



Iconic: Wine Ark managing director Dean Taylor and Penfolds' global manager Sandy Mayo sample a Grange

Picture: Dean Marzolla

Award makes Grange officially our top drop

Jenny Dillon

PENFOLDS' Grange cemented its position as Australia's most iconic wine yesterday when it won the title of most favoured wine by the nation's wine collectors.

The confirmation that Penfolds' Bin 95 Grange Shiraz was indisputably Australia's top drop came after storage company Wine

Ark catalogued the more than three million bottles housed in its 11 cellars across the country.

Among the more than \$250 million worth of wine in its keeping, there are 25,000 bottles of the Grange, which if sold at \$700 a bottle would be worth \$17.5 million.

Wine Ark CEO Dean Taylor said enthusiasm for wine collecting had remained

undimmed during the past uncertain months.

He said as an investment it was a much superior performer than the sharemarket.

A report by wine auctioneers Langtons last month found that over the past two years Australian fine wine values had increased by almost 64 per cent, while the sharemarket had fallen by about 39 per cent.

Among Wine Ark's more than 8500

clients were Aussie's John Symond, The Whitlams' Tim Freedman, former cricketer Stuart MacGill and actress Toni Collette.

"The most expensive wine we cellar is a 1951 bottle of Penfolds' Bin 1 Grange Shiraz, worth about \$50,000," Mr Taylor said.

The most popular white wine in collectors' possession was the Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay, he said.