



# 2008 PENLEY ESTATE PHOENIX CABERNET SAUVIGNON

## Review Summary



**90 pts** “Opaque ruby. A complex bouquet displays red berry preserves, cherry and spicecake, along with a peppery overtone. Juicy and precise on the palate, offering sweet red and dark berry flavors and a subtle hint of candied flowers. Becomes tighter with air, emphasizing the red fruits and finishing with excellent clarity and lingering sweetness. This sexy wine is already delicious.”

**Josh Raynolds**  
Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar  
July/August 2010

**90 pts** “Classically Coonawarra in so many ways....the red berry and light mint aromas, the beautiful elegant palate and the style and charm of the thing. The palate has seamless velvety feel with deeper meaty flavors. Excellent control and precision is carried through effortlessly to the finish.”

**Ray Jordan**  
wineandfood.com  
June 2010

**89 pts** “The 2008 Phoenix Cabernet displays amply concentrated notes of cherry, cassis and tobacco. There’s plenty of stuffing here, with a long finish that fades slowly away to notes of dried tea leaves.”

**Joe Czerwinski**  
Wine Enthusiast  
July 2011

**89 pts** “A leaner style, polished and focused, with earthy, savory overtones to the beam of berry and currant fruit, lingering nicely. Drink now through 2015.”

**Harvey Steiman**  
Wine Spectator  
June 15, 2010



**86 pts** “Minty eucalyptus scents carry through this wine, its fruit purple and sweet enough to mask the tannic structure. A generous red for cookouts.”

**Wine & Spirits Magazine**  
October, 2010

## **CRITICS GOLD**

**2010 Critics Challenge**

“It’s like the Cabernet gods came down and left a strip of Terra Rossa soil in the middle of southern Australia to make sure good Cabernet Sauvignon was featured in at least one region (although Margaret River Cabs might have more of a semblance to Bordeaux). In the Coonawarra region there’s a relatively small area with the famous red soil, so there aren’t many producers. Penley Estate is one of my favorite producers along with Rymill and Punter’s Corner to name a few. Hopefully Zema Estate will make it over here some day. Coonawarra has a unique combination of soil and climate that allows a distinct fingerprint on the wines.”

**Rick Backas**  
**Rickbackas.com**  
August 15, 2012

“The color is inky dark with maroon edges. The nose is lightly jammy blackcurrant with a background of vanilla and eucalyptus. The palate is more harsh than the nose. Blackcurrant leads, along with some vegetal tobacco leaf as well a higher tones of mint and eucalyptus. It does not show a lot of development from attack through mid-palate to finish, ending with some brown sugar and vanilla from wood. At this price point it is very competitive with California cabernets, showing a more deft hand with wood flavors than is usually seen in the under-\$15 crowd, as well as some acid to keep it food-friendly. Drink with a skirt steak. For the price, Recommended.”

**David Honig**  
**PalatePress.com**  
2012

★★ “Sixteen months spent maturing in both new and old French oak barrels has endowed this full-bodied Cabernet with charming earth and tobacco notes, which are rounded out with blackberry and cherry flavors. Although its tannins are firm, it’s approachable now.”

**Anthony Giglio**  
**Food & Wine Wine Guide 2011**



“A ripe generous, assertive and mouth filling young cabernet for the short to medium term. Its sweet, confiture-like aromas of blackberries, dark plums and cassis are backed by fresh vanilla/chocolate oak plus a hint of spice and spirit. Long, smooth and polished, its dark-fruited, meaty palate is underpinned by firm, loose-knit tannins, finishing with a hint of prune and currants.”

**Jeremy Oliver**  
**The Wine Annual**  
**2011**

“This wine beat out a respectable, classic Napa cab that was nearly double the price. Oddly enough, this wine has more character with the steak, noting its "cherry" quality... An easy pairing, it's super-ripe, and more fun to drink than the cab we passed on. It's a cool cab because it has a jammy quality and more herbaceous notes than your typical Napa Cab.”

**Tina Danze**  
**The Dallas Morning News**  
**August 26, 2010**

“Rich style with blackcurrant, cedar, dark chocolate, a little mint and some raisin flavours. It's big smooth and easy going with plenty of flavor and good length.”

**Gary Walsh**  
**The Wine Front Online**  
**June 2010**

“A fittingly regional aroma with herbal tea and olive, but also ripe cherry and earthy depth. The alcohol (15% on the label) sounds ominous, but this superb Australian house knows how to balance such weight with great acidity. A Bargain.”

**Dan Berger**  
**Dan Berger's Vintage Experience**  
**April 2010**

“Another crowd-pleasing red is the creamy, smooth Penley Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Phoenix out of Coonawarra, Australia. Cassis, ruby red grapefruit and cherry meld on the sweet, long finish. It's terrifically well crafted for such a reasonable price.”

**Ben Weinberg**  
**UnfilteredUnfined.com**  
**March 2010**