

Torbreck

A generous Barossa Shiraz with crimson depth, polished tannins and aromatic spice, Torbreck Woodcutter's Shiraz 2023 captures impressive richness while retaining the freshness of a cooler vintage.

TORBRECK
BAROSSA VALLEY

94
James Suckling



Woodcutter's Shiraz 2023

Barossa Valley, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Torbreck Woodcutter's Shiraz 2023 comes from Barossa Valley, South Australia, one of the world's most celebrated homes of Shiraz. Fruit was sourced from Marananga, Greenock, Seppeltsfield, Gomersal, Moppa, Lyndoch and Ebenezer, giving the wine a broad Barossa imprint rather than a single-site expression. The Barossa landscape is a complex mosaic of valley floors, hillsides, slopes and aspects, with soils ranging from low-fertility clay loams to sandy profiles, conditions that naturally help shape concentrated, expressive fruit.

The 2023 season brought above-average winter and spring rainfall followed by a cooler summer. Harvest ran from **27 March to 11 May 2023**, around one month later than usual in many vineyards. This cooler rhythm preserved fragrance and natural acidity, giving the wine its bright colour, fresh fruit definition and supple structure.

Winemaking

Woodcutter's Shiraz 2023 is made from **100% Shiraz**, selected from up-and-coming Barossa vineyards rather than the very old vines used in Torbreck's top cuvées. Even so, the wine receives the estate's serious viticultural approach, including hand pruning, hand harvesting and careful soil management. The result is low-yielding, resilient fruit with the concentration expected of Barossa Shiraz, but with additional freshness from the cooler 2023 vintage.

The wine was matured for **12 months in well-seasoned French oak hogsheads and foudre**, a choice that supports texture and spice without overwhelming the fruit. It was bottled at 15% alcohol, with pH 3.62 and acidity of 5.95 g/L. Torbreck's own notes suggest drinking now or cellaring for five to ten years, ideally served at around 16 °C.

Alcohol :15,00 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep crimson with a black cherry core, dense and youthful in appearance, suggesting generous fruit concentration and the freshness of a cooler Barossa vintage.
- **Aroma:** Red plum, dried red currant and black cherry unfold first, followed by Asian spice, Chinese five spice, cinnamon bark and a fine touch of white pepper.
- **Palate:** Medium to full-bodied, soft and enveloping, with silky tannins and a warm, supple mouthfeel. The fruit is ripe yet fragrant, supported by freshness, savoury spice and impressive length.

Did you know?

Torbreck takes its name from a forest near Inverness in Scotland, a nod to founder David Powell's time working as a lumberjack. The Woodcutter's name continues that story, evoking a red that is **rich, warming and deeply satisfying** after a long day.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Slow-cooked beef short ribs:** The wine's dark fruit, spice and supple tannins complement the richness of braised meat while keeping the finish fresh.
- **Chargrilled lamb chops with rosemary:** Barossa Shiraz and lamb are a natural match, especially when herbal, smoky notes echo the wine's pepper and spice.
- **Mushroom and lentil shepherd's pie:** Earthy mushrooms and savoury lentils bring out the wine's tapenade, spice and dark-fruited depth.
- **Aged cheddar or smoked gouda:** The wine's ripe fruit and generous body balance salty, savoury cheeses, while its spice adds extra complexity.

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2023)

A refined yet savory nose of blackcurrants, wild blackberries, mocha and iodine. The palate is full-bodied with finely integrated tannins and bright acidity, giving notes of mulberry bush, olive tapenade and ferric earth. Very chewy and structured with an underlying freshness. Delicious. Drink or hold.

93 James Halliday

James Halliday (JH) : 93 Points (2023)

A harmonious, black-cherry-rich shiraz sourced from the Barossan parishes of Marananga, Greenock, Seppeltsfield, Gomersal, Moppa, Lyndoch and Ebenezer. Satsuma plum, the aforementioned cherries, five-spice, bay leaf, licorice, biltong, citrus blossom and earth. I love the pure, savoury fruit core here, like a tube of black cherry and spice, travelling straight and true with fine tannin support and boundless energy. Great drinking.

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Wine Spectator (WS) : 92 Points (2023)

This dense, fragrant red leaps out of the glass with notes of mocha, blueberry preserves, toasted coconut and Saigon cinnamon. Offers espresso, toffee and cigar box elements, along with grace notes of sage, rosemary and pepper, all on a muscular and plump frame. Drink now through 2037.