



TORBRECK

BAROSSA VALLEY

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I rated all the new releases of Torbreck in the Barossa Valley, and I was excited by the quality of the 2021 wines coming out. Ian Hongell, the winemaker and head of the winery, explained that the vintage was very cool and long and that the extra “hang time” for the fruit made more balanced, refined, structured, and coolly flavorful reds.

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— JAMES SUCKLING

2018 THE LAIRD

RATING: 97

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia

VARIETY: Shiraz

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.

96



2021 THE GASK

RATING: 96

FROM: Eden Valley, South Australia

VARIETY: Shiraz

This is fantastic with blackberries, peaches, and limes with some spice character. Graphite. Medium body. Fine and polished tannins with a fantastic deep silk texture and a long finish. Really want to drink this. Drink or hold.

2020 RUNRIG

RATING: 97

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia

VARIETY: Shiraz, Viognier

This is so aromatic with flowers, orange blossom, and black berries with sliced mushrooms and earth. Surreal. Medium to full body, with bark and blackberry character. Some bramble berry, too. Chewy and delicious. Old vine uniqueness. Some grapes come from vines as old as 1858.

97



97



95

2020 THE FACTOR**RATING:** 95**FROM:** Barossa Valley, South Australia**VARIETY:** Shiraz

Intense iron and blackberries with black olives. Salted licorice. Dried decadent meat, too. Full and rich with an intensity and density, yet it goes on and on. Muscular yet racy. This needs a few years to open, but not over done. Plenty of intensity. Drink after 2025.



95

**2021 THE STRUIE****RATING:** 95**FROM:** Barossa, South Australia**VARIETY:** Shiraz

This is fantastic with blackberries, peaches, and limes with some spice character. Graphite. Medium body. Fine and polished tannins with a fantastic deep silk texture and a long finish. Really want to drink this. Drink or hold.

2020 DESCENDANT**RATING:** 95**FROM:** Barossa Valley, South Australia**VARIETY:** Shiraz, Viognier

Dried berries, smoke, mushrooms and ink on the nose. Medium- to full-bodied with a juicy and fruity character. Muscular and agile. Dancing. This is shiraz with a touch of viognier and no new wood. Co-fermented. Drink or hold, but better in 2025.

94

2021 HILLSIDE VINEYARD GRENACHE**RATING:** 94**FROM:** Barossa Valley, South Australia**VARIETY:** Grenache

Lovely dried strawberries with hints of chocolate and walnut on the nose and palate. Medium body with some floral notes and a juicy finish. A freshness and brightness here. Agile. The vineyards were planted in 1949. So attractive now but will age well. Drink or hold.

95

**2021 THE STEADING****RATING:** 94**FROM:** Barossa Valley, South Australia**VARIETY:** Grenache, Shiraz, Mataro

I like the tannin tension to this with berry, dried meat and spice aromas and flavors. It's medium-bodied with a firmness and brightness. Juicy finish. Nice texture at the end. Vivid. Grenache, shiraz and mataro. Drink or hold.

2020 LES AMIS**RATING:** 92**FROM:** Barossa Valley, South Australia**VARIETY:** Grenache

Some sweet and candied berry character with some milk chocolate and cedar undertones. Medium body. Tile and berry. More typical shiraz from Barossa. Ripe fruit, but tangy. Hints of vanilla. Drink or hold.

2022 CUVÉE JUVENILES**RATING:** 92**FROM:** Barossa Valley, South Australia**VARIETY:** Grenache, Mataro, Carignan, Counoise

This is a really crunchy red made from grenache, mataro, carignan and counoise with plenty of bright fruit, with open tannins and a savory and spicy finish. Torbreck calls it a lunchtime red. Agreed. Delicious now. Screw cap.