

SOME WINES ARE WORTH THE WAIT

TORBRECK TASTING: MAX ALLEN
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“...WE HAVE TO LEARN TO BE PATIENT AGAIN; TO LEARN THAT SOME WINES AREN'T FOR NOW, AND THAT'S THE POINT: THEY'RE SOMETHING WE WANT TO PUT AWAY AS TREASURES FOR LATER.”

IAN HONGELL CHIEF WINEMAKER



2013 THE LAIRD

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia
VARIETY: Shiraz

Yes, it's five years old, but it's still a baby: all the different flavours packed into this dark purple wine (heaps of them: brown spice, damp earth, wild blackberry fruit, savoury oak) are circling around each other in the mouth, waiting to knit together. It needs a few more years to relax, harmonise, concentrate: the atypically “elegant” 2010 vintage is drinking well now (great intensity but superbly poised), and the 2006 is sheer joy: exuberant black fruit, fabulous vibrant presence on the tongue.



2015 RUNRIG

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia
VARIETY: Shiraz Viognier

Due to be released on July 1, **this is the best young RunRig I can remember tasting in a long time:** utterly seductive perfumed black fruit pours out of the glass, inviting you to take a sip and luxuriate in the wine's mouth-filling but wonderfully balanced flavour and firm but supple grip. If I were a cynical sort, I'd suspect this wine is the main game for Torbreck: sure, the Laird attracts all the attention, much of it because of the price, but that then makes RunRig (of which more is produced) seem like good value in comparison. Which it is, of course.



2016 HILLSIDE VINEYARD

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia
VARIETY: Grenache

I've been a big fan of Torbreck's grenache-based wines since the first release in 1997 of The Steading red blend (I often prefer them to the shirazes, to be honest; I find them more expressive and characterful). This grenache is new to the range and it's very good indeed: rose-petal fragrant and pepper-spicy, it's **a lovely example of the new wave of finer, more medium-bodied expressions of the grape** proliferating in the Barossa – albeit in a typically full-flavoured, Torbreck style.