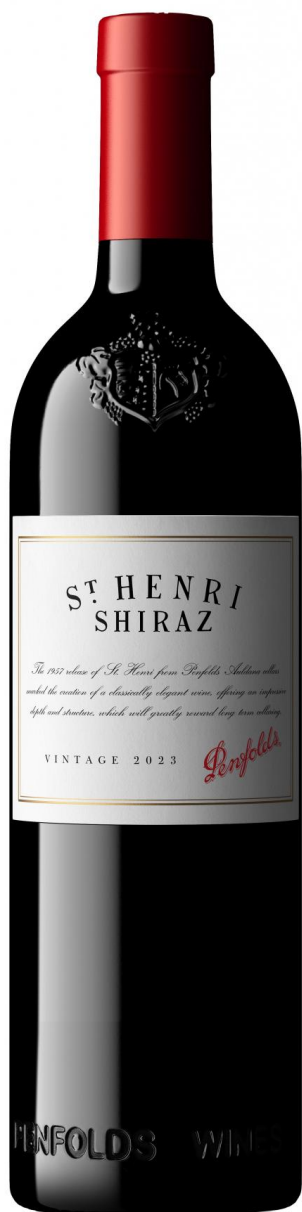




St Henri 2023

Australia



PRESENTATION

The St. Henri, a traditional and alternative expression of Shiraz, brings a unique and intriguing counterpoint to Grange. A unique feature among great Australian red wines, it stands out for being aged without the use of new wood. Introduced in the early 1950s by Penfolds, with the first vintage released in 1957, it experienced a new surge in the 1990s as its quality and distinctive style became better understood. A bold wine style, remaining true to its identity without succumbing to trends or commercial imperatives. St. Henri is rich and full-bodied in its youth, evolving over time towards softer, earthier notes reminiscent of mocha. The wine is aged in a variety of old vats, allowing its development without a pronounced woody influence, or even without any wood input. While a small proportion of Cabernet may sometimes be included in the blend, St. Henri remains primarily focused on Shiraz.

THE VINTAGE

The growing season preceding the 2023 vintage was marked by the influence of La Niña, bringing cool and wet conditions to South Australia. Winter and early spring rainfall was well above average, ensuring good soil moisture reserves, but accompanied by persistent cloud cover and low levels of warmth. A disrupted flowering due to cool and unstable conditions led to irregular fruit set and decreased yields in many shiraz vineyards. Sustained spring rains extended phenological cycles. A mild summer, without excessive heat, allowed for slow and steady ripening. Across all regions concerned, harvests were later than average, with rigorous vineyard management and harvesting to preserve the balance between aromatic expression, structure, and freshness in a context of extended ripening.

AGEING

12 months in large oak tanks.

VARIETAL

Syrah 100%

TASTING

Patience and search have shaped St. Henri 2023. A long and cool season brought depth and structure, allowing the wine's aromatic complexity to develop naturally over time. As always, without being weighed down by wood maturation." - Steph Dutton, Penfolds Chief Winemaker.

REVIEWS AND AWARDS



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