

Fox Creek Wines Reserve Shiraz

Vertical Tasting 2001 - 2011



By Senior Winemaker, Scott Zrna | June 2013 | These recommendations are to our winemaker's taste. Storage conditions always influence cellared wines.



2001 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Brick red.
Nose : Jubey fruit lift with spicy, medicinal characters and hints of cedar and cinnamon.
Palate : Concentrated confectionary fruit, great mid palate structure, toasty oak length and a charry chocolate finish.
Drinking : Nearing the end of its drinking window, look to examine cellared stock in the next few months.



2002 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Brick red.
Nose : Chocolate, spearmint and vanilla with cinnamon and herbal notes.
Palate : Red cherry and plum conserve, a rich, full and long palate with choc mint, dark chocolate and balanced, integrated tannins.
Drinking : This is the best I have seen this wine look – seamless integration, elegance and balance. At its peak so drink now through to the next year or so.

2003 Reserve Shiraz

Not produced



2004 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Deep red.
Nose : Lifted vibrant cherry, blackberry and plum with hints of cinnamon and nutmeg.
Palate : Intense red fruits, strawberry and cream mid palate, multi-layered mixed spice and textural, oak finish.
Drinking : A strong and punchy wine, whose window is open and shows no sign closing anytime soon. Fresh flavours and strong tannins should keep this wine going for at least another 3-5 years, maybe longer.



2005 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Deep black / red.
- Nose : Stewed rhubarb, black cherry and blackcurrant overlying medicinal/herbal characters, black cardamom and nigella.
- Palate : Concentrated confectionary, black fruit and creamy vanilla mid palate with great focus and length, integrated and powerful tannins finish the wine beautifully.
- Drinking : A personal favourite and the 'black' sheep of the lineup, it is drinking really well now and time will temper its punchiness and power. Look for more elegance in another 3-5 years or love it now. This is the Emo reserve – intense and concentrated with a small swish of red amidst all that black!



2006 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Intense, bright red.
- Nose : Red cherry, brown spice, milk chocolate and crème brûlée.
- Palate : Fresh plum, red cherry and chocolate-vanilla mid palate with a tacky tannin finish. The wine shows great balance and has traded punchiness for elegance.
- Drinking : The 2006 is currently undergoing a bit of a transitional lull, I expect the wine to bounce back later in the year and show some fabulous bottle-development characteristics. My suggestion is to hold on to it, check back in 6-12 months and see what it is up to. It has still got lots of life left in it and will be good for at least another 5 years +.



2007 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Deep red.
- Nose : Red berry coulis, vanilla bean, cedar and sandalwood.
- Palate : Intense, concentrated red cherry, raspberry and creamy vanilla mid palate, showing great length and palate weight due to the firm acid and textural tannin.
- Drinking : After developing out of the lull it was in about 8 months ago, the wine has become the most integrated and balanced I have seen it. It is drinking well now and will continue to develop over the next 4-6 years.



2008 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Deep purple / black.
- Nose : Ripe, fleshy plums, black cherry, mulberry, vanilla custard, brown spice and buttered toast.
- Palate : Black cherry and plums, luscious custard mid palate, firm but balanced tannins focus the palate and the flavours persist long after the wine has disappeared.
- Drinking : A big, rich, creamy and flavoursome wine that is very moreish at the moment and has the tools to power on for many years to come. Those who like a bit of age should hold this for 6-8 years at least.



2009 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Deep purple.
- Nose : Herbal leafy nettles, spicy plums and caramelised raw sugar.
- Palate : Fleshy plum and berry fruit, creamy mid palate finished off with firm, gritty tannins.
- Drinking : A rich and intense wine that shows off its elegance. It is currently in a bit of a lull after its trophy-winning performance, I would give it 6-12 months to resurface with a bit more palate weight and integration.



2010 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Inky purple.
- Nose : Black cherry and raspberry, creamy vanilla bean, cedar and black cardamom.
- Palate : Red berry fruits lead into a strawberries & cream mid palate with supple, seamless tannins & great length.
- Drinking : Probably the vintage of the decade, this wine has plenty of time on its side. Not only is it approachable now but this powerful wine, with great tannin presence and structure also has at least another decade ahead of it.



2011 Reserve Shiraz

- Colour : Vivid purple / red.
- Nose : Plums, red berry, cherry, chocolate and crème caramel.
- Palate : Plums, raspberry, strawberry and vanilla crème mid palate with hints of cinnamon and nutmeg. Crisp, acid and youthful tannins underpin the structure of this vibrant but elegant wine.
- Drinking : This wine has already amassed a trophy, two gold medals and 5 stars from Winestate Magazine before its release. It is youthful, punchy and elegant with loads of potential, one to watch grow over the next 12 years.