The Penfolds St Henri style is a dramatic contrast to Grange. St Henri is pure, unadorned Shiraz, virtually alone among high-quality Australian reds in that it has never relied on new oak. It was created in the mid-1950s (first commercial vintage 1957) and gained a new lease on life in the 1990s as its quality and distinctive style became better understood. Penfolds St Henri is rich and plush when young and gains soft, earthy, mocha-like characters as it ages. Before bottling it is matured in old, 2000 litre vats that allow the wine to develop, but impart no oak character. A proportion of Cabernet is used to improve structure, but in Penfolds St Henri, Shiraz stands alone. Packaged in laser-etched bottles since the 1996 vintage.

Winemaker comments by Peter Gago, Penfolds Chief Winemaker

COLOUR
Deep purple.

NOSE
Varietal Shiraz, minus oak! Aromas of stewed raspberries and loganberries, plus savoury, meaty nuances and hints of chocolate, cocoa and black tea in the background.

PALATE
Mouthfilling and expansive, yet perfectly poised. Generously fruity, with liqueur chocolate and dried fruit flavours adding complexity. Long and lingering, with attractive, velvety tannins. Will drink beautifully on release - especially if decanted and gi