

THE RHONE REPORT – ISSUE 8

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TORBRECK

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2009 Torbreck Viognier/Marsanne/Roussanne (Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Eden Valley) **\$35**

A blend of 55% Roussanne, 25% Marsanne, and 20% Viognier, the 2009 Torbreck Viognier/Marsanne/Roussanne is a top notch white that shows fantastic fruit and richness, as well a clean, pure, very drinkable profile. Golden fruits, subtle vanilla, crème, and loads of spice characteristics lead to a medium bodied, pure, and balanced wine that finishes with good clarity and freshness. Straight up delicious, this will be versatile on the dinner table, but also enjoyable on its own, or on a hot summer day. It should continue to shine for another year or so. **(91 pts.)**

2007 Torbreck Descendant (Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley) **\$110**

A blend of 92% Shiraz and 8% Viognier (the Shiraz was crushed on top of the Viognier, which had been lightly pressed for blending in the RunRig), the 2007 Torbreck Descendant is a beauty. Aged for 18 months in 2 ½ year old French oak, the wine displays a vibrant, energetic profile with smoky black fruits, blood, aged meat, and violets aromas and flavors. This is followed by a full bodied, gorgeously texture and balanced wine that delivers loads of fruit, a seriously concentrated mid-palate, and a very long finish that highlights ripe, polished tannin. As with this estates other '07 Shirazes, it can be consumed now, or cellared for 5-8 years. **(95 pts.)**

2007 Torbreck Shiraz The Factor (Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley) **\$110**

The 100% Shiraz, 2007 The Factor, aged in a combination of new and older French oak, is a wow wine that is quite possibly the top wine from the vintage. Very deep and layered with gorgeous black fruit characteristics, ground pepper, tobacco, meat juice, and roast coffee on the nose, the wine is brilliantly concentrated on the palate, showing full body, superb balance, and a very long, classic finish. Despite the overall size here, this stays light and balanced in the mouth, and is a superb drink. There's no harm in drinking now, but it should continue to evolve and drink well for 10-15 years. **(95 pts.)**

2007 Torbreck Shiraz The Struie (Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley) **\$50**

A blend of 100% Shiraz that's from both Eden (40-year-old vines) and Barossa Valley (60-year-old vines), the 2007 Torbreck Shiraz The Struie was aged for 18 months in seasoned French oak. Showing loads of ripe black fruits on the nose, with subtle coffee, dried meat, and licorice develop with air, the wine is medium to full bodied on the palate and admirably fruited. Round, fleshy, and balanced, this firms up noticeably on the finish, showing a savory edge and plenty of ripe tannin and grip. It should benefit from 2-3 years in the cellar, and have a decade of drinking after that. **(92 pts.)**

2007 Torbreck The Steading (Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley) **\$35**

The estate's GSM blend (60% Grenache, 20% Shiraz, and 20% Mataro), the 2007 Torbreck The Steading was aged for 24 months, all in older French hogsheads. It delivers a fragrant, complex profile with aromas of sweet tobacco, coffee grinds, leafy herbs, and classy, pure, dark berry fruit characteristics. Round and fleshy on the palate, with medium to full body, good concentration, smooth texture, and juicy acidity that keeps it fresh and lively, this is delicious now but should continue to shine for up to a decade. **(92 pts.)**

2006 Torbreck Run Rig (Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley) **\$170**

Showing even a bit better than a previous bottle (reviewed in Issue 4), the 2006 Torbreck Run Rig (97% Shiraz & 3% Viognier, aged 30 months in new and older French oak) delivers a dense, complex bouquet of cassis and licorice infused blackberry styled fruits to go with complementing, complex aromas of peppered meat, underbrush, and subtle tobacco. Full bodied and decadent on the palate, with loads of fruit, but also superb balance and serious length, this is approachable and stunning now, but should easily evolve and age gracefully for 15+ years. **(97 pts.)**

2003 Torbreck Run Rig (Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley) **\$170**

A huge, ripe wine, the 2003 Torbreck Run Rig is a blend of 95% Shiraz (aged for 30 months in 60% new French oak) and 5% Viognier (aged for 6 months in barrel and added to the blend just prior to bottling.) Still purple with only slight lightening at the edges, the wine is bright and perfumed on the nose, with thick spice, chocolate ganache, underbrush, and bramble characteristics giving way to deep blackberry and raspberry styled fruit. Rock star on the palate, with a full bodied, powerful texture that turns more round and soft on the finish, but still showing ripe tannin, fantastic length, and overall solid balance, this beauty is delicious now, and should continue to evolve and age gracefully for another decade or more. **(96 pts.)**

2001 Torbreck Run Rig (Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley) **\$170**

Utterly profound and a riveting example of Shiraz, the 2001 Torbreck Run Rig, 97% Shiraz and 3% Viognier that's added just prior to bottling, delivers a

spectacular bouquet of cassis, blackberry, graphite, bacon, and assorted savory, meaty characteristics that literally comes leaping out of the glass. Captivating on the palate as well, the wine delivers a full bodied, perfectly proportioned feel to go with a seamless, pure silk texture, beautiful purity of fruit, and impeccable balance, and a very long, brilliant finish. This is no doubt a big wine, but nothing is out of place and it is pure joy to drink. I would consume bottles over the coming 5-8 years, although it could age longer. **(99 pts.)**