



T O R B R E C K

BAROSSA VALLEY

The Laird 2010



96+ Points

Of course, this is the wine that Parker et al have given a couple 100s and a 99 out of a 100 in its last three releases, so there's an expectation about it. Torbreck bought the Seppeltsfield Road, 5 acre 'The Laird' vineyard for \$2.1 million (with a cottage on the site, mind you) in 2014. That's some serious real estate dollars. The vineyard is on its way to biodynamic farming too. Spends three years in 100% new French oak, then two years in bottle before release. It's due out in May 2015.

Black hole. Dark, brooding, black fruit, malt, rich mahogany, choc-liquorice and wet cave scents. Serious. Cue the low rumble of monophonic chanting. Kapow. Big hit of fruit in the palate. Lush, plush, rolling deep and thick in dark fruits, peppery spice, granite-like mineral tannins, waves of firm cedar and warm, dried fruit characters. It's a massive wine, palate saturating and epic in every sense. Heroic. Structure and architecture all there. It's impressive.

Mike Bennie : Winefront

Tasted : APR15
Alcohol : 15.98%
Price : \$700
Closure : Cork
Drink : 2015 – 2025



2012 The Descendant

94 Points

Single vineyard shiraz from Roennfeldt Road, which could be considered a Barossa Valley dress circle address. There's also viognier planted on the site; it's picked ripe, pressed, and the skins are used in this wine. Sees no new oak.

Brilliant garnet/black colour in the glass. Seductive, spicy, red and black fruit scented wine. Perfume, musk, whiffs of graphite-like minerals. It's a brilliant Barossa entry. Silky-textured, fresh, firm, long and dart-shaped in the palate. Pulls out some ripe fruit flavour and choc-milk tannins, but there's an elegance and sleekness that is undeniably attractive. Finishes long with saline acidity and light tug of suede tannins. Sophisticated Barossa. Drink young.

Mike Bennie : Winefront

Tasted : APR15

Alcohol : 15%

Price : \$125

Closure : Cork

Drink : 2015 - 2017



2013 The Struie

90+ Points

Predominately Barossa Valley though it always has about a third Eden Valley fruit in the mix. All shiraz, though you'd swear there's a whiff of viognier in this release.

Super floral perfume bold in red and blue berry fruit scents, sniffs of Turkish delight and pot pourri riding high. Pretty, but almost overwhelming. Slick, slides and sweet, plump fruit flavours. A nectar-like texture that overwhelms a touch, but the finish is gravelly, salty and lightly chewy so it kind of balances out. Set to medium bodied, even if punching out at 15% and offering that slipperiness in texture. Wait a spell before drinking, it feels a bit legs and arms at moment, but there's structure here for a more composed, finer wine.

Mike Bennie : Winefront

Tasted : APR15

Alcohol : 15%

Price : \$55

Closure : Screwcap

Drink : 2016 – 2022



2012 The Steading

94 Points



The wine was originally 60% Grenache, 20% shiraz and 20% Mataro, but the wine is shifting to more Mataro and less shiraz – around 7 to 10% shiraz in this wine. It's been reliably a yardstick of Torbreck vintages, for me – look at The Steading and get a vague gauge for what other wines of the season may look like.

Heady out of the glass – spikes of hot, warm fruit, black coffee, liquorice, dried fruits. Heady nectar. Smooth, slick, potent and inky ride across the palate, but a veil of fine, succulent, graphite-like tannin and underlying freshness of acidity lift and pep up the wine. Very long in flavour too. Feels quality in its bold ilk. Will be loved by many; a very good release of this wine

Mike Bennie : Winefront

Tasted : APR15

Alcohol : 15.5%

Price : \$42

Closure : Screwcap

Drink : 2015 – 2022

