

Stockman's Ridge Shiraz 2008

STOCKMAN'S Ridge is the newest winemaker making Orange region wines. Although Stockman's Ridge calls Bathurst home, the first release of their wines comprise shiraz, merlot, pinot gris and sauvignon blanc, all of which are made from Orange grapes. The vineyards in Bathurst are also home to cherries, walnuts, almonds and citrus.

The Stockman's Ridge shiraz shows the versatility of this great variety. As a cool climate example, there's spice, white pepper and anise combining with the dark berry fruits. The charry oak is well balanced and will integrate further with a bit more time in bottle. The texture is soft and the tannins subtle, letting the fruit and the oak flavours come to the fore.

Price: \$25
Cellar: 2010-2014



Cellar Press

David Cumming

Mayfield Vineyard Orange Pinot Noir 2008

THE Orange region should be producing great pinot noir. It is a region that holds great potential for this tricky variety and if the quality of pinot coming out of Bloodwood is any indication, then the future looks bright.

Another winemaker showing potential is Mayfield.

The latest 2008 pinot noir is bright and fresh with varietal cherry, bacon, raspberry and spice aromas. The palate shows similar characters, although initially it was quite closed, needing time in the glass to really shine. The next day, the wine was better, with more pronounced and a greater array of flavours. It would therefore pay to decant this wine for a couple of hours prior to serving.

Price: \$35
Cellar: 2010-2016

Swinging Bridge Shiraz 2008

I'VE mentioned Cowra wines a bit lately and with good reason. The wines are improving markedly, with shiraz proving to be the hero red variety. The chardonnays have been done well over the years, however they are being made with a touch more finesse, allowing the regional character and rich fruit flavours to shine through.

As a region, the winemakers are banding together and supporting each other with an objective of both improving quality as well as spreading the word. The Swinging Bridge shiraz has loads of blackberry and fruit cake aromas. It is a dark, inky wine with flavours to match. These are balanced with good tannins that will continue to settle with time in the cellar.

Price: \$19.95
Cellar: 2009-2016

