



St Henri is a time-honoured and alternative expression of Shiraz, and an intriguing counterpoint to Grange. It is unusual among high quality Australian red wines as it does not rely on any new oak. It was created in the early 1950s (first commercial vintage 1957) and gained a new lease of life in the 1990s as its quality and distinctive style became better understood. Proudly, a wine style that hasn't succumbed to the dictates of fashion or commerce.

St Henri is rich and plush when young, gaining soft, earthy, mocha-like characters as it ages. It is matured in old, 1460 litre vats that allow the wine to develop, imparting minimal, if any oak character. Although a small proportion of Cabernet is sometimes used to improve structure, the focal point for St Henri remains Shiraz.

REWARDS OF PATIENCE SEVENTH EDITION – TASTING NOTES

ST HENRI SHIRAZ 1953 – 2010

1953 ST HENRI

The first experimental Penfolds St Henri Claret was made in 1953. Rare bottles surfaced at a Penfolds Red Wine Re-corking Clinic in Adelaide. Unlike the experimental postage stamp labels of Grange, these bottles are monickered St Henri, the design harking back to the original nineteenth-century label. These authentic bottles suggest that John Davoren experimented and released small batches of St Henri mostly to friends and acquaintances. The wines were often half-bottles, further suggesting non-commercial releases.

Drinking Window: N/A



1956 ST HENRI

The first experimental release.

Drinking Window: Past

1957 ST HENRI

The first commercial Penfolds St Henri vintage. Fragrant, mint, smoky, old leather aromas. Medium concentrated, soupy and slightly oxidised with dusty dry tannins and only some fragments of fruit remaining. The wine has faded but it's still fascinating to experience.

Drinking Window: Past

1958 ST HENRI

Medium brick red. Fresh and complex herb garden, panforte, dark chocolate, apricot, smoky aromas with demi-glace notes. Medium concentrated wine with savoury, cedar, apricot, leathery flavours and fine silky/ chalky tannins. Acidity at the finish gives line and length. Still has viscosity and length, but beginning to fragment. A lovely old wine; best to drink now though. John Davoren's favourite vintage.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1959 ST HENRI

Medium crimson brown. A very complex old wine with fresh herb, sage, incense, charcuterie, apricot, barnyard aromas and briny, cedar, graphite notes. Delicate and sinuous with developed cedar, sage, meaty, praline flavours, plenty of volume and richness on the mid-palate and slinky, loose-knit tannins. Finishes chalky firm with lovely flavour length. Still in good condition and should hold for a while.

Drinking Window: Now



1960 ST HENRI

Not tested.

Drinking Window: Now

1961 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Fresh dark chocolate, roasted walnut, dried fig, prune, orange rind aromas with hints of incense. Lovely concentrated, buoyant and supple wine with complex praline, walnut, mint, tobacco flavours and fine muscular tannins. Finishes firm and long. Drink up.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1962 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Fresh and classically mature with prune, mocha, praline, orange peel, clove, spicy aromas and touches of mint. Supple, rich and concentrated with fresh prune, panforte, mocha flavours, some leather, sandalwood notes and fine bitter/silky tannins. Finishes chalky and long with savoury, mineral, tobacco notes. A great Penfolds vintage year. Will probably hold but best to drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now

1963 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick amber. Fresh roasted earth, fired pottery, panforte aromas with herb, sage notes. Well concentrated but medium-bodied wine with generous sweet earthy, panforte, redcurrant flavours and fine chalky dry tannins. Finishes chalky dry and mineral. Still has good drive and viscosity, but starting to fade. Drink now.

Drinking Window: Now



1964 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Fragrant, shoe polish, leather, redcurrant, apricot, salted liquorice aromas. Fresh supple and fully mature with redcurrant, leather, praline, apricot, sandalwood flavours and fine long looseknit savoury dry tannins. Finishes chalky firm and minerally with apricot notes. At the end of its life but still drinking well.

Drinking Window: Past

1965 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Complex and fragrant panforte, orange peel, mocha, praline, apricot and prunearomas with sous bois/floral/herb notes. Beautifully concentrated and buoyant with rich panforte, mushroom notes and ripe chocolatey tannins. Finishes long and sweet. Fully mature. Drink up.

Drinking Window: Now••• Past

1966 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Complex panforte, prune, marmalade aromas with touches of toffee, smoky nuances. Supple and generous with panforte, mocha, redcurrant flavours, fine grainy/al dente tannins and lovely sweet fruit notes. Finishes long and sweet with a touch of bay leaf. Fully mature but classically proportioned and beautiful to drink. Holding well but drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now



1967 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Developed praline, roasted chestnut, dried fruit aromas with rustic, herb garden notes. Surprisingly rich and flavourful with roasted chestnut, praline, fruit-sweet flavours and chalky, slightly sappy tannins. Finishes vigorous and chocolatey firm with an acid twist. Has reached its vertex. Other examples are fading. Drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now••• Past

1968 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Intense praline, leather, apricot, bitter orange aromas with sage, leafy nuances. Well-concentrated redcurrant, praline, leather flavours with earthy, sweet fruit notes and fine, plentiful, slinky tannins. Finishes firm but long and sweet. Not a classic, but holding up well.

Drinking Window: Now••• Past

1969 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Very floral, leafy, earthy, strawberry, sappy aromas with a touch of liquorice. Quite firm but still fresh with leafy, redcurrant flavours, dark chocolate, candied orange notes and fine lacy, firm tannins. Finishes long and chewy. Quite a surprise as most examples are now past.

Drinking Window: Past

1970 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson to brick red. Rusty, leather, sandalwood, leafy aromas with some gamey notes. Medium concentrated and mature with earthy, redcurrant, leather, sous bois flavours and fine slinky firm tannins. Finishes bitter and leafy dry. The fruit is beginning to fade now but it is still nicely discreet and balanced.

Drinking Window: Past



1971 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson to brick red. A beautifully mature and aromatic wine with redcurrant, roasted walnut, espresso, sous bois aromas and hints of gun flint/smoke. The palate is beautifully balanced with concentrated roasted walnut, espresso, demi-glace, panforte flavours, wonderful mid-palate richness and fine silky tannins. Finishes chalky firm and long. Superb fruit complexity and volume. A classic Penfolds St Henri vintage. Drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now••• Past

1972 ST HENRI

Medium brick red. Slightly corky at first but it blows off to reveal fresh truffle, rusty, chesterfield leather, polish, butterscotch toffee aromas with hints of dried roses and tar. Fully mature wine with praline, prune, leather flavours with spicy, cinnamon notes and fine loose-knit chalky but supple tannins. Finishes long and sweet. Still holding up very well.

Drinking Window: Now

1973 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson to brick red. Complex roasted earth aromas with leathery, orange peel, camphor notes. Developed and well concentrated with earthy, roasted chestnut flavours and lacy dry, slightly coarse tannins. Finishes firm, minerally and dry with a fleeting hint of fruit sweetness.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past



1974 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Perfumed redcurrant, apricot, chocolate aromas with spicy, herb garden, tomato leaf notes. A fleshy mouth-filling wine with dense redcurrant, praline, dried orange peel, liquorice flavours and al dente tannins. Finishes muscular firm, long and sweet. Quite solid and impactful but without the complexity, harmony and richness of great vintages. Penfolds 'wine of the vintage'.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1975 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Minty, herbal, redcurrant aromas with praline, leafy notes. Rich, fleshy wine with dark chocolate, mocha flavours and dominating muscular dry tannins. Nonetheless, it has great concentration and flavour length.

75% Shiraz, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1976 ST HENRI

Deep brick crimson red. Intense panforte, dark chocolate, leafy aromas with dried raisin, liquorice notes. Well-concentrated panforte, chocolatey, roasted walnut, spicy flavours, plenty of sweet fruit notes and fine, slightly drying tannins. Finishes chalky firm, long and savoury. A great Penfolds vintage although some bottles are more advanced. Best to drink soon.

74% Shiraz, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now ••• 2018



1977 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Intense liquorice, cedar, orange peel, dark chocolate, red fruit aromas. Richly concentrated and velvety with dense walnut, espresso flavours and strong bitter grainy tannins. Finishes firm and chocolatey dry. A rustic element now emerging. Will continue to hold but drink soon.

51% Shiraz, 49% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now

1978 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Intense baked red fruits, praline, spice, walnut aromas with a touch of toffee. Supple, almost velvety smooth wine with chocolatey, dark fruit flavours and metallic edges, and pronounced acid. Finishes chalky firm but long sweet and savoury, walnuty. The wine is still drinking well, but the elements are fragmenting. Best to drink soon.

56% Shiraz, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now •• Past

1979 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Complex dark plum, leather, sandalwood, minty aromas with liquorice notes. Supple and smooth with generous walnut, prune, dark chocolate flavours, lovely mid-palate richness and plentiful fine grainy tannins. Finishes chocolatey and long. At its peak of development. Drink soon.

67% Shiraz, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now



1980 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Fragrant cedar, tobacco, smoky, leafy aromas with redcurrant notes. Medium-concentrated wine with redcurrant, tobacco, prune flavours and fine loose-knit chalky tannins. A slightly leafy finish. Very elegant wine with an emphasis on structure rather than fruit. Drink now. Many examples are now past.

77% Shiraz, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1981 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Lifted mint, sage, wood varnish, forest floor aromas with faint red fruit notes. Surprisingly buoyant sweet-fruited palate with fresh redcurrant, strawberry flavours, some leather, wood varnish notes and plentiful but slightly bitter al dente tannins. Finishes firm and long with a chalky tannin plume. Drink up. 74% Shiraz, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now ••• Past

1982 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Intense praline, roasted hazelnut, red cherry, forest floor aromas. Sweet-fruited palate with praline, strawberry, cassis, herb garden notes and plentiful fine grained, slightly chalky tannins. Lovely concentration, fruit complexity and flavour length. Has developed really well. Drink now.

61% Shiraz, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now



1983 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Fragrant and complex minty, sage, salted liquorice, cassis, mocha, spicy aromas. Mature, full-bodied and supple with salted liquorice, cassis, mocha flavours, layers of sweet fruit and fine, plentiful chalky tannins. A bitter, al dente, mineral finish with lovely savoury fruit complexity and length. Perfect drinking now but will keep for a few years.

81% Shiraz, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now

1984 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Complex, earthy, baked fruit, prunes, leafy aromas with some rusty notes. Sweet prune, dark chocolate flavours, and fine chocolatey dry tannins. Finishes savoury, firm and slightly metallic. Not getting any better. Drink up.

77% Shiraz, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now

1985 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Aromatic camomile, dark cherry, liquorice, cedar aromas with some leather notes. Beautifully concentrated and generous with dark fruit, liquorice, cedar flavours, fine-grained, slightly gritty tannins and plenty of richness, fleshiness, glossiness on the mid-palate. Finishes savoury and firm with some mineral nuances. Drinking well now but should develop further.

99% Shiraz, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now ••• 2016



1986 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Ethereal and complex wine with blackberry, plum, praline, roasted walnut, tobacco aromas and aniseed, cedar notes. Fresh, voluminous and balanced with plenty of sweet fruit, blackberry, plum, redcurrant, walnut, liquorice flavours and smooth, supple, almost velvety tannins. Finishes chalky firm with lovely buoyant sweet and cedar notes. A stylish wine with superb fruit complexity and definition.

86% Shiraz, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now or keep for a while.

Drinking Window: Now ••• 2018

1987 ST HENRI

Medium-deep brick red. Fresh redcurrant, leafy, sage aromas with touches of praline and forest floor. Elegant, 'cool vintage' style with redcurrant, praline, herbal flavours, lacy dry tannins and plenty of sous bois, brambly, polished leather notes. Finishes long and grainy. Drink now.

87% Shiraz, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now

1988 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Mature and complex redcurrant, orange peel, eucalypt, mint aromas with touches of forest floor. The palate is generously proportioned with plenty of redcurrant, sweet fruit, orange peel, cloves, spicy, liquorice flavours and fine, lacy dry tannins. It finishes chalky, minerally and long. Into its tertiary stage. Drink soon.

88% Shiraz, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now



1989 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Well-developed and complex with fresh, roasted walnut, leafy, tobacco, wood varnish aromas and a lovely undercurrent of cassis and sweet fruit. Well-concentrated redcurrant, cassis, sage and vanilla flavours, fine-grained, slightly gutsy hard tannins and lovely supple cassis, mineral notes. Very refreshing fruit-complex and characterful wine.

89% Shiraz, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink soon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2015

1990 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Intense ripe blackberry, dark cherry, dark chocolate, black truffle aromas with marzipan, spicy notes. Smooth, sweet, supple wine with abundant blackberry, mocha, panforte, spicy flavours, plentiful fine loose-knit grainy tannins. Finishes bitter-sweet and long. Superb vinosity, fruit complexity and freshness. A great St Henri with marvellous potential. Drink now or keep.

89% Shiraz, 11% Cabernet sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2025

1991 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Intense praline, mocha, tobacco, redcurrant, sage aromas. Well-concentrated, generous and smooth with rich mature praline, redcurrant, sweet fruit flavours, lovely mid-palate buoyancy and fine, slinky, graphite texture. Finishes long, sweet and minerally with a lacy tannin plume. Expansive and expressive. Drink now or keep.

90% Shiraz, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2020



1992 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Fresh salted liquorice, dark chocolate, dark cherry aromas with leafy, violet notes. Moderately concentrated but restrained palate with cherry, salted liquorice, dark chocolate, dried fruit flavours, lacy al dente, slightly leafy tannins and underlying acidity. Drink now. Finishes firm and crisp.

79% Shiraz, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2015

1993 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Fresh cedar, sandalwood, dark chocolate, sage, bay leaf aromas. Buoyant, mediumconcentrated and fleshy with sweet-fruited, dark chocolate, dark berry, silage flavours and plentiful chalky but lightly grippy/stalky tannins. Great concentration and length. Fresh and delicious to drink. Drink soon.

87% Shiraz, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now

1994 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Intense cedar, mocha, black cherry, walnut, herb garden, violet aromas. A beautifully balanced wine with deep-set dark cherry, blackberry, praline flavours, plentiful chocolatey tannins and underlying spicy, roasted walnut notes. Finishes very firm with superb richness and length. Plush and voluminous with a strong tannin structure. Labelled Shiraz–Cabernet. Drink now or keep.

77% Shiraz, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon

Drinking Window: Now••• 2025



1995 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Fresh black cherry, plum, mocha, liquorice aromas with herbal mint notes. Complex and well-concentrated with dense plummy, cassis, mocha, tobacco flavours and fine chalky tannins. Finishes sappy firm but long, sweet and savoury. Drink now but will keep for a while.

85% Shiraz, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2015

1996 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Fragrant cassis, smoky, graphite, roasted chestnut aromas. Gracefully proportioned yet substantial with deep-set inky, cassis, smoky, liquorice, roasted chestnut flavours and slinky, long, graphite-textured tannins. Lovely sweet fruit drives over a chalky firm finish. Lovely power, density and length. A classic St Henri. Drinking well now, but will still improve.

90% Shiraz, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2025

1997 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Developed redcurrant, prune, leather, leafy, liquorice aromas with a touch of grilled meats. Well-concentrated demi-glace, prune, dark chocolate, leather, herb garden flavours, plenty of midpalate richness and pronounced chocolatey tannins. Finishes sappy dry, but long and sweet. Drink now or keep for a while.

92% Shiraz, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now



1998 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Intense cassis, raspberry, redcurrant aromas with smoky, praline, herb garden, liquorice notes. Beautifully concentrated palate with dense juicy cassis, redcurrant, raspberry, praline flavours, fresh herb garden notes, seductive fruit sweetness and classic fine-grained tannins. Finishes velvety with superb length of flavour. Lovely buoyancy, volume and richness but will continue to develop. Classic St Henri vintage. Drink now or keep.

92% Shiraz, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2028

1999 ST HENRI

Deep crimson. Fresh, intense liquorice, blackberry, graphite aromas with roasted walnut, panforte notes. Deeply concentrated, fleshy and smooth palate with blackberry, dark chocolate, liquorice flavours and lovely supple, sweet polished tannins. Builds up firm and chocolatey at the finish with a long tannin plume. Very stylish. Drink now or keep.

89% Shiraz, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2025

2000 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Fragrant blueberry, beetroot, tobacco aromas with black truffle notes. Medium-concentrated supple wine with fresh blueberry, red cherry, tobacco notes, fine lacy tannins and minerally elegant finish. Ready to drink.

100% shiraz.

Drinking Window: Now



2001 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson to purple. Blackberry, dark cherry, dark chocolate aromas with some praline, salted liquorice, herb garden notes. Sturdy yet generous with plush sweet dark chocolate, dark cherry, plum flavours, spicy nuances and plentiful muscular dry tannins. Finishes grippy firm, yet the fruit follows through. A powerfully structured wine.

100% shiraz. Drink now or keep.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2030

2002 ST HENRI

Medium-deep purple to crimson. Lovely fresh cassis, dark plum, redcurrant, praline aromas with floral, violet notes. Beautifully balanced with fresh juicy cassis, plum, redcurrant flavours and plentiful cedary tannins. Finishes chalky firm yet fruit sweetness pervades. A delicious expansive wine with superb vinosity, richness and persistence. Drink now, but best to keep. A classic St Henri.

90% Shiraz, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2030

2003 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Intense blackberry, praline, spicy aromas with violets, graphite, herb garden notes. Exuberant dark chocolate, dark berry, spicy flavours, abundant mid-palate fruit sweetness and rich chalky graphite tannins. Finishes grippy dry and long. A substantial wine that still needs time to unravel. Drink now but best to keep.

100% shiraz.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2025



2004 ST HENRI

Deep crimson. A remarkably expressive wine with inky deep elderberry, blackcurrant, blackberry aromas and star anise, mocha notes. Velvety and voluminous with plush blackcurrant pastille, dark cherry, praline, herb flavours and dense chocolatey tannins. Finishes firm, long and sweet. Classic Penfolds style with superb richness, density and balance. Delicious to drink now but worth waiting longer.

96% Shiraz, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2035

2005 ST HENRI

Medium-deep crimson. Fresh herb garden, mulberry, redcurrant, brambly aromas with dried fruit, liquorice notes. Dense and weighty palate with redcurrant, mulberry, brambly, roasted walnut flavours, plenty of midpalate richness and fine lacy dry, slightly leafy tannins. Finishes minerally and long. A 'dark horse' vintage. Developing really well, but will it become a classic? Worth keeping to find out!

89% Shiraz, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: Now••• 2030

2006 ST HENRI

Medium-deep colour. Beautiful blackberry, plum, liquorice aromas with praline, cedar, spice notes. Sweet, supple, voluminous wine with saturated inky blackberry, liquorice, praline flavours, some brambly/spicy tones and fine grainy/graphite tannins. Finishes chalky, al dente firm. Fruit sweetness and underlying mineral freshness lengthen the palate. Seductive and superbly balanced with stature, density and viscosity for the long term.

89% Shiraz, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon. A classic St Henri vintage. Lovely to drink now but best to keep.

Drinking Window: 2015••• 2030



2007 ST HENRI

Medium-deep colour. Fragrant elderberry, cassis, liquorice aromas with fresh bay leaf, forest floor notes. Lovely juicy elderberry, cassis flavours with espresso/dark chocolate notes and vigorous, fine leafy tannins. Finishes chalky firm and juicy/brambly. Well concentrated and substantial with underlying muscular structure. Still needs time to meld.

100% Shiraz.

Drinking Window: 2016••• 2035

2008 ST HENRI

Deep purple to crimson. Fresh, deep blueberry, dark plum, blackberry aromas with dark chocolate, panforte, roasted nut notes. Rich, voluminous, layered and dense with gorgeous seductive blueberry, dark plum, blackberry, praline flavours and plentiful chocolatey fine tannins. Finishes chocolatey and sweet. Superb opulence, vigour and length. A great Penfolds vintage.

90% Shiraz, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: 2018••• 2040

2009 ST HENRI

Deep inky purple. Perfumed cranberry, blackberry, liquorice aromas with winter green, savoury, violet notes. Well-concentrated and generously flavoured with juicy blackberry, cassis, raspberry, spicy notes and plentiful ripe granular tannins. Finishes chalky firm, long and sweet. Still elemental.

97% Shiraz, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drinking Window: 2016••• 2040



2010 ST HENRI

Deep inky purple. Very expressive but elemental elderberry, liquorice, musky plum, praline, sweet fruit aromas. Voluminous, juicy and inviting with opulent elderberry, plum fruit flavours and dense sweet chocolatey tannins. Finishes velvety smooth with superb flavour length. All the elements are there in complete harmony, but several years are needed to reach optimum maturity and drinking window. A great vintage. A modern classic St Henri.

100% Shiraz.

Drinking Window: 2020••• 2050

