



## The winemaker

### Stephanie Dutton

Penfolds red winemaker  
2007-present

“No two vintages are the same.” This is the career-defining mantra winemaker Stephanie Dutton embraced from her predecessor, John Bird, when she joined the Penfolds team 13 years ago.

Understanding winemaking’s cyclical nature is what keeps Dutton’s passion alive as she leads the craftsmanship of Penfolds’ red wines in the Barossa Valley.

Her love affair with fine wine began in Melbourne. One night, while serving a bottle of barolo – made from the Italian nebbiolo red grape – at the restaurant where she worked, Dutton pondered a career in winemaking. After completing a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University, she pursued a Master of Oenology from the University of Adelaide.

At 25, Dutton became one of the youngest winemakers to join the Penfolds team – a testament to her talent and curiosity for the history and depth of fine wine.

[penfolds.com](http://penfolds.com)



## The mentor

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### Simon Fenech

Operations manager of Fruit2Work and author of *Breaking Good*

“It doesn’t matter where you are in life, you can make a mistake and lose your way,” says Simon Fenech. “But you can always find your way back.”

The way back was a long and difficult road for Fenech, who suffered a workplace injury as a delivery driver in 2008. That injury led to a life-changing decision. Unable to find relief with prescription medications and physical therapy, he resorted to methamphetamine to ease his chronic pain. “After nine years of training in kickboxing, I really thought I had self-control,” he says. “But from the very first time I tried ice, I was addicted.”

The following years saw him fall into drug addiction and criminal activity until he was sentenced to 12 months in prison in 2016. “All I could think of was getting my kids back in my life – that was my goal,” he says of using the time in jail to rehabilitate.

After his release, Fenech struggled to find a job – “As soon as employers saw I had a criminal record they closed the door on me” – but his life

changed again when he was hired by Melbourne delivery service Fruit2Work, a social enterprise that offers employment opportunities and peer mentoring to people with a criminal record. “Being able to receive a pay packet, to wear a high-vis uniform again, I didn’t feel like a criminal anymore and I was able to start rebuilding my life.”

The 46-year-old father of three is now the organisation’s operations manager and helps guide a new group through the program, which boasts a zero recidivism rate, every six months. “All I want to do is give someone the opportunity I had.”

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