

THE RHONE REPORT

Dedicated to the wines and grapes of the Rhone valley



Torbreck: The wines of David Powell

Torbreck was founded in 1994 by David Powell and the name "Torbreck" comes from a forest in Scotland where David worked as a lumberjack. I've had the pleasure of meeting David on one occasion (didn't end well) and he's an intense individual who loves Rhône varieties and produces stunning wines from some of the oldest vines in the world. To get access to these grapes, David starting in 1992 by finding old, neglected, dry grown vineyards that he would nurse back to health. By share-farming these vineyards (a practice of paying the owner a percentage of the market rate of the grapes in exchange for total control in the vineyard), he was able to secure contracts for some of the most prized sites in the Barossa Valley. The results speak for themselves and while Aussie Shiraz has certainly fallen out of favor recently, the wines are stunning and worth checking out. In some cases, the bang for the buck is unparalleled and the wines are down right fun to drink.

2005 Torbreck Shiraz Run Rig (*Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley*)

Unbelievably rich and decadent, the 2005 Torbreck Run Rig shows bright, slightly volatile aromas of dark fruit, meat, blood, campfire, chocolate and sweet oak. The slight volatile notes detract but the overall size and intensity here is something. On the palate, the wine is perfect with full body, massive fruit, stunning balance and precision, perfect structure and a long, long finish. **(96-98 pts.)**

2005 Torbreck Shiraz The Factor (*Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley*)

Not for the faint of heart, the full bore 2005 Torbreck Shiraz The Factor offers up amazingly ripe aromatics of black licorice, sweet oak and raw, meaty aromas intermixed with gorgeous dark fruit, herbs and tar notes. Full bodied, lush, rich and with a mouth coating texture and fantastic length, this improved markedly with air, picking up more edge and cut. **(96 pts.)**

2006 Torbreck Grenache Les Amis (*Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley*)

Simply stunning, the 2006 Torbreck Grenache Les Amis possesses stunning, massive aromatics of blackberry and cassis fruit mixed with licorice, meat and toasted spice. Complex, intense and nuanced. The palate is full bodied with huge fruit, beautiful balance and a structured, tannic finish. A gorgeous wine! **(97-99 pts.)**

2005 Torbreck Grenache Les Amis (*Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley*)

Drank next to a 2003 Pegau, the 2005 Torbreck Grenache Les Amis seemed amazingly clean, pure and elegant with seamless integration and balance. The nose has soaring aromatics and shows fabulously sweet raspberry and blueberry fruit, spice, vanilla and integrated oak aromas and comes across as very clean and fruit driven but not even close to over the top. Full bodied and perfectly built, this shows sweet fruit, amazing concentration, awesome balance and a huge, blockbuster finish. **(96 pts.)**



David Powell

2008 Torbreck Cuvée Juveniles (*Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley*)

A beautiful Cotes du Rhone look alike, the 2008 Torbreck Cuvée Juveniles is a blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Mataro and 20% Syrah from old (40 to 150+ years) dry farmed bushvine vineyards around Tanunda. Per the spec sheet, the same fruit as their "The Steading" blend but sees no oak during its élevage and is bottled under screw cap six months after harvest. On the nose, this offers up ripe, complex aromatics of lavender, garrigue and exotic spice that are supported by sweet black cherry and blackberry fruit notes. The palate is medium bodied with a soft texture, sweet fruit and an overall drink me now character. Just a delicious, lush and easy going wine that should provide lots of pleasure over the next year or two. **(90 pts.)**

2007 Torbreck Shiraz Woodcutter's (*Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley*)

The 2007 Torbreck Shiraz Woodcutter's is a fat, unctuous Shiraz that offers up sweet blueberry and blackberry fruit mixed with spice, vanilla and oak notes. The palate takes some air time to come together but is smooth, lush and balanced with gobs of ripe fruit and a viscous texture. Slightly softer than previous vintages but firms up with air and is a fantastic aussie Shiraz to drink over the next couple of years. **(91 pts.)**

2006 Torbreck Shiraz Woodcutter's (*Australia, South Australia, Barossa, Barossa Valley*)

While rich and intense, the 2006 Torbreck Shiraz Woodcutter's is beautifully balanced, shows nice acidity and has a soft, easy drinking character. Outstanding. **(92 pts.)**