

THE FOREBEAR SHIRAZ
2019 RELEASE



TORBRECK

BAROSSA VALLEY

JAMESSUCKLING.COM 

A brand new cuvee. The inaugural release comprises fruit from a proprietary property in Lyndoch, documented as the second winery built in the Barossa Valley. Vineyard planted in 1850s on its own rootstock. I really like this. An earlier picked site, spending two years in oak and three years in the bottle pre-release. Despite the typical Barossan weight, there is ample freshness. Baking spice, licorice, saturated dark fruit, iodine and forest accents. The tannin structure is chewy and nourishing. Long finish. Plenty to get the teeth into. This is an excellent wine. Drinkable now, but best from 2030. **NED GOODWIN** [JAMESSUCKLING.COM](https://www.jamesuckling.com), MARCH 2024

97


WINE ADVOCATE

The 2019 The Forebear Shiraz is the inaugural release of this wine, positioned alongside the Laird. The fruit is sourced from the oldest plantings in the Hillside Vineyard in Lyndoch—12 rows planted in the early 1850s. The wine is astounding. It is inky black in its fruit spectrum, infused from all sides with gravelly tannin that feel both velvety and gritty; there's loads of chewy tannin to support the kaleidoscopic fruit, and monumental length. This is a very impressive wine, memorable and precise. I can understand why a single vineyard was made from this special parcel. So, on the nose, you get mulberry, blackberry, blueberry and ironstone, rust, blood plum, raspberry pip, aniseed, sumac and clove. The tannins splay across the palate and leave a trail of ferruginous spice in their wake, with inflections of ras el hanout, pomegranate molasses, pink peppercorns and roast beef crust. This is a whopping wine. Superb. **ERIN LARKIN** [THE WINE ADVOCATE](https://www.thewineadvocate.com), APRIL 2024

98



matthew **jukes**

As I tasted this wine and watched it evolve in the glass over four hours, I knew I was in the presence of greatness. As always with a Torbreck wine, there is a flavour transparency despite the density of black fruit, liquorice, tar and butcher's apron notes. It is difficult to understand until you spend several hours unlocking its code. I wrote the word 'Mordor' in my notebook – it is that dark – and this might be a barrier to entry for some, particularly those unfamiliar with Torbreck wines, but it is sensational! I have never tasted the inaugural vintage of a wine to which I have given a perfect score. I hoped it would happen one day, and it took 38 years working in the wine trade for this to happen, and it happened with 2019 Torbreck The Forebear. **MATTHEW JUKES**, APRIL 2024

20⁺⁺

JOANNA SIMON

Enticingly sweet, briary, blackberry fragrance. Plush yet precise on the palate, with black and red fruit intensity, cocoa, mocha, black pepper and some graphite. Perfectly judged and integrated acidity and tannins. Very long and refined. Drink until 2040 **JOANNA SIMON** MW MARCH 2024

97