



Penfolds Koonunga Hill Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon has established itself as one of Australia's favourite premium red wines. Since its first vintage in 1976, Koonunga Hill's reputation has been built upon its affordable price, its approachability in its youth, with the potential to develop if carefully cellared.

Penfolds Koonunga Hill Shiraz Cabernet is very much a reflection of the Penfolds winemaking style and philosophy. Sourced from premium vineyards across South Australia, the wine is known for its full-flavoured style with excellent Shiraz and Cabernet fruit, firm yet well-rounded structure and balanced oak.

Made as a traditional 'Australian blend', the Shiraz component provides fleshy fruit flavour while Cabernet provides a frame of fine grained tannins.

REWARDS OF PATIENCE SEVENTH EDITION – TASTING NOTES

KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET 1976 – 2011

1976 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium-deep brick to tawny red. Intense espresso, boot polish, cigar-box aromas with some leafy, soupy nuances. Well-concentrated, expansive, smooth, supple wine, almost glossy, deep-set espresso, dark chocolate, boot polish, panforte, tobacco flavours. Finishes chalky firm, long and sweet. Acid and alcohol starting to poke out.

Drinking Window: Now



1977 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep brick red. Intense burnt coffee, dark chocolate aromas with herb, graphite notes. Burnt coffee, toffee, panforte, briny flavours with fine chalky muscular tannins. Finishes long and sweet but elements starting to unravel. Still drinking well but now well past its peak.

Drinking Window: Past

1978 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium brick red. Developed earthy, dried plum, tobacco aromas and flavours. Palate is beginning to dry out with gritty/chalky tannins and fading fruit. Some good bottles around, but best to drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1979 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Fresh complex roasted coffee, praline, leather, earthy, orange rind aromas. Lovely subtle, elegantly structured wine with roasted coffee, dried apricot, mushroom flavours and plentiful fine lacy tannins. Finishes al dente firm but long and minerally. Surprisingly fresh, but drink now or soon.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1980 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Red cherry, leather, mushroom, cigar box, dried herb aromas. The palate is still quite buoyant and fresh, with red cherry, roasted coffee, mushroom flavours and fine lacy dry tannins. Finishes savoury firm with pronounced acidity. The fruit is fading now.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past



1981 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Fresh polished leather, earthy, herb garden, tobacco, panforte, liquorice aromas. Substantial palate with dark berry, panforte flavours and fine chocolatey dry tannins. Finishes savoury firm with panforte, orange peel, mint notes. Tannins are beginning to dominate.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1982 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Fully mature walnut, leather, sweet fruit, herb garden aromas. Very fresh and buoyant with red cherry, redcurrant, walnut flavours, herb garden nuances and fine lacy/silky tannins. Still has richness and volume. Finishes with an alcoholic kick. Surprisingly in good shape but the fruit is drying out. Drink up.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1983 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Fresh red cherry, panforte, herb garden aromas with touch of forest floor, chesterfield leather. Well-concentrated palate with panforte, roasted chestnut flavours and loose-knit silky tannins. Finishes long, smooth and minerally. Fully mature wine. Holding well but best to drink now.

Drinking Window: Now

1984 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Developed dark chocolate, prune aromas with some truffle, leather, spice notes. The palate is supple, almost soapy, with dried fruits, panforte flavours and almost melted tannins. Finishes parch dry and chalky. At its cusp of age. Drink now.

Drinking Window: Now



1985 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Dark chocolate, marzipan aromas with some farmyard notes. Medium-concentrated wine with earthy, dark chocolate, roasted nut, tobacco flavours and loose-knit bitter-sweet tannins. Fruit loses momentum at the finish. Drink now but beginning to fade.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1986 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Fresh red cherry, amontillado, nutty, sous bois aromas and flavours. The palate is soft and fleshy with red cherry, nutty flavours and lacy dry tannins. Finishes firm with some minerally notes. Best to drink now.

Drinking Window: Now

1987 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Redcurrant, panforte, leather, tobacco, liquorice aromas. Redcurrant, panforte, tobacco flavours and fine lacy tannins. Finishes leafy dry. Fruit is fading. Drink now.

Drinking Window: Now

1988 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Intense, complex panforte, ginger, apricot, orange peel aromas with touch of bitumen. Well-developed and fully mature palate with sweet panforte, demi-glace, apricot flavours and fine chocolatey tannins. Finishes lacy dry but long and sweet. Ready to drink.

Drinking Window: Now



1989 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Fresh espresso, smoky, herb aromas with hints of panforte and orange peel. The palate is fresh and supple with plenty of choco-berry, leafy, earthy flavours and fine lacy dry tannins. Finishes minerally and slightly sappy. Drink now.

Drinking Window: Past

1990 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Fresh dark cherry, herb, panforte, praline aromas with wet bitumen/tar notes. Palate is rich and voluminous with panforte, dark cherry, tarry flavours and muscular tannins. Finishes chalky firm and savoury. Wine is now entering tertiary phase. Still impressive, reflecting a classic Penfolds vintage. Best to drink now but it will hold for some more years.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2018

1991 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Intense red fruits, praline, prune, tobacco, leather aromas and flavours. Well-concentrated palate with praline, dried fruit, leather, herb flavours and plentiful savoury/grainy tannins. Finishes firm and long. Drink now.

Drinking Window: Now

1992 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Intense black cherry, cedar, sandalwood aromas with some leafy notes. Well-concentrated black cherry, cedar flavours and leafy dry tannins. Finishes grippy firm. Tannins overwhelm fruit. Drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now



1993 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Red cherry, cedar, sage aromas with hint of tobacco leaf. Fresh buoyant palate with red cherry, sage, touch confectionary flavours, fine loose-knit/bitter tannins. Finishes leafy firm with an alcoholic kick! Drink very soon.

Drinking Window: Now

1994 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Brick red. Perfumed violet, dark cherry, praline aromas with some leafy/sage notes. Fresh dark berry, dark chocolate flavours with some tobacco/walnut notes and fine chalky tannins. Finishes chalky firm and fruit sweet. Still has buoyancy and power. At its peak. Drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now

1995 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium crimson. Developed tomato leaf/earthy aromas. The palate is well concentrated with chocolatey, earthy, dried herb flavours, high-pitched acidity and dry sinewy tannins. The fruit is just holding up.

Drinking Window: Now••• Past

1996 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep crimson. Developed blackberry, panforte aromas with herb garden aromas. Full-bodied wine with rich blackberry/liquorice, panforte, roasted chestnut flavours and plentiful chocolatey tannins.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2018



1997 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium-deep crimson. Complex and developed espresso, roasted walnut, caramel, leafy aromas. A firm but substantial wine with roasted coffee, chinotto, leafy flavours, strong graphite tannins and noticeable alcohol. Still holding. Quite a surprise!

Drinking Window: Now••• 2020

1998 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium-deep crimson. Intense plum, dark cherry, cedar aromas and flavours. Richly concentrated and buoyant palate with plenty of sweet plum, dark cherry, panforte flavours and chocolatey tannins. Finishes firm, long and sweet.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2018

1999 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium-deep crimson. Intense cherry stone, tobacco leaf aromas. Well-concentrated cherry, tobacco, espresso flavours with fine loose-knit grainy tannins. Finishes long and sweet. Still showing freshness and complexity. Drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2020

2000 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium-deep crimson. Fragrant cassis, herb garden aromas with some cedar savoury notes. Lightly concentrated wine with cassis, boysenberry, herb flavours, fine slinky loose-knit tannins and mineral notes. Surprisingly fresh and buoyant. Best to drink now.

Drinking Window: Now



2001 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium-deep crimson. Fresh violet, musky, blueberry, cassis aromas with smoky nuances. The palate is supple and smooth with juicy cassis fruit, fine plentiful chalky tannins and underlying savoury nuances. Delicious wine.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2015

2002 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep crimson. Intense blackberry, damson, herb garden aromas and flavours with some star anise notes. The palate is well concentrated with plenty of fruit sweetness, a touch of tobacco and ripe chocolatey tannins.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2018

2003 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep crimson. Intense redcurrant, musky aromas with some mocha, vanilla notes. The palate is medium concentrated with juicy redcurrant, plum, brambly, sage flavours and fine slinky/al dente tannins. Finishes firm but long and sweet. Drink now. Screwcap.

Drinking Window: Now

2004 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep crimson. Fresh liquorice, aniseed, red cherry, redcurrant aromas with a touch of herb. Very buoyant and expressive wine with delicious juicy red berry flavours and dense chalky tannins. Finishes al dente firm and fruit-sweet.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2018



2005 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep crimson to purple. Fragrant black cherry, plummy, chinotto aromas with some savoury, nutty, spice notes. Generously proportioned wine with black cherry, plummy flavours and fine velvety tannins. Finishes gritty firm and long. Not as substantial as top vintages, but holding up well. Drink or keep.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2016

2006 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium-deep crimson. Exuberant dark cherry, juicy cassis aromas with hints of sage, mint and aniseed. The palate is beautifully concentrated with deep-set choco-berry fruit and plentiful velvety tannins. A wine with superb richness and flavour length. Delicious to drink now or keep for a while.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2020

2007 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium-deep crimson. Intense blackberry, elderberry, liquorice aromas and flavours. A very opulent, solid, juicy and richly flavoured wine with generous fruit sweetness and pronounced pippy/leafy tannins. Acidity pokes out at the finish. A medium-distance runner. Drinks really well now but tannins will muscle in.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2018

2008 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep crimson to purple. Very bright dark cherry, boysenberry aromas with some savoury roasted chestnut notes. A gorgeously seductive wine with plenty of sweet fruit, dark cherry, crème de cassis, plum, boysenberry flavours, savoury complexity and dense velvety firm tannins. Finishes with a sinuous sweet-fruited flourish. Plenty of cellaring potential, but sensational to drink now.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2025



2009 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep crimson to purple. Intense cassis, elderberry, liquorice aromas with a twist of mint. Palate is fresh, almost creamy with smooth, juicy blackberry, elderberry fruit and plentiful chalky tannins. Finishes brambly and long.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2020

2010 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Deep inky purple. Elemental and powerful with intense elderberry, cassis, praline, herb garden aromas and flavours with a touch of star anise. The palate is immensely concentrated, juicy and richly flavoured with dense chalky tannins and superb flavour length. A very substantial wine with great balance and vinosity.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2025

2011 KOONUNGA HILL SHIRAZ CABERNET

Medium crimson. Fresh blueberry, cranberry, raspberry aromas and flavours. Generous and supple on the palate with surprisingly seductive fruit and silky dry textures. The tannins build up firm and slightly sappy at the finish. An impressive result considering vintage conditions. Punches well above its body weight. An early drinking style though. Tasted in Sydney 2013.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2015

