

BIN 389

CABERNET SAUVIGNON SHIRAZ 2023



Bin 389 was often referred to as 'Baby Grange', in part because components of the wine are matured in the same barrels that held the previous vintage of Grange. First made in 1960 by the legendary Max Schubert, this was the wine that helped forge Penfolds reputation with red wine drinkers by combining the structure of Cabernet Sauvignon with the richness of Shiraz. Exemplifying the judicious balance of fruit and oak, Bin 389 highlights the generous mid-palate Penfolds is known for.

GRAPE VARIETY

51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 49% Shiraz

VINEYARD REGION

McLaren Vale, Padthaway, Barossa Valley

WINE ANALYSIS

Alc/Vol: 14.5%, Acidity: 6.4 g/L, pH: 3.60

MATURATION

12 months in American oak hogsheads (33% new)

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

McLaren Vale witnessed a wetter-than-average growing season due to persistent low-pressure systems in October and November. The cold, windy conditions affected flowering and fruit set, while isolated hail reduced yields. However, a warmer, drier summer rebalanced the vines, and a delayed but cool harvest yielded high-quality grapes with concentrated flavours and ripe tannins. Padthaway's growing season featured above-average rainfall in the early months, however, a drier July led to average soil moisture at budburst. Cooler spring temperatures with more cloud coverage slowed vine development, but no significant frosts occurred. A cooler December was only interrupted by a mid-level heatwave towards the end of the year. January temperatures were close to long-term average while the rest of the growing season was cool. Vine development tracked a few weeks behind usual, however the harvest proceeded without major heat spikes, producing exceptional Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. The Barossa Valley navigated climatic variations with near-average winter rainfall but drier conditions leading to budburst. A cooler spring was punctuated by heavy rains and flash floods in October and November, which delayed flowering and suppressed yields. Drier conditions later in the season and moderate harvest temperatures allowed for the development of high-quality grapes. Shiraz performed well, ripening with exceptional varietal characteristics, and overall yields surpassed early expectations.

COLOUR

Plum red, crimson rim.

NOSE

We are greeted by the wine's hallmark bouquet, featuring an intricate blend of dark fruit aromas, with the richness of blackberries and the juicy depth of plums holding attention. These scents are complemented by notes of shaved dark chocolate and Black Forest cake. Hints of Portuguese custard and cinnamon sugar bring sweetness, while the exotic spiciness of pecan-infused hummingbird cake contrasts with the savoury notes of rosemary lamb. Undertones of aromatic dried herbs and a subtle hint of boot polish add depth to the profile. The influence of fine, toasty oak is present but discreetly folds into the fruit. An umami soy sauce character and the rich, cured flavour of bresaola round out the aromatic profile.

PALATE

A thoughtful blend of varietals. The inclusion of Cabernet Sauvignon provides impeccable structure and depth. Supporting this foundation, Shiraz adds weight and warmth. Red fruits flood the palate, with vibrant flavours of red currant and tart cranberry. The sweetness of vanilla runs throughout the wine, while mouth-coating tannins create a rich, full-bodied texture. Savoury flavours of black olive emerge, accompanied by a blend of orange zest, fennel, and olive. Impeccable, fine tannins conclude the experience, leaving a lasting impression of both power and elegance.

PEAK DRINKING

Now - 2050

LAST TASTED

March 2025