

PENLEY ESTATE

2004 RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON - TASTING NOTES

Release:	October 2006	Country:	Australia
Variety:	Cabernet Sauvignon	Estate Grown:	Lot 4 (Bonus), 1 and 12(Phoenix)
Analysis:	14.5% Alcohol, 6.9 g/l Acid, 3.38 pH	Area:	Coonawarra, South Australia
Harvest Analysis:	14.2° Baume, 6.5 g/l Acid, 3.36 pH	Harvest Date:	April 2004

The Style: This classic Australian red wine captures and enhances the distinctive characters of Coonawarra. These characters are highlighted by berry tones with a great length and depth of flavour. The complex characters of this wine show intensity and layered depth. To achieve this style it is important to have harmony between fruit intensity, oak tannin, grape tannin and acid. Objective for the Penley style is harmony and balance.

Vintage Comment: Winter rains and spring temperatures were average and resulted in a late budburst, followed by warm conditions that produced ideal flowering. Very cool but dry January delayed veraison and a wet March delayed completion of harvest well into May, however this long cool maturation produced intense flavours, aromatics and colours.

The Wine: The colour is bright with deep crimson and some purple tints. The aroma has a striking berry character with richness of fruit due to the ideal weather, average yields and late harvest. This is added together with strong smoky oak tones, which highlight the intense nature of the Penley style. The desired level of sugar and flavour was reached. The palate is rich with sweet berry flavours and strong oak and grape tannins, to balance and meld with this years strong flavours. The key elements in this wine are its rich varietal flavours, choice of oak types, finely tuned acid and astringency. The use of 20% American and 80% French Tronçais oaks add depth and complexity. It spent 24 months in this oak (98% being new) this is a key to the integration and development. Bottled July 2006. A complex wine that shows a deep and ripe palate. Flavour depth and length dominates the style this year. Best defined as medium to full bodied from a great year.

Maturation: While it is difficult to recommend maturation periods, this wine with its palate balance and finely tuned tannins, will allow a minimum of 10-15 years to achieve its full potential.

Winemaking-The Penley Style: Balance is a key feature in all Penley wines. This ensures the wine will mature successfully in the bottle. Coupling Australia's rich flavours, it can be drunk whenever the mood dictates.

Inherent in the Penley style is soft balance but this should not detract from ageing potential. The wine is made with bottle age in mind. Intense tannin, acid and flavour components are elements required. It is a strong held belief that these components need to be in balance, not just in place, for a wine to mature in bottle.

10 blocks of cabernet are grown at Penley, this is important to the blending, as the best from each block will make it to the final wine to create a complex, traditional Australian Coonawarra Cabernet dry red. Components like clone, soil type, canopy, yield and irrigation all contribute to the wine. In the winery fermentation tank, temperature and oak add to the grape characters. Careful maturation in oak are the final touches.

Awards: Awards are now generally given to wines already bottled and labelled. Any awards are more likely in the year of sale.

🏆 Gold		2007 Critics Challenge Awards
🥈 Silver		2007 International Wine Challenge
🥈 Silver		2007 Dallas Morning News Wine Competition
🥈 Silver	Class 20	2007 Sydney Royal Wine Show
🥈 Silver	Class 4010	2006 Cool Climate Wine Show
🥈 Silver	Class 22	2006 Rutherglen Wine Show
🥉 Bronze	Class 47	2007 Perth Royal Wine Show
🥉 Bronze	Class 50	2007 Royal Melbourne Wine Show
🥉 Bronze		2007 Decanter World Wine Awards
🥉 Bronze	Class 42	2006 Royal Melbourne Wine Show
🥉 Bronze	Class 22	2006 Perth Royal Wine Show
🥉 Bronze	Class 19	2006 Limestone Coast Wine Show
🥉 Bronze	Class 47	2006 Royal Hobart Wine Show
94 Points		Gary Walsh Wineorama April 2007 <i>"Plush and Luxuriant"</i>
93 Points		2008 James Halliday Wine Companion <i>"Seamless tannins and oak"</i>
93 Points		Nick Stock, Adelaide Review, February 2007 <i>"Plush and Hedonistic"</i>
93 Points		Campbell Mattinson Jan 07 <i>"This is a wine of remarkable elegance"</i>
92 Points		Stephen Tanzer, Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, August 2007 <i>"Powerful & Supple"</i>
92+ Points		Robert Parker Jan 07 <i>"Exhibits pure notes of crème de cassis"</i>
92 Points		Paul Ippolito April 2007 <i>"Distinctively Coonawarra"</i>
★★★★½		Ralph Kyte-Powell <i>"Rich with Great Depth"</i>

Previous Vintage Awards (since 1989): 20 Trophies, 10 Trophy nominations, 72 Gold, 70 Silver, 101 Bronze, 20 90+ Ratings.