

2008 SHIRAZ

Highly Recommended

Outstanding

2008 Penfolds RWT Barossa Shiraz
 Deep purple colour. Intense but restrained blackberry aromas and some cedary oak. The palate is a pure expression of Barossa shiraz supported by fine-grained French oak rather than being swamped by it. The wine is very finely structured, with savoury but polished tannins and long flavours. A beautifully balanced wine with a long future - cellar 20 years. (RR \$175.00 but check online for best prices)
 14.5% Screwcap

Footnote: Penfolds has made the following statement regarding this wine, noting that the RWT ('Red Winemaking Trial') was first released in 1997: *"The overall winemaking is identical to Grange, differing only because of its regional identity and maturation in French oak.....Having graduated from its 'trial' status over the past dozen vintages, the Penfolds winemaking team is ready to promote this wine into a new regional tier from 2012. This, the 2008 Penfolds RWT, is the last account of the wine in this guise. Transition details to follow."* We look forward to developments with interest but query why, having established an impeccable reputation with the title 'RWT', there is any need for change.

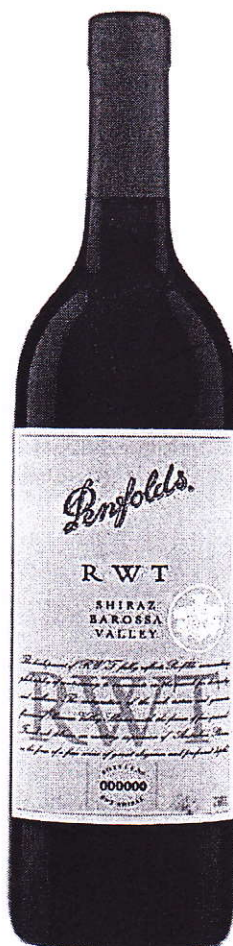
2008 Grant Burge Barossa Filsell Old Vine Shiraz
 The 2009 has also performed well, reinforcing our opinion that this is Grant's top red. Great colour, deep purple. Lovely vibrant blackberry aromas with touch of cedar. The palate is intensely flavoured, with approachable fine tannins, balanced oak and a long, persistent finish. This is a very vibrant wine pointing the way for Barossa producers. Cellar! (\$36.95)
 14.5% Cork

2008 Blue Pyrenees Estate Grown Shiraz
 This is very good expression of cool climate shiraz. It won Gold at the 2010 National Cool Climate Wine Show. Blueberry aromas with spicy hints; the palate displays very good depth of fruit and exhibits polished tannins and long flavours. A superbly balanced wine which will improve with some cellaring. (\$20.00)
Excellent Value
 14.0% Screwcap

2008 Kaesler Barossa Old Vine Shiraz Shiraz
 Reid Bosward's reds are not for the faint hearted because of their substantial nature. Importantly, however, they exemplify balance and vibrancy, like this wine. There are very fresh blackberry aromas with hints of licorice. The palate is sweet and juicy, with fine tannins adding structure and length, while there is a touch of oak on the finish. Please Reid, switch to screwcap, as we've seen other bottles which are not as vibrant as this one! (\$70.00)
 15.5% Cork

2008 Plantagenet Mt Barker Shiraz
 Rich aromas of dark berry with spicy/peppery notes. The palate is vibrant, with lots of spicy fruit, cinnamon oak and fine savoury tannins - all in balance. It just needs medium term cellaring.
 (\$45.00)
 14.2% Screwcap

2008 Thorn-Clarke Kabinenge Vineyard Barossa Valley Floor Shiraz
 This wine is part of the *Barossa Terroirs Series* and, notwithstanding its whopping alcohol level, doesn't taste porty. On the contrary, it's very vibrant and finely structured. It has typical Barossa 'chocolate' aromas and flavours, while the tannins are fine and polished. There's also some charry oak but the wine is nicely balanced. Bring on the char-grilled steak!
 (\$170/5 bottle pack)
 16.0% Screwcap



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