

Torbreck's top dollar top drop

An Imperial bottle of Torbreck Vintners "Les Amis" wine has been auctioned for charity in the United States and was bought for US\$70,000 - or almost AUS \$90,000!

Mr Andrew Caillard, MW of Langton's Wine Auctions in Sydney (one of Australia's largest

wine auctions) believes that "in Australian dollars this price has to be the highest amount paid for a single bottle of Australian wine anywhere in the world."

"Les Amis", made from a 104 year old dry farmed Grenache vineyard of the famed

Greenock Creek area is one of Torbreck's trademark 'drops'. Yet, for this six litre Imperial, one of only 12 ever made, to be bought at such an astounding price was a real shock for Mr David Powell, Chief Winemaker and Managing Director of Torbreck.

"The great thing is that at the end of the day, something that seems like such a small donation from us can have such a big impact for charity," he said.

The bottle was a part of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, an annual charity event staged in Florida that this year raised more than US\$12.5 million.

Mr Powell was the only Australian invited to be part of the event, and the Imperial "Les Amis" was one of 69 lots specifically donated for this auction. The proceeds are contributed to a children's charity in Naples that aids the education and safe upbringing of the region's young people.

Prior to the event, the participants were given a tour of the area and shown through some of the programmes and facilities that the donation would be going towards. Mr Powell said that this was a great way for people to truly understand how their contributions would assist the children.

One of the more up-

per class events of the area, 500 invited guests enjoy a night of good food, great wine and 'big bidding' which is fully filmed by local news studios.

"To be associated with this event gives kudos to Torbreck."

A strong believer in using the company's, and his own profile to assist others, Mr Powell has been thoroughly encouraged by the enormosity of this event.

Each year he sponsors four children through World Vision and raised \$15,000 for the Asian tsunami aid through the company, and was therefore pleased to help another charity.

Torbreck's "Les Amis" has been described as a "full-bodied, multi-dimensional red that inundates the palate with fruit, glycerin and intensity," by Mr Robert Parker, a highly renowned wine critic of the U.S.

The Imperials of this wine are not for retail sale but are reserved for charity events such as the Naples Winter Wine Festival.



Mr David Powell, Chief Winemaker and Managing Director of Torbreck Vintners and Ms Liz Russell, export manager were ecstatic that an Imperial of "Les Amis" Grenache was auctioned for US\$70,000.

Council dispute receives 'fan'fare

A 'dispute between two neighbours' has left doubt in the mind of the community - because the two of the region's influential people are involved - The Barossa

Council C.E.O. and Deputy Mayor.

An ongoing conflict between Judith and Peter Jones and John and Jan Angas regarding a frost fan on the Angas' property continues to catapult in the public spotlight.

"The Leader" understands that the dispute has evolved after the installation of an anti-frost wind fan in a Hutton Vale vineyard that has disrupted the Jones' horse training business.

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