



TORBRECK

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Torbreck The Laird 2018 is an opulent and meticulously crafted single-vineyard Shiraz, sourced from the iconic Gnadenfrei Vineyard in Marananga, Barossa Valley. This wine epitomizes the grandeur of Australian Shiraz, showcasing the unique characteristics of this historic vineyard.



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BAROSSA VALLEY



## The Laird 2018

Barossa Valley, Australia

### Region and Vineyards

The **Gnadenfrei Vineyard**, planted in **1958**, is located in the highly regarded **Marananga** subregion of the **Barossa Valley**. This five-acre vineyard rests on south-facing slopes, benefiting from the shelter of nearby ridges, and enjoys a dry, warm Mediterranean climate perfect for ripening Shiraz to perfection.

The soils here are a mix of **dark clay loam and friable red clay**, known for their ability to retain moisture while promoting excellent drainage. These conditions, coupled with **dry farming practices**, yield **low-yielding, intensely concentrated Shiraz berries**. The 2018 vintage was marked by **above-average winter rainfall**, followed by a dry growing season that enhanced the quality of the fruit, resulting in a vintage of exceptional richness and balance.

### Winemaking

The grapes for **The Laird 2018** are hand-harvested from the **Gnadenfrei Vineyard** in several passes to ensure peak ripeness and optimal balance. The fruit undergoes **traditional open fermentation** with gentle hand plunging to extract color and flavor, preserving the wine's elegance and structure.

Following fermentation, the wine is aged for **36 months in Dominique Laurent's bespoke French oak barriques**, famously known as **"Magic Casks"**, which impart nuanced aromas and integrate seamlessly with the wine's natural complexity. The result is a full-bodied Shiraz of unparalleled refinement and longevity, with an alcohol level of **15.5%**.

Alcohol :15,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah



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## Tasting Notes

- **Color:** A deep crimson core with rich aubergine hues, reflecting its intense concentration.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of **blackberry**, **mulberry**, and **black cherry**, intertwined with savory hints of **tobacco leaf**, **bay leaf**, and **licorice**, alongside a touch of **vanilla** and **cinnamon** from the oak.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied and luxuriously textured, with layers of plush dark fruit, fine-grained tannins, and a complex medley of spice, herbaceous, and mineral notes. The finish is exceptionally long, reflecting the wine's incredible structure and depth.

## Did You Know?

The name "**The Laird**" is derived from a Scottish term meaning "**Lord of the Manor**", symbolizing the wine's noble stature. The **Gnadenfrei Vineyard**, whose name translates to "Grace," has been a cornerstone of Barossa Valley's winemaking heritage since its planting over six decades ago.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Prime rib with a red wine reduction:** The wine's bold tannins and rich fruit complement the meat's savory and tender profile.
- **Braised lamb shanks with rosemary and thyme:** The earthy, herbaceous flavors of the dish harmonize beautifully with the wine's complexity.
- **Roasted duck breast with plum sauce:** The wine's dark fruit and spice notes enhance the richness of the duck and the sweetness of the sauce.
- **Aged Parmesan or Gouda:** The intense flavors and umami of these cheeses pair perfectly with the wine's structure and depth.



### Robert Parker (RP) : 99 Points (2018)

*Single-vineyard wines that are at the behest and mercy of the seasons are very exciting to view over time. You understand the essence of the style of the wine and the vineyard DNA, so you sit, patiently waiting for the vintages and seasons that meet your personal proclivities to roll around. The 2018 vintage is one of those for me, as will be the cool 2021 and 2022 seasons. The fruit is sourced from the Gnadenfrei vineyard, which was planted in 1958, in Marananga. The fruit was picked over a variety of picks at optimal ripeness and matured for 36 months in new French oak barriques by Dominique Laurent. Eminently red-fruited in the mouth, this 2018 The Laird is reflective of the 2018 season, in that it is pure, fresh, laden with blood plum, saturated in red berries and framed by savory, exotically spiced black tannins. The oak, while a prominent feature of the wine, supports the fruit at all times and assists in extending the flavor through the finish. Thick in the mouth, yet still fresh, there is a moreish quality to this wine. I love it. (It is likely unnecessary to tell you that the wine is incredibly full-bodied. It is enveloping and huge but wonderful.)*



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**James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2018)**

*Intense and focused aromas of black licorice, lead pencil, blackberries, blueberries, blue slate, and purple flowers. Full-bodied and very powerful, but there's a superb polish and sophistication to the wine with lots of new wood, but it's also composed and focused. It's dense, but not over done. Sophistication even with such old school concentration. Comes from vines planted in 1958. Something you won't forget from this single parcel if you taste it. Three years in barrel. This still needs four to five years of bottle age.*



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