

Penfolds

Often dubbed "Baby Grange" , Bin 389 2020 is a masterful blend that marries Cabernet Sauvignon's structure with Shiraz's richness , aged in barrels previously used for Grange.

Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz 2020

, Australia



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Syrah

Region and Vineyards

The 2020 vintage of Bin 389 draws fruit from three of South Australia's most important viticultural zones: **McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley, and Padthaway**. Each contributes a distinct regional signature that forms the foundation of the wine's complexity and depth. McLaren Vale delivers plush texture and dark-fruited ripeness, while Barossa lends power, structure, and a rich concentration of flavour. Padthaway, further south and cooler in climate, imparts freshness and fine acidity, helping to frame the blend with precision and lift.

The growing season began under challenging circumstances, with a second consecutive winter of drought conditions. Spring was notably dry and cool, delaying budburst and flowering and affecting yields, particularly in Barossa and Padthaway, which experienced late frost. The summer was marked by high temperatures, including over 25 days above 35°C in the Barossa. Fortunately, rainfall in February, especially in McLaren Vale, provided much-needed relief. Though harvest volumes were low, the surviving fruit showed remarkable concentration and balance—ideal for a wine that relies on richness without excess. The result is a **Bin 389 of great character and structural clarity**, sourced from parcels selected for their aromatic integrity and regional expression.

Winemaking

Penfolds Bin 389 2020 is a blend of **Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz**, though exact proportions are not publicly disclosed. The philosophy behind the blend is clear: Cabernet Sauvignon offers the skeletal frame—linearity, tannic grip, and aging potential—while Shiraz contributes flesh, spice, and mid-palate amplitude. The interplay between the two is one of the hallmarks of Penfolds' red winemaking legacy.

The wine was matured for **12 months in American oak hogsheads**, of which **33% were new**, with the remainder comprising barrels previously used to age Penfolds Grange. This detail is more than symbolic—these seasoned casks lend subtle Grange-like complexity without dominating the fruit. American oak brings classic notes of vanilla, coconut, and spice, but in the case of Bin 389, these characters are integrated rather than overt. The winemaking approach focuses on texture and structure, resulting in a wine that is immediately engaging yet capable of evolving gracefully over decades. The **2020 vintage of Bin 389 is a testament to the power of blending**—not only of grape varieties, but of vineyards, barrels, and time.

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Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz 2020

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet with a vibrant crimson rim.
- **Aroma**: Aromatics unfold in layers—baking spice, cinnamon scrolls, Italian Crostoli, and vanilla bean signal the sweet lift of American oak. Fruit aromas are densely packed: black cherry, ripe plum, raspberry coulis. Savoury elements of seasoned wagyu, olive tapenade, and sun-dried tomato add intrigue.
- **Palate**: A wine of precision and scale. Cabernet's line and structure meet Shiraz's roundness and density. The palate is filled with flavours of fennel, radicchio, Moroccan-spiced lamb, and eggplant relish. Red liquorice and cherry lift the finish. Creamy and full-bodied with fine, evolved tannins driving a long, layered finish. Youthful yet cellar-worthy.

Did you know?

Bin 389 earned the nickname "Baby Grange" because it is matured in **the same barrels previously used for Penfolds Grange**. It is one of the earliest and most celebrated examples of **blending Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz**, a uniquely Australian tradition.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Chargrilled lamb backstrap with eggplant relish**: Enhances the wine's savoury spice and generous mid-palate.
- **Beef short ribs braised in red wine**: Echoes the wine's depth and rich tannins.
- **Roasted root vegetables with harissa and fennel**: A vibrant plant-based pairing that mirrors the wine's spice and freshness.
- **Aged cheddar or Manchego**: Bold cheeses match the wine's structure and oak complexity.

96

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2020)

Looking in on the 389 can be "'can be," she says, parenthetically) a good insight into what we can expect from the upcoming Grange. Now, they are very different wines, no question, however, stylistically they have much in common and the illumination into the season that birthed the wines in each instance. Here, the 2020 Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz has consummate polish and sleek tannins, imbued as they are with graphite, black tea, licorice and resin. The fruit is pure and black and chewy... gorgeous wine. And it lives for decades. This has always been a collector's dream and continues so through this vintage. Highly recommended.

96 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2020)

Very rich, ripe and intense, this has plenty of depth and is one of the strongest statements of Penfolds' house style. Rich vanillin and sweetly spicy American oak on the nose, with chocolate, blueberry, violet, blackberry and iodine notes. The palate delivers quite approachable and supple texture, smoothly fleshy and inviting. Flavors of blackberry, blackcurrant and mulberry abound. Deep and ripe finish with nutty tannins to close. A blend of McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley and Padthaway. Drink or hold.

Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz 2020



James Halliday (JH) : 95 Points (2020)

A blend of cabernet sauvignon and shiraz (51/49%) sourced from vineyards in McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley and Padthway. Matured for 12 months in American hogsheads (33% new). Coming back to this Australian battler after Penfold's Napa and Bordeaux trials was something of a rude shock in the first instance. This is big, bold, beautiful and quintessentially Australian. It makes no apologies for its wealth of black fruits, almost succulent tannins, and vanillin oak.