

# In the cellar – Australia's most collected wines

[by AFP](#)

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Penfolds Bin 95 Grange Shiraz has been named Australia's Most Collected Wine in an annual awards list published the week of August 10 by one of Australia's largest wine cellaring companies.

Released annually to the local industry, Wine Ark wine storage provider compiles the veritable 'who's who' list of Aussie wines by cataloguing their collection of more than three million bottles

hidden in cellars throughout the country.

This catalogue includes the personal collections of some of Australia's most famous celebrities, athletes, business people and wine connoisseurs.

"We store more than 25,000 bottles of Grange in our cellars alone," Wine Ark's managing director, Dean Taylor, says of Australia's top drop.

Taylor estimates the Grange in Wine Ark's cellars alone at a conservative value of around AUD\$250 million (€150 million).

He says, "The most expensive wine we're currently cellaring is a 1951 Penfolds Bin 1 Grange Shiraz, worth around AUD\$50,000 (€30,000)."

That Penfolds, whose flagship wine is ultra-premium Grange, is the most popular brand among Australian fine wine collectors may not come as a surprise. However the 2009 list did yield some unexpected results with smaller wineries such as Yarra Yerring and Torbreck, in the Barossa Valley giving the more established brands a run for their money.

The most collected Pinot Noir was Mount Mary, from the Yarra Valley while Western Australia's rich Margaret River region, also featured heavily in both reds and whites.

The price range of the top 50 shows collectors mindful of an economic crisis with cunning bargains like the Seppelt Chalambar Shiraz (32nd place at AUD\$15-\$25 - €8.70-€14.50) contrasting with the \$500 - \$50,000 (€290 - €30,000) of the stellar Grange range.

Yet, while the cheap and cheerful end of the local wine market has taken a dive due to and an oversupply of grapes and the global economic problems, the premium end is booming.

According to the wine auction house Langton's General Manager Stuart Langton the price of premium wine in Oz has increased by more than 60 per cent in the past year.

Most of the top 50 wines from this year's Ark list came from the quality regions in South Australia (60 per cent) with Shiraz again the most collected variety making up almost half of the top 50.

Yarra Yering's Dry Red No 1 was the most improved, jumping 64 places in the esteem of Aussie collectors while the Penfolds brand was again the most popular producer with eight of the top 50 wines.

### **Australia Top Collected Wines 2009**

#### Most Collected Red

Penfolds Bin 95 Grange Shiraz

#### Most Collected White

Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay

#### Most Collected Cabernet

Lake's Folly Cabernets

#### Most Collected Pinot Noir

Mount Mary Pinot Noir

#### Most Collected Chardonnay

Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay

#### Most Collected Riesling

Grosset Polish Hill Riesling

#### Most Collected Semillon

Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon

#### New entries into the Top 50 Collected wines 2009

Seppelt Chalambar Shiraz Grampians

Voyager Estate Cabernet Merlot Margaret River

A.P. Birks Wendouree Shiraz Clare Valley

Seppelt St Peters Shiraz Grampians

Zema Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Coonawarra

Dalwhinnie Moonambel Cabernet Sauvignon Pyrenees

Torbreck Runrig Shiraz Viognier Barossa Valley

Yarra Yering Dry Red No 1 Cabernet Blend Yarra Valley

Departures from the 2006 Most Collectable wines list

Wynns Coonawarra Estate Shiraz Coonawarra

Lindemans St. George Cabernet Sauvignon Coonawarra

Fox Creek Reserve Shiraz McLaren Vale

Lindemans Pyrus Cabernet Blend Coonawarra

Pierro Chardonnay Margaret River

Tyrrell's Vat 47 Pinot Chardonnay (Chardonnay) Hunter

Peter Lehmann Stonewell Shiraz Barossa Valley

Torbreck The Steading Grenache Mataro Shiraz Barossa Valley

(source: Wine Ark)