

AUSTRALIA: BAROSSA VALLEY

In an age of immense growth and flux, the Barossa Valley remains the heart of Australian wine. Its signature is shiraz made in a bold, highly extracted style. These are superbly collectible examples of the wine that put Australia on the map in the first place.



BAROSSA VALLEY ESTATE E&E BLACK PEPPER SHIRAZ 2003

Sourced from only the best of the best of more than 70 growers throughout the region, E & E Black Pepper is a quintessential expression of spicy Barossa Valley fruit. Deep and rich with amazing depth of blackberry, it has excellent acid structure for long age-worthiness. \$85, www.bve.com.au

TORBRECK 2004 SHIRAZ THE FACTOR

From dry-farmed bush vines ranging in age from 80 to 110 years old, this showy Aussie powerhouse from relative newcomer David Powell is fleshy and spicy with deep, powerful fruit and loads of ripe berries, chocolate, and spice. \$105, www.torbreck.com

KAESLER 2004 SHIRAZ OLD BASTARD

This winery was started by Silesian immigrants in 1893, and this bottling is made from the original plantings, which now yield less than one ton of fruit per acre. Complex and huge but with amazing balance, it shows exquisite flavors and perfect fruit. \$135, www.kaesler.com.au or www.epicureanwines.com

CLARENDON HILLS 2004 ASTRALIS SYRAH

Lately, Roman Bratasiuk has toned down his signature massive, heavily extracted style a bit in the interest of achieving the "iron fist in a velvet glove" ideal. Sourced from vineyards planted in the 1930s, the Astralis syrah shows lovely oak notes and concentrated berry flavors with plenty of finesse. \$325, www.clarendonhills.com.au

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