



SEPTEMBER 2004

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New Releases

2002 "DUET" CABERNET MERLOT

A new, striking label is an obvious feature of this vintage of Duet, the change bringing the colour and shape more in character with the other Fox Creek labels.

We have been delighted at the popularity of this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (60%), Merlot (35%) and Cabernet Franc (5%), all of which were grown in our own Fox Creek vineyards in McLaren Vale. The Merlot component softens the Cabernet Sauvignon and the influence of the French and American oak in which the wine was matured is quite restrained.

You can try it from the **Introductory Pack** if you wish.

2004 SAUVIGNON BLANC

This is our most popular white wine, particularly in restaurants. Conventional wisdom decrees that the best Sauvignon Blancs are made in New Zealand and in Australian cool climate areas. But in regions like McLaren Vale well made Sauvignon Blanc wines are delicate with similar flavours but are less herbaceous, making them more appealing to the many people who find pronounced herbaceous flavours too aggressive. We believe our Sauvignon Blanc shows at it's best within two years of bottling.

A bottle of this wine is included in the **Introductory Pack**.



2002 RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The 2002 vintage of this wine shows how great a Cabernet Sauvignon in McLaren Vale can be! Tasting notes for this wine are included in the Cabernet vertical tasting notes on page 2.

2004 SHADOW'S RUN THE WHITE

Shadow's run The White is a complex blend of Verdelho and Chardonnay from the 2004 vintage. It has a lovely, fresh and rich seamless palate of citrus and tropical fruit flavours and is made to be enjoyed whilst young. **You can also try this wine from the Introductory Pack.**

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Fox Creek McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon

CHRIS DIX *Winemaker*

With the release of the 2002 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon we thought it would be a useful exercise to look back at the previous vintages, in particular to guide those who have cellared some of this wine.

The Cabernet vines at Fox Creek were actually planted in the midst of the vine pull scheme in the mid 80's and years before the planting of Shiraz was considered. When the first Fox Creek Cabernet was produced in 1995, the

vines were already mature and showing great fruit intensity. As the vines have matured towards 20 years of age we have seen fruit flavours intensify and complexity increase. Coupled with a change in winemakers and winemaking philosophy toward more approachable tannin structure, restrained oak use and more finesse, the Reserve Cabernet of 2002 is a great wine. The 2002 vintage was extremely cool and this has produced a Cabernet with lifted varietal fruit, mature tannins and rich fruit power

with great integration and length. Cabernet Sauvignon in McLaren Vale has been overshadowed in recent years by the hugely successful Shiraz grape that has had a great resurgence since the late eighties. Historically, McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon produces great wines of medium varietal character, great structure and length. Our review of Fox Creek Cabernet Sauvignon from 1995 to 2002 has demonstrated that world class wines can be produced in McLaren Vale from this variety.

Fox Creek Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon Tasting 1995~2002. July 2004

CHRIS DIX & TONY WALKER
Winemakers

1995 (*not available for sale*)

The colour is medium cherry red with brick red edges. On the nose there are lifted red fruits with savoury spice and leather with smoked meats. The matured berry flavour with dusty tobacco characters would be great with an Osso Bucco dish and the slightly drying tannin finish make it a great food wine. Best drinking from now to mid 2005.

1996

A deep and vibrant cherry colour with a solid red rim, lifted fruit aromas of complex ripe blackberry and licorice demonstrate an excellent wine to start our Vertical 6 pack. The palate has rich sweet fruit on entry, powerful mid palate flavours of blackcurrant, mocha and dusty fine tannin leading to a long rich finish. Drinking well now to 2008.

1997

The '97 is brick red showing some development and delightful mature red fruits and cigar box aromas on the nose. The palate comes to the fore with lovely soft lifted berry flavours with olive and licorice richness adding complexity. It shows more structure than the '96 and finishes with refined tannins and great length. Drinking well now to 2007.

1998

A deep cherry red in colour with a light rim, while the nose shows quite powerful notes of blackberry, chocolate, mocha and spicy cinnamon oak – a very complex wine indicative of the '98 vintage. The palate does

not disappoint with a strong entry of intense berry flavours and typical McLaren Vale complexity of spice and chocolate mocha notes. Oak maturation is evident but balanced while the finish is long and supported by ripe tannins. Beginning to drink well and should cellar easily until 2010.

1999

The '99 is similar in style to the '97, with red cherry colour and slight brick red rim. There are aromas of raspberry and cherry fruits with savoury smoked meat elements showing cigar box and mocha characters. The palate is medium weight showing red and black fruit of elegance and excellent balance of fruit and tannins. A cooler, more refined vintage than '98 showing good weight and balance. Drinking very well now to 2008.

2000

The 2000, while being a challenging vintage shows that Cabernet Sauvignon was very successful. The wine is medium red with a light crimson rim with a great nose offering a rich spectrum of blackberry, coffee and black olives with a hint of leafiness. The palate is full bodied with luscious black fruits, chocolate and dusty oak. It is one of the softest wines in the line up showing a change in winemaking philosophy & style. It has well integrated tannins, finesse and complexity leading to a rich balanced finish. Although drinking well now we think this wine will peak from 2009 onwards.

2001

The colour is intensely deep plum red with a crimson rim. The '01 is quite vibrant and young with ripe intensely lifted fruit of blackcurrant, cassis with

liquorice and complex oak spice aromas. On the palate there are concentrated layers of intense berry fruits, chocolate and mocha notes similar to the '98. There is excellent length with firm balanced tannin structure that will soften in time. Superb oak handling. With optimal cellaring conditions this wine will peak from 2009 onwards.

2002

It is vibrant and rich dark cherry in colour with a black violet rim. A year of bottle age and it bursts with a sweet lifted varietal cassis and blackcurrant fruit, tobacco and cinnamon oak spice. The palate is big showing intense black fruit and berry flavours with olives and liquorice. It's a solid and soft palate showing ripe integrated tannin and oak with finesse, sweet fruit and great weight. The excellent balance of fruit and tannin travels right through to the very long finish. Although it is good to drink now it will certainly benefit from cellaring and will probably show at it's best from 2009 onwards.

OVERALL

While seasonal variations in climate have influenced each vintage, the vertical tasting showed amazing consistency in fruit strength, depth and ripe soft tannins throughout the vintages. Climatic conditions have dictated slight differences in flavour profiles and tannin structures, adding another dimension to the line up. A great exercise is to taste the wines, then mask their identities and try to pick or differentiate the different vintages! We are offering our wine club members a special vertical pack of back vintages (1996 to 2001) with this newsletter.

A Year in the Shadow



Just last year Helen & Jim's dog Shadow was nothing but a farm dog, a Border Collie that with a stroke of luck was saved from a messy fate and given a home and his own wine label. From there he was propelled into canine fame and fortune. Last time we read about Shadow, he was just starting his transition from Fox Creek's winery dog to Australian wine icon.

Since then, it has been nothing but a whirlwind of fun and loving, travel and revelry.

Like Kylie, Thorpie, Delta and Naomi, Shadow has been spotted at all the big events and glamorous parties around the world. From the Oscars, to the Carnival in Rio, to some of the greatest sporting events, Shadow has been a guest of the most famous and salubrious types in the world.

Shadow's now back home at the Fox Creek Vineyard in South Australia's McLaren Vale where he has just launched a white wine, simply called 'Shadow's run, The White'.

We spoke with Shadow about fame, travels and all those celebrity run-ins.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS

You have travelled to some amazing locations Shadow, can you tell us what the highlights were?

Until last year I had never been out of the country so getting to the Taj Mahal and China's Red Square was

truly amazing. Must admit there were a few language barriers in China and as for the Taj, well that's a decent kennel indeed. And for the Carnival in Rio ... well I spent most of the time blushing. I thought there were laws against that sort of behaviour.

You have been spotted with some high profile celebrities, can you tell us about some of those experiences?

The invitations to the sporting events were the most fun. I was invited to the Melbourne Cup as the guest of these sisters from New York.

Apparently their dad owns some big hotel chain. Anyway we had all sorts of fun shopping before the event and got lots of great pictures. Those two are certainly not camera shy.

You hardly need introduction these days Shadow, what about the invitation to the Royal Danish wedding?

Oh that? Frederik and Mary are old friends. I first met Mary when I was at some collie trials down in Tassie. She was really cool, just a normal person and then ba-boom – there she is on the front cover of Hello! magazine. The wedding was really beautiful and being asked to walk down the aisle as the flower dog was such an honour though it was pretty difficult to just walk and not run.

For the full interview please contact Kristin McLarty at Fox Creek on (08) 8556 2403 or marketing@foxcreekwines.com



Blushing in Rio!



Frederick, Mary and I

How Long do Vineyards Last?

JIM WATTS *Destroyer*

Those of you who have travelled down Malpas Road just West of the Cellar Door entrance recently will have noticed that one of our original vineyards at Fox Creek has been removed. We have been asked the question why so many times that we thought we should give you an answer.

When this vineyard was planted in 1985 the "Shiraz vine pull" scheme was at its height and, as a result, Cabernet Sauvignon was planted in this area as an alternative, popular red grape variety.

When Shiraz was "rediscovered" in the late 80's, our first planting was the famous Willow's Block. This has the same black, cracking clay soils and is adjacent to the original Cabernet block.

The Shiraz thrived and produced some of Australia's best wine, but the Cabernet, although producing grapes

of excellent quality never thrived and for several years has produced no more than one to one and a half tonnes of grapes an acre, no matter how much we have nurtured the soil and the vines.

This vineyard was just not viable due to the low crop. We have now removed the vines and after a year of barley and legume cropping, the area will be planted to Shiraz and the result will be seen in 5 to 10 years time. Will it be another Willow's Block?

Watch this space!



Making room for Shiraz to flourish

Special Offer for Fox Creek Wine Club Members

ACCOMMODATION PACKAGE

For those of you who are planning to come and visit us and the beautiful Fleurieu Peninsula between now and the end of November, the Whaler's Inn at Victor Harbor have kindly put together this wonderful package for our Wine Club members.

The package includes:

- ~ 2 Nights Accommodation in a Luxury Upper Level Studio
- ~ 3 Course Dinner for 2 people in the Waterside Restaurant
- ~ Bottle of Fox Creek 'Vixen'
- ~ \$186.00 per person

The Upper Level Studios are the perfect accommodation for a romantic weekend getaway. Luxuriously appointed with a contemporary open plan design, the studios all have kitchenettes, mirrored double spa baths & private balconies with panoramic ocean views. Offer Valid until 30th November 2004. (Subject to availability).

Bookings: 08 8552 4400 (don't forget to tell them you are a Fox Creek Wine Club member)

Visit www.foxcreekwines.com/visitus/ for more details on this offer and other accommodation deals available on the Fleurieu Peninsula.



Tony, Mark and Chris share a laugh at the Melbourne Wine Dinner.

Fox Creek Wine Dinners

What a great time we had, travelling far and wide meeting some of you and showing off some of our sensational 2002 vintage red wines. The highlight of these dinners was that they were all very friendly and happy occasions. Let us know if you have any suggestions for future Dinners.



SEE YOU AT THE CELLAR DOOR SOON!

Cellar Door open for tastings between 10am and 5pm seven days a week.

