

JOHN DUVAL

After nearly 29 years with Penfolds, one of Australia's most famous wineries, John Duval left the company in late 2002 to fulfil the ambition of making his own wine. He started with Penfolds in 1974, after completing agriculture and winemaking studies, and in 1986 was appointed Chief Winemaker, following on from the winemaking greats Max Schubert and Don Ditter.

The Duval family had for many years run a world famous Suffolk sheep stud and also ran quality vineyards, at Morphett Vale south of Adelaide, coincidentally supplying Shiraz grapes and vine cuttings to Penfolds.

During his time as Chief Winemaker, Duval oversaw a dynamic period of development. The many awards and accolades for its wines helped establish Penfolds as one of the world's great wine brands.

Looking back over his career to date, Duval lists the following highlights.

- In 1989 receiving the Robert Mondavi Trophy for the Winemaker of the Year at the International Wine and Spirit Competition in London.
- In 1991 and again in 2000 being named Red Winemaker of the Year at the International Wine Challenge in London.
- In 1995 the 1990 vintage of Penfolds Grange was named as the Wine of the Year by the prestigious United States Wine Spectator Magazine.
- Vintage 2003; making the first wines for his new label John Duval Wines.

Since leaving Penfolds, Duval has been approached by several leading wine companies in Europe, South America and Australia to consult. He is also one of the vintner partners in the Long Shadows venture in Washington State, with his wine Sequel Syrah and John also has a joint venture project with Ventisquero in the Apalta Valley, Chile.

Duval is also an experienced wine judge, having judged at many Australian and international wine shows. Currently he lives in the Barossa Valley, one of Australia's most famous wine regions, particularly known for its old vine Shiraz.

John makes five wines under his John Duval Wines range, a white; 'Plexus White' (Marsanne, Roussanne, Viognier), and three reds; 'Plexus Red' (Shiraz, Grenache, Mourvedre), 'Entity' (Shiraz), Annexus (Grenache) and 'Eligo' (Shiraz).

Tasting notes and further information can be found on his website; www.johnduvalwines.com