

PENLEY ESTATE

1998 RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON TASTING NOTES

Release: July 2001 **Country:** Australia
Variety: Cabernet Sauvignon **Estate Grown:** Lot 4 and 8
Analysis: 14.4% Alcohol, 7.3g/l Acid, 3.30 pH **Area:** Coonawarra, South Australia
Harvest Analysis: 13.9° Baume, 5.8g/l Acid, 3.56 pH **Harvest Date:** 20th April 1998

The Style: This classic Australian red wine captures and enhances the distinctive characters of Coonawarra. These characters are highlighted by rich 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: An exceptional year. Above average yields, but wines well structured and deeply coloured and flavoured. Classic Coonawarra - rich, ripe and intense. Late winter and early spring rain ensured plenty of important moisture for the growing season. Budburst, flowering and fruit set was even, amid calm and mild weather. Summer continued with ideal warmth and little rain. No extremes ensured long, even and slow fruit maturation. Harvest was earlier than 1996 and 1997 vintages, with warm days and cool nights. Some late rainfall in April, though significant, was rapidly followed by sunny and drying conditions. Produced some of the most exciting Penley wines made so far.

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 a warm and dry 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 year's 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 new 35% American and 65% French Tronçais oak adds depth and complexity. It spent 30 months in oak to enable integration and development. Bottled September 2000.

A complex wine that shows a deep and rich palate while reflecting again the vintage conditions. Best defined as a full-bodied style from a big, exciting vintage.

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.

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

📖 95 Points

🏆 Trophy

🏆 Trophy

🏆 Trophy

🏆 Trophy

🏆 Trophy

🏆 Trophy

🏆 Trophy Nomination

🥇 Gold

🥇 Gold

🥇 Gold

🥇 Gold

🥇 Gold

🥇 Gold

🥇 Gold

🥇 Gold

🥇 Gold

🥈 Silver x 6

🥉 Bronze x 6

★★★

📖 87 Points

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, June 2001, "Voluptuous"

2001 National Cool Climate Wine Show – Bathurst (Champion Regional Dry Red)

2001 National Cool Climate Wine Show – Bathurst (Champion Cabernet Sauvignon)

2001 National Cool Climate Wine Show – Bathurst (Champion Wine of Show)

2001 1st Annual Limestone Coast Wine Show (Best Wine of Show)

2001 1st Annual Limestone Coast Wine Show (Best Red of Show)

2001 1st Annual Limestone Coast Wine Show (Best Cabernet Sauvignon)

George Mackey Memorial Trophy (July-June 2002)

2002 InterVin International Wine Competition

2002 Sydney Royal Wine Show

Class 20 2001 National Cool Climate Wine Show – Bathurst

Class 19 2001 1st Annual Limestone Coast Wine Show

Class 54 2001 Rutherglen Wine Show

Class 48 2001 Perth Royal Wine Show (Trophy-Exhibitor with highest average points)

2001 Japan Wine Challenge

Class 5 2001 Sydney Royal Wine Show

Class 36 2000 Royal Hobart Wine Show

Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide, QLD & Canberra

Bathurst, Canberra, Rutherglen, Boutique, Cairns, IWS

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Previous Vintage: (1997) 2 Trophies, 3 Gold, 4 Silver, 6 Bronze