightly sappy tannins and malt new oak. Finishes chalky/ grippy firm. A sweet and savoury wine. 86% Shiraz 14% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Coonawarra Blend. A very wet growing season was followed by warm drier conditions resulting in a very late but sound quality vintage fruit. An Indian Summer in Coonawarra delivered fully ripened fruit.

1994

\$280 – \$350

Magnum \$800 – \$1,200

Medium deep crimson. Lovely roasted coffee/ black cherry/ mocha aromas with hint of fresh mint/ herb. A beautifully balanced wine with deep set blackberry/ mocha/ espresso coffee/ sweet fruit flavours and fine dense tannins. Finishes oaky dry but long and sweet. 89% Shiraz 11% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Coonawarra Blend. A dry mild even-ripening vintage in the Barossa; intermittent rains – but mild conditions - in McLaren Vale and a warm dry autumn in Coonawarra delivered a very high quality vintage. A vintage which has gained considerable notice recent years.

PENFOLDS GRANGE 1995 – 2000

1995

\$280 – \$340

Magnum \$800 – \$1,000

Deep crimson. Intense blackcurrant/ liquorice/ herb garden aromas with underlying savoury oak. A substantial wine with prune/ cassis flavours, plentiful firm dry tannins and strong malty new oak. Finishes leafy/ grippy but long and sweet. Powerful rather than polished. 94% Shiraz 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide) Blend. A period of drought and September frosts reduced potential yields. Warm dry conditions prevailed until late March/early April when a cooler weather pattern marked by drizzle set in.

1996

\$360 – \$410

Magnum \$1,000 – \$1,200

Deep crimson. Lovely fresh beautiful wine with crimson plum/ blackcurrant aromas with some liquorice/ mocha notes. The palate is generous and supple with fresh plum/ blackcurrant flavours, ripe fine grained tannins and savoury/ grilled nut oak. Finishes chalky firm but long and sweet. Superbly balanced wine. A great vintage. Best to hold. 94% Shiraz 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Magill Estate (Adelaide) Blend. After superb winter rainfall soil moistures improved. This was followed by mild, dry weather conditions – resulting in a vintage of exceptional quality.

1997

\$280 – \$340

Magnum \$700 – \$1,000

Deep crimson. Liquorice/ blueberry/ dark chocolate/ herb garden aromas with some smoky notes. The palate is fruit sweet and concentrated with dark chocolate/ liquorice flavours and fine slinky/ chalky dry tannins. Malty oak characters pervade at the finish. 96% Shiraz 4% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Bordertown Blend. Late spring rains followed a wet winter. Generally dry cool conditions prevailed during October and November. A hot burst of weather arrived during summer but cooler temperatures and a week of rain during February slowed down ripening. A warm dry period followed over vintage.

1998

\$440 – \$520

Magnum \$1,200 – \$1,600

Deep crimson. A really beautiful wine with deep set blackberry/ dark chocolate/ mocha/ apricot aromas and underlying cedar complexity. An immensely concentrated and powerful wine with plush blackberry/ dark chocolate/ apricot flavours, fine dense ripe velvety tannins and beautifully season toasty/ malt oak. Finishes long and sweet. A great vintage. 97% Shiraz 3% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide), Padthaway Blend. A mild early growing season was followed by very hot, dry weather with virtually all damwater reserves exhausted. An exceptional vintage.

1999

\$330 – \$400

Magnum \$900 – \$1,600

Deep purple crimson. Dark juicy blackberry/ mulberry/ herb garden aromas with malty/ savoury oak. Lovely concentrated palate with deep set blackberry/ mulberry/ apricot/ herb garden/ graphite fruit, mocha oak and chalky firm tannins. Finishes long, sweet and savoury. A beautifully balanced wine. 100% Shiraz.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley, Magill Estate (Adelaide) McLaren Vale, Padthaway Blend. Dry winter conditions were followed by intermittent rains. Rain fell during November and December but just enough to maintain healthy vines. The Barossa and McLaren Vale experienced heavy rains in March and ripening slowed. Despite this, vineyards with good drainage produced fruit of exceptional quality. Padthaway escaped the burden of March rain and experienced a great vintage.

2000

\$350 – \$400

Magnum \$1000 – \$1,200

Deep crimson. Intense brambly/ ginger/ redcurrant/ raspberry/ blueberry aromas with hint of demi-glace/ malt. A very fruit driven fleshy wine with redcurrant/ raspberry/ brambly flavours and fine grainy tannins. Finishes minerally and long. A very moderate vintage. 100% Barossa Valley Shiraz.

Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), Barossa Valley Blend. After a dry cool spring and a warm – sometimes hot summer – rains fell in late February/March resulting in a difficult year. A stop-start vintage.

PENFOLDS GRANGE 2001 – 2006

2001

\$330 – \$400

Magnum \$1,200 – \$1,400

Deep crimson. Intense liquorice/ redcurrant/ cedar aromas with some blackcurrant pastille notes. The palate is richly concentrated, fresh and fruit sweet with redcurrant/ liquorice flavours and chalky firm leafy tannins. It's a touch soupy but it has good depth of fruit and flavour length. 100% Barossa Valley Shiraz.

50% Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), 50% Barossa Valley. Winter rains replenished soil moistures which sustained vineyards during a very hot, dry summer – marked sometimes by extreme heat. By late February/March cool dry temperatures prevailed stabilising baume levels.

2002

\$400 – \$500

Magnum \$1,000 – \$1,300

Deep crimson purple. Inky/ blackberry essence/ liquorice/ aniseed aromas with plenty of malt/ cedar oak. An immensely concentrated silky textured wine with saturated and juicy blackberry/ meaty/ cedar/ mocha flavours and fine supple tannins. Finishes long and sinuous. A great Grange. 98.5% Shiraz 1.5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

50% Kalimna Vineyard (Barossa Valley), 50% Barossa Valley. A long, cool summer with intermittent rains was followed by a cool dry summer and a warm, dry autumn. A great vintage.

2003

\$400 – \$500

Magnum \$1,000 – \$1,300

Deep purple crimson. Intense rhubarb/ elderberry/ vanillin aniseed aromas with hint of tobacco leaf. The palate is sweet and fleshy with generous elderberry/ black cherry/ liquorice flavours, underlying malty oak and fine slinky dry tannins. Finishes grippy firm. 96.5% Shiraz 3.5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek, Coonawarra, Magill (Adelaide) Blend. A season of extremes. Drought conditions prevailed over spring and summer. The hot dry weather was interrupted by heavy rainfall in February. A difficult vintage relying strongly on multi-district fruit selection.

2004

Deep purple crimson. Fresh buoyant blackberry/ elderberry/ blueberry/ spice aromas with some vanilla oak nuances. A very concentrated and powerful wine with deepset blackberry/ elderberry fruit, well-balanced vanilla/ malt oak and chocolaty fine tannins. Finishes chalky firm with superb flavour length. A superb Grange Vintage. Released in 2009. 96% Shiraz 4% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Barossa Valley (including substantial proportion of Kalimna Shiraz), McLaren Vale, Magill (Adelaide) Blend. An excellent year. Beneficial winter and spring rains were followed by cool to mild conditions over summer. Ripening accelerated through a warm Indian summer resulting in near perfect fruit. A great Grange Vintage.

2005

Deep purple crimson. Cranberry/ rhubarb/ herb garden aromas with plenty of nutmeg/ malty seasoned new American oak. A very elemental wine with ripe cranberry/ blackberry pastille/ fruit sweet flavours, dense, grippy tannins and plenty of malty new oak characters. Finishes long and sweet. Released in 2010. Will need time to unfold. 95.9% Shiraz 4.1% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Barossa Valley (including substantial proportion of Kalimna Shiraz), McLaren Vale, Coonawarra Blend. A good even vintage. Regular rainfall fell through winter into early spring establishing good soil moistures and dam levels. Mild conditions followed by a dry late summer and autumn lead to optimum fruit ripeness.

2006

Deep inky purple crimson. Intense brooding blackberry/ dark chocolate/ spice/ roasted aromas with mocha/ toasted malt oak. A very youthful, powerful and balanced wine with concentrated generous blackberry/ dark mocha flavours, dense supple/ chocolaty tannins and plenty of new malty/ cedar oak. Finishes chalky firm with remarkable flavour length. Released in 2011. 98% Shiraz 2% Cabernet Sauvignon.

98% Barossa Valley (including significant contributions from Kalimna and Koonunga Hill Vineyard), 2% Magill Estate (Adelaide) Blend. A fine Grange vintage, but a short, difficult season. Good winter and spring rainfalls were followed by mild warm conditions over summer. 50mm of rain at the end of February and a warm burst of weather accelerated ripening. While it rained during vintage, the overall quality of the fruit was excellent.

Top Grange Vintages

1952

1953

1955

1962

1963

1966

1971

1976

1983

1986

1990

1991

1996

1998

2002

2004

2006

The Grange market actually plays an important part in the psychology of Penfolds vintages. The best performing Penfolds vintages almost exactly follow recognized Grange Vintages.

All Grange reviews by Andrew Caillard MW - Langton's

Andrew Caillard MW – who is also the author of the 6th edition of Penfolds Rewards of Patience – is a seasoned observer of Penfolds and the secondary wine market. As a specialist wine auctioneer at Langton's – he has participated in some of the most memorable Australian wine auctions over the last twenty years.

Please note all price estimates quoted are for bottles in excellent condition for age.

The most extensive up-to-date Penfolds wine price data (\$AUD), vintage and sales reports can be found at www.langtons.com.au

About Langton's

We are the worlds leading market for Penfolds Grange and ultra-fine Australian wine.

Every year Langton's conducts a dedicated Penfolds auction.

Langton's is an Australian wine institution. Based in Melbourne and Sydney we offer Australia's most comprehensive and extensive catalogue of ultra-fine Australian and classic imported wines to collectors and fine wine drinkers throughout Australia and Overseas. We sell everything from rare and recent vintages of Penfolds Grange to relatively inexpensive bottles of highly regarded regional wines. Our comprehensive catalogues are backed up by unique wine expertise and market knowledge. Our wine auction valuers and experts have strong and established wine industry credentials. By becoming a member of Langton's you will join over 7000 members who have access to some of the best information available on ultra-fine Australian wine and price movements of both Australian and imported wines. As an informed buyer or seller, you can enjoy purchasing or selling with the comfort of understanding current market conditions and the transparency of Langton's highly interactive and user friendly internet auction and exchange services.

- 1988 Stewart Langton establishes Langton's Fine Wine Auctions Melbourne, Australia's first specialist wine auction house.
- 1989 Andrew Caillard MW establishes Langton's Fine Wine Auctions Sydney.
- 1990 Christie's, the world's largest auction house, approaches Langton's and forms a unique business alliance.
- 1991 Langton's becomes a partner in the Penfolds Wine Clinic Program.
Langton's releases its Classification of Australian Wine, the first credible form guide to fine Australian wine.
Langton's publishes a secondary market price guide, Langton's Fine Wine and Investment Guide.
- 1994 Langton's conducted the inaugural Henschke Quality Assurance programme with C.A. Henschke & Co.
- 1996 Release of Langton's Classification of Australian Wine II.
- 1999 1900 – 1999 The Golden Age of Wine, A Vintage Century. The largest fine and rare wine auction ever held in Australia.
- 2000 Langton's Classification of Australian Wine III is released and attracts worldwide media and wine trade interest.
- 2002 Launches www.langtons.com.au and releases the Australian Fine Wine Index.
- 2004 Launch of Langton's Wine Exchange.
- 2005 Release of Langton's Classification of Australian Wine IV.
Langton's offer the first online Bordeaux En Primeur campaign with the 2004 vintage.
- 2006 Bordeaux En Primeur Campaign for the outstanding 2005 Vintage.
- 2007 Bordeaux En Primeur Campaign for the 2006 Vintage.
Langton's offer Great Estates of Western Australia En Primeur campaign with the 2007 vintage, an Australian first.
Langton's launch online food and wine magazine.
- 2008 Bordeaux En Primeur Campaign for the 2007 Vintage.
Langton's celebrates 20 years with a series of events including a classification auction.
- 2010 Bordeaux En Primeur Campaign for the 2009 Vintage.
Release of Langton's Classification of Australian Wine V.

Penfolds Grange – created by Max Schubert in 1951 – is a beautifully seductive, richly concentrated wine which evokes the spirit of the Australian landscape; its natural affinity with Shiraz and Penfolds remarkable winemaking philosophy. It is a very perfumed, concentrated wine which combines the intensely rich fruit and ripe tannins of Shiraz with the fragrance and complementary nuances of new, fine-grained American oak. Partial barrel fermentation takes place at the tail-end of primary fermentation (at 2-3 degrees Baume). It weaves the two elements together producing a “meaty” complexity and roundness of flavours on the palate. A portion of Cabernet is added in some years to further enhance aromatics and palate structure. The 1999, 2000 and 2001 vintages, however, are all 100% Shiraz. Grange has legendary cellaring potential and is a cornerstone of the secondary wine market. The best vintage can last for 50 years (and perhaps beyond). Australians – from all walks of life – are extremely proud of this iconic wine and what it stands for.

Penfolds Grange is an Australian icon, a National Trust Heritage-listed wine which captures both a “sense of country” and the essence of Australian agricultural ingenuity and innovation. The story of Grange is steeped in Australian ethos. Max Schubert is an Australian folk hero – a man who battled against the odds and then succeeded in creating one of the very great wines of the world.

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