

THE LAIRD SHIRAZ
2018 RELEASE



T O R B R E C K

BAROSSA VALLEY

JAMESSUCKLING.COM

Intense and focused aromas of black licorice, lead pencil, blackberries, blueberries, blue slate, and purple flowers. Full-bodied and very powerful, but there's a superb polish and sophistication to the wine with lots of new wood, but it's also composed and focused. It's dense, but not over done. Sophistication even with such old school concentration. Comes from vines planted in 1958. Something you won't forget from this single parcel if you taste it. Three years in barrel. This still needs four to five years of bottle age.

JAMES SUCKLING JAMESSUCKLING.COM, MAY 2023


WINE ADVOCATE

Single-vineyard wines that are at the behest and mercy of the seasons are very exciting to view over time. You understand the essence of the style of the wine and the vineyard DNA, so you sit, patiently waiting for the vintages and seasons that meet your personal proclivities to roll around. The 2018 vintage is one of those for me, as will be the cool 2021 and 2022 seasons. The fruit is sourced from the Gnadefrei vineyard, which was planted in 1958, in Marananga. The fruit was picked over a variety of picks at optimal ripeness and matured for 36 months in new French oak barriques by Dominique Laurent. Eminently red-fruited in the mouth, this 2018 The Laird is reflective of the 2018 season, in that it is pure, fresh, laden with blood plum, saturated in red berries and framed by savory, exotically spiced black tannins. The oak, while a prominent feature of the wine, supports the fruit at all times and assists in extending the flavor through the finish. Thick in the mouth, yet still fresh, there is a moreish quality to this wine. I love it. (It is likely unnecessary to tell you that the wine is incredibly full-bodied. It is enveloping and huge but wonderful.)

ERIN LARKIN THE WINE ADVOCATE, APRIL 2023

matthew **jukes**

It is funny how truly great wines make me think of another other than wine. When I first inhaled the scent of 2018 The Laird, I heard music, which was somewhat unnerving. The phenomenal perfume here conjured up Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave – a distant musical memory from my youth. I have never seen this famous sea cave firsthand, so I searched for it on my phone while diving into this glass. If this wine looks like any marine geological formation, it must be this incredible cavern on the uninhabited island of Staffa. It is fantastic to think that Mendelssohn sat in a boat, off Staffa, in 1829 and penned a couple of bars of music inspired by this cave. Some 15 years later, the first vines were planted in Barossa. I suppose it is somewhat of a tradition for me not to bang on about fruit, flowers, herbs and spices when writing about tremendously moving wines preferring to take my readers to a more emotional place in the hope that they are moved enough to seek out the subject of my musings. In this instance, I cannot get over my Fingal's Cave spark, and I think it sums up the absurdly deep and never-ending joy that this sublime wine imbues in its taster. Drink 2030 – 2050.

MATTHEW JUKES A PREVIEW OF THE NEW RELEASES, APRIL 2023

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