

Grange 'Australia's most collected wine'

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The iconic status of Penfold's Grange has been confirmed with the Australian red found to be the most collected wine in the country.

Penfold's Bin 95 Grange Shiraz was named Australia's most collected after an inventory of the three million bottles of wine held by Australia's biggest wine storage provider.

Dean Taylor, the founder and managing director of Wine Ark, which has 11 storage facilities across the country, said the \$250 million worth of wine in its safekeeping included more than 25,000 bottles of Grange.

Among the stash is a 1951 bottle of Penfold's Bin 1 Grange Shiraz valued at around \$50,000.

The most collected white wine was Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay.

Announcing the winner at Wine Ark's high-security warehouse in Alexandria in inner Sydney on Tuesday, Melbourne wine writer Jeremy Oliver said the results showed the tough economic climate was no deterrent for connoisseurs of fine wine.

"Despite the difficult economic times, we've found many people are still keen to spend significant money on expensive wine, particularly when it comes to stocking their cellars," he said.

Taylor said Wine Ark stores collections from 8,500 customers ranging from celebrities like actor Toni Collette to expatriates and mums and dads saving a special bottle for a child's 18th birthday.

Wine storage was also popular with empty nesters who had downsized from a big family home to a small apartment and no longer had space to keep their wine collections, he said.