

2005 Torbreck Run Rig

Rating: 98+

Drink: 2009-2040

Torbreck's flagship is the 2005 Run Rig, a 97% Shiraz cuvee sourced from 120- to 160-year-old vines with 3% finished Viognier added before bottling. It spent 30 months in 60% new French oak. Opaque purple/black in color, it has a kinky, exotic bouquet of fresh road tar, smoke, lavender, black pepper, game, blueberry, and black raspberry. Full-bodied and opulent on the palate, the wine is dense, packed, and unevolved. It will continue to open up over the next 10-12 years and drink well through 2040 in the style of a Chapoutier Hermitage. If it develops as I think it will, it will be a candidate for perfection down the road. Torbreck, under the leadership of owner/winemaker David Powell, remains a Barossa Valley benchmark as well as one of the world's leading wine estates.

- Jay Miller (February, 2009)

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2006 Torbreck Descendant

Rating: 95

Drink: 2016-2036

The Shiraz for the 2006 The Descendant is sourced from a single vineyard and co-fermented with 8% Viognier. It was aged for 18 months in seasoned French oak. Opaque purple-colored, it emits an expressive, sexy perfume of violets, wood smoke, black pepper, espresso, blueberry, and chocolate. Full-bodied, on the palate, this voluptuous effort has great concentration with a noticeable uplift from the Viognier, tons of spicy black fruits, enough ripe tannin to evolve for a decade, and 60-second finish. It should provide pleasure from 2016 through 2036.

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2006 Torbreck The Factor

Rating: 94+

Drink: 2016-2036

The purple/black 2006 The Factor is 100% old-vine Shiraz from the esteemed Greenock sub-region of Barossa Valley. It spent 24 months in 30% new oak. The aromatic array of balsam wood, smoke, pepper, espresso, blueberry, and licorice is eye-opening. This leads to a rich, glossy, full-flavored Shiraz with layers of succulent fruit, ripe tannin, exceptional spiciness, and a lengthy, pure finish. It will evolve for another 8-10 years and will have a drinking window extending from 2016 to 2036. Torbreck, under the leadership of owner/winemaker David Powell, remains a Barossa Valley benchmark as well as one of the world's leading wine estates.

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2006 Torbreck Les Amis

Rating: 94

Drink: 2012-2024

The 2006 Les Amis is 100% Grenache aged in new oak for 18 months. Purple-colored, it exhibits an enthralling nose of smoky oak, roses, garrigue, lavender, black cherry, and black raspberry. It conceals enough ripe tannin to support 5-7 years of additional cellaring. This layered, lengthy effort should be at its best from 2012 to 2024.

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2006 Torbreck The Pict

Rating: 92

Drink: 2013-2026

The 2006 The Pict is 100% Mataro (Mourvedre) aged in 100% new French oak for 24 months. The fruit was sourced from one section of a vineyard planted in 1927. Purple-colored, it offers up an aromatic array of smoky oak, forest floor, black truffle, blueberry, and blackberry jam. On the palate it reveals a brawny, masculine personality with some austerity that should round out with a few years of additional bottle age. It should offer prime drinking from 2013 to 2026.

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2006 Torbreck The Struie

Rating: 92

Drink: 2009-2026

The 2006 The Struie is 100% Shiraz, sourced from cooler, hillside sites, 70% from Barossa Valley and 30% from Eden Valley with vine age ranging from 46 to 110 years. It was aged for 18 months in 20% new oak. Opaque purple-colored, it delivers a striking bouquet of lead pencil, game, mineral, blueberry compote, and blackberry liqueur. This is followed by a focused, elegant Shiraz with a plush texture, outstanding depth and grip, and 5-7 years of aging potential. It should drink well through 2026.

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2006 Torbreck The Steading

Rating: 91

Drink: 2011-2018

The 2006 The Steading is the same cepage as the Juveniles but aged for two years in neutral hogsheads (300-liter barrels) and is David Powell's spot-on take on Chateauneuf-du-Pape. Dark ruby/purple in color, it offers an alluring perfume of garrigue, damp earth, clove, kirsch, and black raspberry. Slightly austere now, it will profit from 2-3 years of additional cellaring and drink well through 2018.

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2007 Torbreck Juveniles

Rating: 91

Drink: 2009-2013

The 2007 Cuvee Juveniles is a blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Mataro, and 20% Shiraz aged totally in stainless steel. Dark ruby-colored, it has a fragrant nose of black cherry and wild blueberry. Elegant and friendly on the palate with plenty of succulent blue and black fruits, it will provide pleasure over the next four years.

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2007 Torbreck Woodcutters Red

Rating: 89

Drink: 2009-2014

Production of the 2007 Woodcutter's Shiraz was greatly impacted by the drought conditions in Barossa. Yields for this bottling were under two tons per acre and only 11,000 cases were made; down from 27,000 in 2006. The wine was aged in large oak foudres for one year. Purple-colored it reveals aromas of earth, spice, and blueberry in a straightforward, full-flavored style. It will make pleasant drinking over the next five years.

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2007 Torbreck Marsanne / Roussanne

Rating: 90

Drink: -

The 2007 Roussanne-Marsanne was selected from numerous lots that received elevage in either stainless steel or neutral oak. Light gold-colored, it has a captivating bouquet of floral notes, honey, melon, roasted nuts, and tropical scents. On the palate it is ripe and round, smooth-textured and impeccably balanced. It might well evolve for several years in the style of Hermitage Blanc.

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2007 Torbreck Woodcutters White

Rating: 90

Drink: 2009-2011

Fifty percent of the 2007 Woodcutter's Semillon was raised in stainless steel and 50% in neutral oak. It offers up an enticing nose of mineral, candle wax, melon, and citrus. Creamy textured, balanced, and lengthy, this tasty effort should be drunk over the next two years.

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2007 Torbreck The Bothie

Rating: 89

Drink: -

The 2007 The Bothie is 100% Muscat Blanc in the style of a southern Rhone Muscat Beaumes-de-Venise. While drier and less viscous than its French cousin, it offers a pleasant floral and honeysuckle perfume, off dry fruity flavors, and good length. It should prove most useful as an aperitif on a hot summer day.

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