2008 RWT
Barossa Valley Shiraz

Penfolds RWT Shiraz presents an admirable alternative to the multiregional sourcing and American oak maturation that are hallmarks of Grange, expressing instead, single-region Barossa Valley Shiraz matured only in French oak. The initials RWT stand for 'Red Winemaking Trial', the name given to the project internally when developmental work began in 1995. Naturally, now no longer a 'Trial'!

RWT Shiraz was launched in May 2000 with the 1997 vintage. Its style is opulent and fleshy, contrasting with Grange, which is more muscular and assertive. RWT is made from fruit primarily selected for its aromatic qualities and fine texture rather than sheer intensity or power of flavour. The result is a wine that helps to redefine Barossa Shiraz at the highest quality level.

"This release will complete the conversion of many Penfolds loyalists... their RWT is no longer on probation. Shiraz/Barossa/French oak/Penfolds. Yes, it does work!"

- P. Gago, April 2011

VINEYARD REGION
Barossa Valley

VINTAGE CONDITIONS
After a dry winter, above average rainfall in October and especially November reduced the risk of frost in cooler regions and restored soil moisture levels. The warm season across November continued with above average monthly temperatures right through until January. December through March was incredibly dry, and a light dose of rain in January helped refresh the vines. In 2008, earlier picked, physiologically ripe red varieties out of the Barossa are widely acknowledged to be of excellent quality.

GRAPE VARIETY
Shiraz (100%)

MATURATION
Matured for 14 months in new (83%) and one year old French oak hogsheads.

WINE ANALYSIS
Alc/Vol: 14.5%
Acidity: 7.0g/L
pH: 3.53

LAST TASTED
January 2011.

PEAK DRINKING
2013 to 2032

FOOD MATCHES
Dry aged Coorong Angus fillet, baby carrot, mustard, house-sprouted legumes and baby herbs.

Magill Estate Restaurant Autumn Menu 2011

Winemaker comments by
Peter Gago, Penfolds Chief Winemaker

COLOUR
Redefines 'black'! Certainly on 25/1/11, foreboding!

NOSE
An animated aromatic conversation with the darker elements of Barossa Valley Shiraz... "it smells black"! A coal-like blackness, replete with peat.

PALATE
Dense & intense - with vibrance, unctuousness... delivering all the now-expected RWT cachets. "A blueberry pie in a 750ml glass package!" And yet the darkness prevails... inky, boot polish, freshly-polished new black leather.

Thankfully, redeeming & alluring perfumed high-notes ascend - blueberry and dark plum, wafts of a ristretto coffee.

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Almost a glycerol/oily mid-palate - texturally close to a custard/chocolate eclair! A suggestion of oak and an avalanche of pronounced ripe & silky tannins complete the offer.

A vinous 'Edge of Darkness'!