

## **Ric Einstein- Torbwine Nov08**

### **Kurtz Family 2004 Lunar Block Shiraz**

The winery's flagship wine, it is only made in the best years. The grapes are sourced from 45-year-old handpicked vines and then basket pressed. The wine was matured for twenty nine months in new French oak. Most of the grapes from these vines regularly wind up in a wine that costs four times as much as the Lunar Block. Everyone should have hobby that produces something this good for the price.

The bouquet is inviting. Beautiful, clean fruit dominates the bouquet that is offset by spicy/smoky, vanillin oak characters. As it opened up, sweet fruit notes emerged. Pure, deeply-seated fruit is perfectly balanced to the fine tannins, and is lifted by bright acid. An interesting, contrasting flavour profile results from the plum, sour cherry, and sweet sarsaparilla flavours that finishes with reasonable length, and excellent persistence. There is a huge amount of fruit power for its muscular-weight. An ultra-tight, solid wine, that maintains some class, it demands time in the cellar, and this gorgeous baby is Rated as Highly Recommended with \*\*\*\*\* for value and easily completes with wine is selling at \$45, and more. The rating will improve as the wine enters its peak drinking window between 2012 and 2020. Sealed under cork, it's the best wine that Kurtz has produced and although it spent a long time in oak, it's well judged and under control.

### **Kurtz Family 2006 Seven Sleepers**

This wine is a blend of whatever Steve Kurtz can either grow that is excess to requirements for his top wines, borrow, or get his dirty hands on through other nefarious means. When the label was first released, it actually did contain seven varieties. In 2006, Steve was only able to get his grubby little paws on five varieties, and this wine is dominated by Shiraz 40%, Petit Verdot 25%, and Cabernet Sauvignon 23%.

The sweet and ripe bouquet is fruit driven, but there is some vanillin oak lurking amongst the dark berry fruit. The in-your-face fruit is adequately supported by unobtrusive tannins. Loads of sour cherry flavour is contrasted by herbal cabernet characters, and with plum and dark chocolate flavours added to the mix, there is an abundance of different flavours. An open, very-drinkable wine with excellent fruit intensity for its weight, it is approachable now, but will soften in the short term. Rated as Agreeable with \*\*\*\*\* for value; this wine is a complete rip-off at Ric's mates rates - that's ripping off the producer. You would be crazy if you didn't buy a case or two for every day drinking. This is one of the best value wines I have found this year. Sealed under screwcap.

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## **Steve Tanzer- International Wine Cellar (USA)**

### **2006 Kurtz Family Vineyards Seven Sleepers Red Wine Barossa Valley**

(40% Shiraz, 25% Petit Verdot, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Grenache and 5% Malbec) Ruby-red. Perfumed aromas of spicy red berries complicated by fresh rose, lavender, incense and cracked pepper. Clean and brisk on the palate, with sweet raspberry and baking spice flavours and an exotic floral pastille quality. Finishes with excellent spicy persistence and a strong echo of red fruit. **90**