

Penfolds

A singular expression of Penfolds' origins, Magill Estate Shiraz 2018 captures the heritage of this historic Adelaide vineyard in a finely crafted, contemporary style.

Magill Estate Shiraz 2018

Barossa Valley, Australia

92



Region and Vineyards

Magill Estate Shiraz is uniquely sourced from a single historic vineyard located in the foothills of Adelaide's eastern suburbs—**the original Penfolds site**, established in 1844. This proximity to the city belies the rural calm of the vineyard, which benefits from warm days and cool evening breezes funnelled from the Mount Lofty Ranges. The red-brown clay loam soils over limestone provide excellent drainage and moderate vigour, encouraging grapes of intensity, aromatic complexity, and varietal purity.

The 2018 season was shaped by low winter and spring rainfall, with temperatures slightly above average. Spring's warm and dry conditions promoted even flowering and fruit set, with healthy canopy development. Summer temperatures were elevated, with multiple heatwaves—including a peak of **43.7°C on January 19**—but the vines coped well thanks to deep root systems and attentive vineyard management. Hand-picked across two days in mid-February, the fruit arrived at the winery with **optimal phenolic ripeness and varietal character**, ideal for expressing the Magill site's identity.

Winemaking

Made exclusively from **100% Shiraz**, Magill Estate Shiraz is produced entirely on-site, embracing traditional techniques with modern precision. Grapes are hand-picked, fermented in **open fermenters**, and basket-pressed—a hallmark of Penfolds' craftsmanship—before being transferred to barrel for the completion of fermentation.

The wine matured for **17 months in a combination of French (24% new)** and **American (18% new) oak hogsheads**, contributing layered spice, structure, and aromatic lift. The 2018 vintage reveals a clear barrel-ferment imprint, with savoury, smoky complexity and a polished, textural tannin line. **Magill Estate Shiraz 2018 is an elegant yet characterful expression**, bridging heritage and innovation with clarity and restraint.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Bright crimson red.
- **Aroma**: Intriguing and savoury, with dried herbs (rosemary, oregano, bay leaf), tomato leaf, celery, capers, and hints of minestrone and pan-scrapings. Subtle floral hints of lavender and spice from French oak.
- **Palate**: Medium-bodied and refined. Flavours of fig, juniper, black cherry, pink peppercorn, dark chocolate powder, and almond croissant. Herbal and malty undertones support plush tannins and a gently spicy oak backdrop. A wine that evolves gracefully with air—textured, balanced, and uniquely Magill.

Did you know?

Magill Estate is the **birthplace of Penfolds**, and one of the few single-vineyard wines in the portfolio. First produced in **1983**, it is one of the rare Australian wines vinified and matured entirely at a historic urban winery.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-crusted lamb rack with olive tapenade**: A natural companion to the wine's savoury herbaceous notes.
- **Mushroom and thyme risotto**: Earthy and creamy textures pair beautifully with the wine's spice and mid-weight structure.
- **Seared duck breast with sour cherry glaze**: The wine's dark cherry and pepper tones enhance the dish's fruit and game notes.
- **Grilled eggplant with miso and sesame**: A vegetarian pairing that echoes the wine's umami and barrel-ferment complexity.

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Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2018)

The only single-estate wine in the lineup, the 2018 Magill Estate Shiraz is pieced together from the five hectares at Penfolds HQ in the Adelaide suburbs. Boysenberry and mulberry notes support vanilla and cedar accents, and there's a touch of roasted meat as well on the nose, while the full-bodied palate comes across as a bit coarse and open-knit, the tannins lacking that little extra bit of refinement. It's a fine effort but nowhere near the best wine in the Penfolds stable.

95 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2017)

Attractive wet stones and almost flinty notes, ahead of a very refined core of spice-wrapped red and black cherries, as well as praline and toffee. The palate has a very succulent feel. The acidity sits up in vibrant style and there's a fine, succulent and long, refined finish. Oak rides up, but this always needs time after release. There's replanting in the 5-ish hectare plot, so quantities are low for a spell here.

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Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 94 Points (2017)

Deep violet. Powerful, smoke-accented aromas of ripe cherry and cassis are accompanied by suggestions of cracked pepper, allspice, vanilla and pungent flowers. Lush and expansive in the mouth, offering juicy black and blue fruit flavors that show superb depth as well as energy. Velvety tannins build steadily through an impressively long, spicy finish that strongly echoes the dark berry and floral notes. (JR)

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