Barolo 2009

The Nebbiolo grape, grown in Piedmont, has consistently produced great Barolo vintages, and there is none greater than the 2009, enthuses Ian D’Agata

BAROLO IS ONE of the world’s best wines and one of its most beautiful wine tourism destinations. The bucolic countryside located near the charming town of Alba in Piedmont, Italy, is blessed with a truly noble grape, Nebbiolo (which delivers full-bodied wines exuding unforgettable aromas of sour red cherries and red roses and that have noteworthy ageing potential), extreme site-specificity, hundreds of small, family-owned estates, and cuisine that rivals the best of Italy’s many regions. It’s not surprising that many believe Piedmont bears more than a passing resemblance to Burgundy.

Barolo wines have never been better, with a string of strong vintages in the first decade of the 21st century. The producers for the most part, a united bunch, greatly helped by institutions such as the Enoteca Regionale del Barolo and the local consorzio, both of which help promote the wine and the area. Witness the Menzioni Geografiche Aggiuntive (delimiting the individual vineyards), a rarity in Italy. Though the creation of the Menzioni has attracted some criticism (some are simply too large), everyone in Barolo can, largely, be happy with the result. The classification is not a quality scale of the single vineyards, but rather characterises the area in which a specific Barolo wine is made, a good idea given the geological variation of the production zone.

**Styles and trends**

The wines can be remarkably different: the two extremes are represented by the Barolos of La Morra and Barolo (earlier maturing, perfumed, less tannic), a world apart from those of Serralunga d’Alba and Monforte d’Alba (bigger, tougher, slower developing). The wines of Castiglione Falletto fall somewhere in between in style, and Barolos from Verduno, Roddi and Novello are different still. Current trends include an increasing number of small-production wineries as more enthusiasts try their hand at making Barolo, wines being aged in bigger oak casks or tonneaux (500-litre barrels) rather than barriques (225 litres), and a marked shift towards organic growing. Except for some limited-quantity collector items, prices are reasonable. An unfortunate development would be the further enlargement of the Barolo production zone: being very site-sensitive, Nebbiolo can give truly world-class, unique wines only in specific areas. There is already a chasm between wines made from the best sites of Monforte or Barolo and those made in Cherasco or Roddi.

The outstanding 2009 vintage (released this year) offers Barolos with plenty of early appeal, fun to taste even when young, though the best will age 30 years or more. The vintage qualifies as a warm-weather one, similar to 2007 – the wines have greater flesh than 2005 (but less perfume) and are less tannic than 2006. A minority are marred by vegetal notes and rough, unripe tannins, either because of the brief but extreme summer heat causing metabolic blockage in younger vines and those in sandier soil, or over-extraction. However, there are great wines to be had from virtually every Barolo sub-zone.

Ian D’Agata is the Decanter World Wine Awards Regional Chair for Piedmont.

**Barolo: know your vintages**

**2012** Good potential, but July hailstorms were a problem in some areas. Strong vineyard work a must.

**2011** Very hot and dry summer spell marks many wines. The best are powerful, but alcoholic.

**2010** Classic, balanced wines from a relatively cool growing season and late harvests. Probably the best long-term potential of wines from 2009–2012.

**2009** Fleshy, rich wines offer early accessibility. The best will easily age 20 years or more.

**2008** Classic vintage. Relatively cool growing season with less-massive wines than 2007 or 2004, but more balanced.

**2007** Warmer growing season and early harvest led to big, fleshy, faster-maturing wines. Less typical than 2008.

**2006** Warm year without extremes. Powerful but classic wines. Tannins can be tough and need plenty of time.

**2005** The most underrated Barolos of the 21st century. The best wines are pure and amazingly perfumed, surprisingly ageworthy and very great.

**Barolo: the facts**

- **DOC granted** 1966
- **DOCG granted** 1980
- **Grape variety** 100% Nebbiolo
- **Area under vine** 1,880 hectares in 2010
- **Annual production figures** 11,985,497 bottles in 2010 (11,277,673 bottles in 2006).
- **Minimum ageing requirement** Released three years after the vintage (two years in oak, one in bottle). Riserva wines require a minimum of five years’ ageing (three in oak).
The results

It was a warm year, but Barolo producers came up trumps in 2009, crafting wines that bowled our judges over with their drinkability, refinement and sheer deliciousness. Christelle Guibert reports

WITH MORE THAN 95% of wines recommended and nine Outstanding wines, the Barolo 2009s definitely impressed our judges. After two days of tasting, they were blown away by the quality of the wines. ‘I can’t remember having been to a Decanter tasting before where I saw such a high standard across the board,’ enthused Michael Garner. Indeed, judges deemed 2009 one of the best vintages in the last couple of decades.

Quite an achievement when you consider the vintage conditions. ‘It’s a great year, but a warm year,’ explained Ian D’Agata. ‘August was very hot and some vineyards underwent metabolic stress and blockage which can cause green and astringent tannins.’ Thankfully, with only a handful of these wines not recommended, consumers can feel confident in their purchase.

Paolo Basso noticed an evolution in winemaking style: ‘2009 was hot but the wines tasted prove that today, producers have a better understanding of their terroir and can master hot vintages, which wasn’t the case 10 years ago. The 2009s don’t display the characteristics of a hot year, which means Barolo producers had better control of the picking window.’

‘The La Morra wines were very accessible, aromatic, ripe and seductive’ Michael Garner

Communes were pretty consistent. Garner commented: ‘I’ve never seen such a clear-cut demonstration of the different styles of the main communes.’ The best were Barolo and La Morra. Garner felt the La Morra wines ‘were very accessible, aromatic, ripe, seductive and lovely’. Serralunga d’Alba, the darling of Barolo, was the most criticised. D’Agata explained ‘there is no kind way to say it, but producers’ skill level in Serralunga is not as high as in La Morra or Monforte. In the past, every producer wanted to buy grapes from Serralunga because they all knew it was the best commune for Nebbiolo. And as growers had no problem selling their grapes, they had no reason to make their own wines.’ Basso echoed this view: ‘Terroir is essential but it always comes back to the producers. Even a great terroir will not express itself in the glass without a producer who understands it.’

The tasters’ verdicts

Paolo Basso

Basso runs his own wine consultancy, Ceresio Vini, and is a familiar name on the sommelier competition circuit. He has won many awards, including Best Sommelier of Switzerland 1997 and Best Sommelier of Europe 2010. In addition, he has been the runner-up in the Best Sommelier of the World competition three times – in 2000, 2007 and 2010. In March this year, he finally won the title.

Basso’s verdict

‘After this amazing tasting of Barolo 2009, we can highlight two important facts: the high quality of the vintage and the increasing sensibility of the winemakers to the use of wood.

‘2009 is an outstanding vintage that has allowed producers to bring grapes to a high level of maturity. The balance between alcohol and acidity has given well-concentrated and harmonious wines with great personality. There is a lot of high-end wine from all villages, with an outstanding performance from the Cannubi vineyard in Barolo. One key fact of this vintage is the high maturity of the tannins, which allow wines to be drinkable in the short term, as well as having good ageing potential.

‘The other good news is the increasing sensibility of the winemakers to better calibrate the use of wood. The trend to use bigger barrels seems to be a good way for maturing Nebbiolo, which traditionally was aged in large botti in the past.

‘Definitely, Barolo producers are generally moving toward a high level of quality, improving their knowledge and integrating modern winemaking techniques with traditional methods.’

Ian D’Agata

Decanter World Wine Awards Regional Chair for Piedmont, D’Agata was named Italy’s Best Wine Journalist 2012 by the Comitato Grandi Cru d’Italia. He writes on Italy, Bordeaux and Canada for Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar, and is author of The Ecco Guide to the Best Wines of Italy and an annual, bilingual Guide to Excellence in Italian Wines. Co-director of the Rome International Wine School, he also lectures on Italian food and wine history for New York University.

D’Agata’s verdict

‘I do not recall ever taking part in a better panel tasting at Decanter. The quality of the wines was absurdly high overall, with bottle after bottle that was, at worse, very good, but with most superb and many downright outstanding, as shown by our very high scores. The 2009 vintage is a great one, and the wines are in the hot weather style of 2001 and 2007 – but due to good day-night temperature differentials, the vintage avoids the excessive traits of an unsuccessful year such as 2003.

‘It follows that the 2009s are fleshy, soft and offer plenty of early appeal: ideal for those who wish to know Barolo better or those turned off by the wine’s “monster tannins” reputation. The only wines that disappoint are those made with very young vines or in very sandy soils, as the strong heat of the summer caused some wines to have less than perfectly ripe tannins. Less successful wines (happily, a minority) are marred by a green streak and rough tannins. There were excellent wines made in all the various crus and townships – another plus.’
Garner praised the structure of wines in the
tasting: ‘They’re so well-balanced, they have a
bit of everything: beautiful structure, really
good acid, just the right amount of tannin, lovely
ripe fruit – delightful.’ D’Agata also described
them as ‘fleshy, charming and immediately
delicious,’ not typical of Barolo.

Surprisingly, the judges felt many wines were
drinking well already, though some would
improve over the next 10 to 15 years. D’Agata
elaborated: ‘The vintage will probably age
a little less well than 2001 and 1996, but it will age,
and there will be wines that are great for
beginners who see Barolo as a behemoth. With
2009, people have a chance to taste Barolo
when it’s fleshy and fun – a bonus for everyone:
restaurants, consumers and producers.’

Barolo has a reputation for being over oaked
but judges felt the use in 2009 was more
controlled. D’Agata found that in this tasting
those wines matured in big oak casks ‘that have
no sexy wood spice, no vanilla’, came out on top
– ‘the strength of the fruit came out first’, he
said. Basso added: ‘A decade ago, small
barriques were fashionable, and it’s nice to see
producers going back to traditional methods.

Garner summed up: ‘Classic Barolo is getting
better and better. The winemaking approach is
quite rightly being consistently refined and I
think we’ve hit a new high with 2009.’

Entry criteria:
Producers and UK
agents were invited
to submit Barolos
from the 2009
vintage, with a
maximum of one
wine per producer

Outstanding 18.5–20pts (95–100pts)

Virna, Cannubi Boschis, Barolo
Decanter average score: 19/20pts (96/100pts)
Individual judges’ scores: Paolo Basso 19 Ian D’Agata 19
Michael Garner 19

£36 colombier Vins Fins
Virna Borgogno graduated in 1991 from the oenology school in Alba, and
only 10 years later founded the estate that she runs with sister Ivana and
her husband, Giovanni Abrigo, a producer in Barbaresco. Their Cannubi
Boschis vines are roughly 45 years old, and the Barolo is made with short
10-day macerations on the skins at relatively high temperatures (30°C is
common). The classic Barolo is instead a blend of two vineyards from
Novello (Merli and Sottocastello), which means it is a more rigid, austere
wine with good age-worthiness. This is an up-and-coming estate that has a
tasting room right in the Barolo town centre, so it’s easy to visit.

Paolo Basso Balsamic notes of eucalyptus, anise, vanilla and sweet spices.
Rich, full bodied, with an expressive and savoury deep character. Very
long persistency.

Ian D’Agata Clean, fresh, but also rich and ripe red fruit. Real density and
long, with silky tannins. Great balance.

Michael Garner Intriguing nose of prunes, chocolate and cinnamon. Ripe,
fleshy and juicy, but with good balance. Understated structure with hugely
impressive length and definition.

Drink 2015–2025 Alcohol 14.5%

Brezza, Sarmasssa, Barolo 18.75 (95+) PB 18.5 ID 19 MG 18.5
£27.20–£45 Fine & Rare, Planet of the Grapes
The Brezza family owns a guest house in the heart of the town of Barolo,
which offers the traditional Piedmontese home cooking and excellent
wines. And though visitors shouldn’t miss out on the Santa Rosalia Freisa
(especially), the Dolcettos or Barbareas, it’s Barolo that rules here. Owner
Enzo Brezza’s best wine is usually the Sarmassa (although the Bricco
Sarmassa is the most famous bottling, made from the highest portion of
the cru). Along with Cannubi, Sarmassa is the most famous cru completely
within the Barolo township boundaries. Traditionally made, this wine
faithfully delivers the richer, bigger style typical of the cru.

PB Open aromas of redcurrant, white pepper and balsamic. Well-balanced
body showing a sumptuous, rich structure, and intense tannins.

ID Fresh, redcurrant fruit. Delightful, smooth, clean delivery of small red
berries and floral touches, but with sneaky concentration and impeccable
balance. Marvellous wine.

MG Pretty and perfumed, this is wonderfully scented. Roses and
redcurrants with an underlying richness, this shows a fine structure and
could develop as well.

Drink 2015–2023 Alc 14.5%
Barolo 2009

Outstanding (continued) 18.5–20pts (95–100pts)

Diego Conterno, Le Coste, Monforte d’Alba 18.75 (95+) PB 19 ID 18.5 MG 18.5
N/A UK www.diegoconto.it
Not to be confused with one of the other Conterno wine producers of the Monforte area, this estate’s wines only have a 10-year history or so. It is truly an estate to watch, as it’s admirably run by the father-and-son team of Diego and Stefano. They prefer to use 600-litre barrels, but use oak judiciously to avoid camouflaging the pure expression of Nebbiolo fruit as well as Monforte’s unique terroir. Le Coste is a well-known cru of Barolo, and Conterno’s vines are roughly 30 years old. 2014 will see this estate’s first bottling from the even more famous Ginestra cru.
PB Smoked aromas, liquorice. Round and harmonious, deep character and expressive personality with ripe and savoury tannins.
ID Fresh red cherry and raspberry, then a little astringent with still-youthful chewy tannins in need of plenty of time. Likely a slow bloomer, but ought to develop splendidly.
MG New oak notes of nutmeg and butterscotch over ripe fruit aromas. Round and ripe with spicy-toned fruit flavours, with great length and depth. Firmly structured, this will develop further.
Drink 2015–2025 Alc 14.5%

Pecchenino, Le Coste, Monforte d’Alba 18.75 (95+)
P19 ID 18.5 MG 19
N/A UK www.pecchenino.it
Orlando and Attilio Pecchenino are perhaps best known for outstanding Dolcetto di Dogliani (the Siri di’Jeru immediately comes to mind), but the rich Le Coste Barolo is also a standout. I have always found its bright red fruit and minty nuances irresistible, and in 2009 it also expresses considerable power. It’s a very traditionally made Barolo: the maceration can last up to 30 days with temperatures of 28°C, and it’s aged for 36 months in 25-hectolitre oak barrels. The San Giuseppe Barolo is usually lighter-styled and more graceful. This is certainly a very high-quality, innovative estate.
PB Blackcurrant, liquorice, aromatic herbs, cloves. Well-structured, with a savoury and deep character, well-integrated tannins and a long, expressive finish.
ID Pungently floral and vibrant, sour red cherry on the nose, then pure, long, silky tannins, offering a flinty minerality. A really lovely Barolo.
MG Fully developed nose of plums with capers and black pepper seasoning. Round and fleshy with liquorice-toned fruit flavours and spicy notes to the finish. Very good length and carefully managed tannins.
Drink 2015–2028 Alc 14%

Sobrero, Ciabot Tanasio, Castiglione Falletto 18.75 (95+) PB 18.5 ID 19 MG 19
£28–£39 Cozzi & Boffa Wines, Swig
Sobrero is a famous name in Castiglione Falletto as Violante Sobrero made some of the area’s best wines in the 1960s and 1970s, but this estate was founded by Francesco Sobrero in 1940. Today, third-generation Flavio Sobrero makes excellent, traditional wines. The Ciabot Tanasio Barolo is a blend of three vineyards, with average age ranging from five-year-old, recently replanted, Nebbiolo vines to 50-year-old vines located in a small section. The Pernanno is made from 60-year-old vines. Fifteen to 18 days of maceration at temperatures nearing 30°C give these wines plenty of air, for they are characterised by highly reductive, even animal, notes at first.
PB Herbs, cinnamon, ripe red cherries. Great personality with a full-bodied character and ripe, well-integrated tannins and a persistent finish.
ID Flinty and mineral on the nose, shows a nice red fruit-acid-tannin balance; a hint of game at the back for added complexity. Decant two hours ahead.
MG Slightly closed with notes of menthol, camphor and liquorice. Round and full with good texture. Good development of ripe fruit flavours backed up with decent acidity and fine tannins. Spreading finish with good aromatic development.
Drink 2014–2022 Alc 14.5%

Stefano Farina, La Morra 18.75 (95+) PB 19 ID 18.5 MG 19
N/A UK www.stefanofarinanini.it
Founded in the 1930s, this is a large producer with vineyard holdings and estates in many regions of Italy, including Tuscany’s Fattoria Le Bocce and Puglia’s Masseria La Rosa del Salice. In Piedmont, it makes wines both under the Stefano Farina and Franco Fiorina labels. Its Cascina La Traversa is located in Serra dei Turchi, the least-known sub-section of La Morra, and yet where extremely fine wines are made by numerous producers. This Barolo is traditionally made and aged in large oak casks. The Franco Fiorina brand is well known among wine lovers and collectors for having made some great Barolos in decades past, especially when winemaker Armando Cordero was working there. The 1982 is memorable, and the 1964 is just as good.
PB Sweet spices, walnuts and flowery aromas. Rich, well-balanced and expressive characters with round and powerful tannins.
ID Clean, fresh, pure aromas and flavours of delicately spicy red cherry, redcurrant and liquorice. Almost tart acidity on the back; smooth and acid, this is a lovely food wine with a great future.
MG Broad aromatic nose of smoky and spicy fruits, this is very promising. Balanced palate with developing fruit flavours of plum with a hint of liquorice and a lingering, aromatic finish.
Drink 2014–2023 Alc 14.5% ➤
DECANTER RECOMMENDED BAROLO 2009

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www.monchierovini.it
E: monchierovini@monchierovini.it

USA: Scoperta Importing Company, Cleveland Heights OH 44118
www.scopertaimports.com

Diego Conterno
www.diegocanterno.it
E: info@diegocanterno.it

Contact in Italy: Stefano Conterno
USA importer: Enosophy
www.enosophy.com

Ciabot Berton
www.ciabotterton.it
E: info@ciabotterton.it

UK: Vinexus, London N1
USA: Superior Wines - Specialty Cellars

Agricola Brandini
www.agricolabrandini.it
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Contact in Italy: Danila Chiotti
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Az Vit Paolo Conterno
www.paolocanterno.com
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UK: Bibendum Wine Ltd
www.bibendum-wine.co.uk
UK: Tanners Wine Merchants
www.tanners-wines.co.uk
UK: Decorum Vintners
www.decorumco.uk

Az Agr Borgogno Francesco
www.cantinaborgogno.com
E: info@cantinaborgogno.it

USA: Terroir Society Wines, Orinda, California
Mr Michael Wingate
Barolo 2009

Outstanding (continued) 18.5-20pts (95-100pts)

Fratelli Serio & Battista Borgogno, Cannubi, Barolo 18.5 (95) PB 18.5 ID 18.5 MG 18.5

N/A UK  www.borgognoseriebattista.it

Over 100 years and counting making wine, this estate is now run by Anna and Paola Borgogno, with the new generations (Federica and Emanuela, daughters of Anna and Paola respectively) starting work here in 2010 and 2011. Better still, the wines seem to be improving by leaps and bounds, welcome news since this is one of the largest estates with vineyard holdings in the prized Cannubi cru. Its vines in Cannubi range, roughly, from 15 to 35 years of age, and the wines are traditionally made, with cement and large oak casks dotting the cellar. Differently from this Cannubi Barolo bottling, the classic Barolo bottling is made with grapes from Novello and La Morra.

PB Nougat, raisins, grenadine and sweet spices. Rich and savoury, with character and an open personality. Intense tannins and medium to long finish.

ID Clean, fresh with hints of pomegranate, star fruit, red cherry and plum on the complex nose. Clean and polished at first, but then turns increasingly dry and tannic on the back, so this needs plenty of food to tame those tannins.

MG Forward and spicy nose of chestnut and sugar plum. This wine is round, ripe, full and juicy with great aromatic development, well-balanced tannins and good length.

Drink 2015-2024 Alc 14.5%

Rocche dei Manzoni, Vigna Cappella di Santo Stefano, Monforte d’Alba 18.5 (95) PB 18.5 ID 18.75 MG 18.5

£68 (2008) Decorum Vintners, Pipai

Founded in 1976 by Valentino Migliorini (Rodolfo Migliorini runs things today), who quickly made a name for himself with very impressive wines. Always an innovator, Valentino was one of the first to successfully make a sparkling wine by secondary fermentation in the bottle (still considered one of the best in Piedmont) and he innovated with oak regimes for Barolo too. The Cappella di Santo Stefano Barolo differs from other sites owned by the estate – it’s a sandy, generally southwest-facing site rich in minerals, located in the Perno sub-section of Monforte. It’s characterised by smoother, rounder tannins and less power than the Big’D Big Barolo.

PB Very seducing nose of violet, roses, sweet spices and blackcurrant. Rich, harmonious and well-extracted, it displays great personality and well-integrated, refined tannins. Long finish.

ID Decadently ripe red cherry, raspberry jam and strawberry liqueur on the nose. Then smooth and sweet, red berry and cherry flavours that last and last, spiced up by aromatic nuances. A deceptively easy-to-drink wine despite 36 months in oak – I would never have guessed.

MG An aromatic style, attractively round and ripe with good oak integration. Plush mouthfeel with juicy, ripe and forward fruit flavours. Understated structure with oak coming through on the finish. Something of a crowd-pleaser, but a fine, balanced finish.

Drink 2015-2035 Alc 14%

Serradenari, La Morra 18.5 (95) PB 18.5 ID 18.5 MG 18.5

£34.90 Vinitalian

Serradenari is located in the highest part of the La Morra production zone and is quite a new estate – 10 years ago the main building hadn’t yet been finished. Back then the wines showed promise and here in this great wine we see further proof of the characteristic La Morra delicacy and refinement. Owned by the Diatto-Negri family since the late 19th century and run today by Giovanni Negri, all Serradenari wines are competently made and inexpensive. This Barolo is born from vines growing between 470m and 530m above sea level and is proclaimed to be the ‘world’s highest Barolo’.

PB Intense nose of roses, violet, sweet spices and walnuts. Rich, savoury, expressive character with well-integrated, ripe tannins.

ID Simpley ripe cherry, candied violet and mint. A dense but easy-going Barolo with plenty of early appeal; lovely.

MG Ripe, spicy and smoky with good fruit aromas. Fresh and juicy with aniseed-toned fruit flavours and aromas. Firm structurally but certainly has the potential to improve even further.

Drink 2014-2022 Alc 14.5% ≥

‘2009 was hot but these wines prove that producers today have a better understanding of their terroir and can master hot vintages, which wasn’t the case 10 years ago’ Paolo Basso
Highly Recommended 17-18.25pts (90–94pts)

Damilano, Cannubi, Barolo
18.25 (94) PB 18.5 ID 18.25 MG 18
£39 (2008) Bordeaux Index
Hay and prunes. Ripe cherries, cloves and cinnamon. Rich, full-bodied with great personality, persistent aromas, chocolatey tones, along with ripe and savoury tannins. Drink 2013–2022 Alc 14.5%

Luigi Pira, Marenca, Barolo
18.25 (94) PB 18 ID 18.25 MG 18.5
£49 (2008) Fine & Rare
Balsamic aromas of pine, anise, cinnamon, camphor, plum, violets and roses. Rich, round with an expressive body. Clean and fresh, with peppery tannins at the back, but finishes long and pure. Drink 2015–2024 Alc 14.5%

Sylla Sebastae, Bussia, Monforte d'Alba
18.15 (93) PB 18.5 ID 17.5 MG 18
N/A UK www.syllasebastae.com
Oakly and spicy with exotic fruit notes of papaya and loganberries. Big, full, ripe and luscious with fleshy, dark fruit flavours. Powerful, ripe tannins and a long and tasty finish. Drink 2014–2022 Alc 14%

Bussia Soprana, Vigna Colonello, Monforte d'Alba
17.75 (92) PB 17.5 ID 18 MG 17.5
N/A UK www.bussiasoprana.it
Flinty, mineral, very floral and with sweet, chocolate-covered cranberries. Round, ripe and spreading flavours on the palate. Good development of flavour and a good structure. Long, aromatic finish. This will develop. Drink 2015–2025 Alc 14%

Ciabot Berton, Rocchettevino, La Morra
17.75 (92) PB 16.5 ID 18.5 MG 18
£26 Vinexus
Beautifully perfumed and refined with an open and expressive nose, showing aromas of ripe cherry, ginger and toasted coffee. Big and powerful but finishes long and pure with hints of tar. Lovely, textbook Barolo. Drink 2014–2024 Alc 14.5%

Ferdinando Principiano, Serralunga d'Alba
17.75 (92) PB 17 ID 18 MG 18
£30 Define, Italian Continental Stores, Quaff, Secret Cellar, The Sampler, Tria Wines, Vineking
Intense aromas of fresh strawberries, raspberries and black pepper. Good intensity and extraction with flavours of exotic herbs, plus red and black fruits; really lovely purity of fruit. Drink 2013–2028 Alc 14%

Filippo Broccardo & Filii, Monforte d'Alba
17.75 (92) PB 18 ID 17.5 MG 17.5
N/A UK www.broccardo.it
Spicy oak aromas of vanilla and liquorice. Fresh and rich on the palate at first, then smooth and balanced. Very pure red fruit and polished (though still chewy) tannins. Needs time. Drink 2015–2030 Alc 14.5%

Francesco Rinaldi & Figli, Cannubbio, Barolo
17.75 (92) PB 18.5 ID 17.25 MG 17.5
£44.50 Astrum
Ripe strawberries, sweet spices, cinnamon. Fleshy, ripe and full with notes of aniseed and cherry. Big, ripe and full with a good structure; finishes smoothly. Drink 2014–2022 Alc 14%

Oddero, Rocche di Castiglione, Castiglione Falletto
17.75 (92) PB 17.5 ID 17.5 MG 18
POA Pipai
Vanilla, sweet spices, liquorice, with hints of porcini and marzipan, plus ripe, red cherry jam. Big, ripe and fleshy with concentrated black fruit flavours overlaid with leather and oak notes. Good balance and persistence. Drink 2014–2025 Alc 14.5%

Renato Corino
17.75 (92) PB 18 ID 17.5 MG 17.5
£32 Fine & Rare, Swig
Spiced, ripe and expressive nose. Fresh, long, lively and pretty, with vibrant aromas and flavours of red fruits and herbs, displaying fine concentration, balance and length. Drink 2013–2022 Alc 14.5%

Rivetto, Serralunga d'Alba
17.75 (92) PB 18 ID 18 MG 17
£34 Ellys of Richmond
Seductive notes of violets, dried roses, cinnamon and cherries under the alcohol. Sweet, rich and fleshy but with Serralunga tannins, this succeeds where others fail in that it has larger amounts of rich, ripe fruit as well. Drink 2015–2028 Alc 14.5%

Ca' Bianca
17.5 (91) PB 18 ID 18 MG 16.5
£30 eiv.uk
Very persistent and open aromas of violet. Very oaky and spicy with promising red and black fruit aromas. Wonderfully rich and dense with ripe red cherry liqueur and cinnamon nuances. Drink 2015–2030 Alc 14%
Highly Recommended (continued) 17-18.25pts (90-94pts)

**Ca’ Rome’, Rapet, Serralunga d’Alba**
17.5 (91) PB 16.5 ID 17.5 MG 18.5
N/A UK www.carome.com
Round and spicy with notes of blueberry and cinnamon and a savoury edge. Full, upfront flavours of plum and liquorice. Another tannic behemoth from Serralunga, with enough fruit to buffer the tannic clout. **Drink 2015-2026** Alc 15%

**Cascina Bongiovanni, Pernanno, Castiglione Falletto**
17.5 (91) PB 17.5 ID 17.5 MG 17.5
£31.50 Colasanti
Bordino nose of dark plum, hot rocks, tobacco and underbrush. Big, luscious and juicy with impressive depth of ripe fruit flavours. Balanced and long with fine tannins. **Drink 2015-2026** Alc 15%

**Conterno Fantino, Sori Ginestra, Monforte d’Alba**
17.5 (91) PB 17.5 ID 18 MG 17
£57.50 Carruthers & Kent, Enotria,
Great Western Wine
Milk chocolate and blackcurrant with notes of green pepper. Perfumed, clean nose, very pure then laser-like acidity and pristine red fruit and mineral flavours. Great stuff, hard to put the glass back down. **Drink 2014-2025** Alc 14.5%

**Fontanafredda, Serralunga d’Alba**
17.5 (91) PB 18 ID 17 MG 17.5
£22.60–£31 Enotria, Fine & Rare,
Great Western Wine
Very spicy with a note of meat extract, sweet tobacco, smoke, blackcurrant, cloves. Savoury, full-bodied, harmonious with a noble character. Ripe and round tannins, with a long finish. **Drink 2013-2025** Alc 14%

**Giacomo Grimaldi, Le Coste, Monforte d’Alba**
17.5 (91) PB 17.5 ID 17.5 MG 17.5
£49.99 Pipai
Delicate nose with red cherries and spiced notes. Intense and well-extracted. Full, plummy, upfront fruit flavours, this is no blockbuster but poised and precise. An outstanding wine. **Drink 2014-2022** Alc 14.5%

**Gian Piero Marrone, Pichemej, La Morra**
17.5 (91) PB 17.5 ID 18.5 MG 16.5
N/A UK www.agricolamarone.com
Fresh, very balanced, with almost decadently ripe red cherry, marzipan and cinnamon on the nose. Savoury, intense and tasty mid-palate with rich and ripe tannins, and a fleshy, smooth back-palate. Great stuff. **Drink 2015-2023** Alc 14.5%

**Le Cecche, Sorano, Serralunga d’Alba**
17.5 (91) PB 17.5 ID 16.75 MG 18
£38 Oeno
Great nose of cloves, blackcurrant, black pepper and fresh plums. Round and juicy, harmonious. Excellent balance and length. Understated and elegant. **Drink 2013-2025** Alc 14.5%

**Manzone Giovanni, Castelletto, Monforte d’Alba**
17.5 (91) PB 18 ID 17.5 MG 17
£31 Lay & Wheeler
Ripe blackcurrant, strawberry jam, anise. Intense and harmonious palate with concentrated fruit flavours, though little development as yet. Rich, powerful and muscular – needs time to improve. **Drink 2015-2026** Alc 14.5%

**Massolino, Parafada, Serralunga d’Alba**
17.5 (91) PB 16.5 ID 17.5 MG 18.5
£68.99 Liberty Wines
Black chocolate, cloves, pomegranate. Big, powerful and spicy, loads of fruit with notes of liquorice and anise. Well-balanced palate with good freshness and structure. **Drink 2014-2025** Alc 14%

**Poderi Luigi Einaudi, Costa Grimaldi, Barolo**
17.5 (91) PB 17.5 ID 17.5 MG 17.5
£35.20 (2007)–£50.95 Lea & Sandeman,
Try Wines
Blueberries, black pepper and cloves. Rich, savoury and imposing body with ripe and well-integrated tannins. Full, balanced and intense with elements of bark and spice. Good length. **Drink 2015-2026** Alc 14.5%

**San Biagio, Sori’ del Rovere, La Morra**
17.5 (91) PB 17 ID 17.25 MG 18
£27.89 Natura Amore
Charming with floral red fruits and camphor. Round, ripe and fleshy with sweet red fruit flavours and a spreading aromatic finish. This has great balance, is very floral in style and very La Morrese. **Drink 2013-2022** Alc 14%

**Silvio Grasso, Brico Luciani, La Morra**
17.5 (91) PB 18 ID 18 MG 16.5
N/A UK www.silviograsso.com
Balsamic and spiced nose with aromas of anise, eucalyptus and cinnamon. Rich, savoury, tasty and with a deep personality. A very long and intense finish. **Drink 2015-2025** Alc 14%
**Highly Recommended 17-18.25pts (90–94pts)**

**Vietti, Castiglione, Castiglione Faletto**
17.75 (91) PB 17 ID 17.55 MG 17.5
£40.49 Bibendum
Full, ripe and intense nose of some power. Big, round and juicy with spicy-toned plum and cherry flavours. Lovely balance and lovely fruit, with promise of more to come. **Drink 2015–2026** Alc 14.2%

**Bosco Agostino, La Serra, La Morra**
17.25 (90+) PB 16.5 ID 17 MG 18
N/A UK www.barolobosco.com
Pure, penetrating, lovely floral lift, then more licorice and underbrush. Fleshy and ripe with exotic fruit notes, understated structure with forward, ripe tannins and lovely aromas – very La Morrese. **Drink 2015–2022** Alc 14.5%

**Bovio, Gattera, La Morra**
17.25 (90+) PB 18 ID 16.75 MG 17
POA Decorum Vintners
Open and seductive nose of flowers and spices. Intense, round and deep structure. Rich, ripe and forward with a good texture. Strong new oak (and gentle spice) to finish, but balanced. **Drink 2013–2025** Alc 14.5%

**Ceretto, Prapò, Serralunga d’Alba**
17.25 (90+) PB 18.5 ID 17 MG 16.5
£52 Fine & Rare, Vinexus
Intense aromas of violet, red cherries, black chocolate and cinnamon. Rich, savoury, intense taste and great personality, with round, ripe tannins and a long and tasty finish. **Drink 2013–2028** Alc 14.5%

**Claudio Alario, Sorano, Serralunga d’Alba**
17.25 (90+) PB 17 ID 17.25 MG 17.5
N/A UK www.alarioclaudio.it
Notes of caramel, overripe raspberries and milk chocolate. Sweet, long, balanced and bright on the finish; like a liquid, mint-accented cherry pie. **Drink 2014–2025** Alc 14.5%

**Costa di Bussia, Tenuta Arnulfo, Monforte d’Alba**
17.25 (90+) PB 17.5 ID 16.5 MG 17.5
N/A UK www.costadbussia.com
Walnuts, smoke, mushrooms, leather and aromatic herbs. Full and rich with impressively solid texture. Developed fruit flavours with strong spicy notes and a long-lasting finish. **Drink 2015–2028** Alc 14%

**Dacapo, Serralunga d’Alba**
17.25 (90+) PB 17 ID 17 MG 18
£28.70 (2008) Vinothentic
Ripe notes of crème brûlée, strawberry and plum with a hint of mint. Ripe and plush with mineral, cherry pit and underbrush flavours. Leave this in the cellar for another eight or 10 years. **Drink 2013–2035** Alc N/A

**Deltetto, Sistaglia, Monforte d’Alba**
17.25 (90+) PB 16 ID 18 MG 17.5
£30 Liberty Wines
Intense aromas of blackcurrant, strawberries and sweet spices. Rich, intense and powerful body, with mounting tannins. Elements of real excitement here, but will take time to knit together. **Drink 2014–2028** Alc 14.5%

**Fratelli Savigliano, La Morra**
17.25 (90+) PB 17 ID 16 MG 19
N/A UK www.savigliano.it
Exotic nose of ripe tropical fruits; scented and powerful. Very well-structured, it displays a rich mid-palate with young, quite ripe and intense tannins. Harmonious, great length and presence. **Drink 2013–2022** Alc 14.5%

**Germano Ettore, Cerretta, Serralunga d’Alba**
17.25 (90+) PB 16.5 ID 17 MG 18
£42.50 Astrum
Persistent nose of strawberries, blueberries, sweet spices and slightly smoky. Attractive palate with full, juicy, dark fruit flavours. Lovely structure and well done. Tough at the moment but the high-quality tannins are buffered by lovely fruit. **Drink 2015–2025** Alc 14.5%

**Giacomo Fenocchio, Bussia, Monforte d’Alba**
17.25 (90+) PB 17.5 ID 18 MG 16.5
£35.99 Armit
Youthful, full, spicy and powerful nose. Red cherries, strawberries and fresh plums with milk-chocolate notes. Well-balanced and harmonious with a distinguished personality and well-integrated tannins. **Drink 2014–2028** Alc 14%

**Gianfranco Alessandria, San Giovanni, Monforte d’Alba**
17.25 (90+) PB 18 ID 17.5 MG 16.5
£49.99 The Winery
Intense aromas of blackcurrant, raspberry, roasted peppers and oriental spices. Round and velvety, it displays a strong character and well-integrated, intense tannins that support a long finish. **Drink 2014–2024** Alc 14.5%
Highly Recommended 17-18.25pts (90–94pts)

Giovanni Rosso, Serralunga d’Alba
17.25 (90+) PB 16 ID 18 MG 18
£28.50 Berry Bros & Rudd
Rich, smoky and chocolatey. Full, round and juicy palate with good development of rich fruit flavours. Balanced structure and long, lingering finish. Impressive. Drink 2014–2028 Alc 14.5%

Mauro Molino, Vigna Conca, La Morra
17.25 (90+) PB 19 ID 17 MG 15.5
£48.75 Champagnes & Châteaux
Elegant and expressive nose of white pepper, cinnamon and ripe cherries. Very floral plus a hint of nutty new oak. Brown spices and red fruit, with an intense, tasty finish. Drink 2013–2025 Alc 14.5%

Monchiero, Rocche di Castiglione Falletto, Castiglione Falletto
17.25 (90+) PB 17.5 ID 17.5 MG 17
N/A UK www.monchieroini.it
Balsamic, sweet spices, black pepper and red cherries. Full and fleshy with good, rich fruit flavours. Clean, fresh, very pure with a long floral lift and mineral energy. Lovely. Drink 2014–2022 Alc 14.5%

Palladino, Ornato, Serralunga d’Alba
17.25 (90+) PB 18.5 ID 17 MG 16.5
£42.99 The Winery
Intense and typical nose of cloves, cinnamon, violet and red cherries. Quite plush in the mouth with well-balanced oak and fair structure. Long, well-modulated finish with good potential for development. Drink 2015–2025 Alc 14.5%

Paolo Conterno, Ginestra, Monforte d’Alba
17.25 (90+) PB 17 ID 17.5 MG 17
£44 (2007) Decorum Vintners
Rich, ripe, long, mineral and pure. Full and tannic, powerful in body, with impressive concentration but little development as yet. Well-structured so should develop. Drink 2015–2025 Alc 14.5%

Paolo Manzone, Merlame, Serralunga d’Alba
17.25 (90+) PB 17.5 ID 16 MG 18.5

Poderi Colla, Dardi Le Rose, Bussia, Monforte d’Alba
17.25 (90+) PB 17 ID 17 MG 17.5
£30 Boutinot
Perfumed nose of plums with cedar and spice tones, plus a hint of chocolate. Full, ripe and luscious with well-developed fruit flavours. Gamey and rich, balanced and long. Drink 2014–2025 Alc 14%

Prunotto, Bussia, Monforte d’Alba
17.25 (90+) PB 16 ID 17.5 MG 18.5
£42.20–£58.99 widely available via UK agent Berkman
Aromatic herbs, spices, green pepper, cloves. Sweet, easy-going, clean delivery of red berry and orange peel aromas and flavours. Long and precise finish with exceptional balance. Drink 2013–2020 Alc 13.5%

Rocche Costamagna, Rocche dell’Annunziata, La Morra
17.25 (90+) PB 17.5 ID 17.75 MG 16.5
£24–£29 Majestic, Private Cellar
Intense and open nose, with a structured and rich, quite supple palate. Intense and balanced finish. An exuberantly fruity Barolo, with red fruit-cocktail qualities. Drink 2013–2022 Alc 14%

San Silvestro, Patres, Barolo
17.25 (90+) PB 17 ID 17 MG 18
£22 Cozzi & Boffa Wines
Smoky and toasted aromas of coffee, cassis, cloves, black chocolate and green pepper. Ripe, full and fleshy. A long, savoury finish with peppery aromas. Drink 2014–2022 Alc 14.5%

Schiavenza, Cerretta, Serralunga d’Alba
17.25 (90+) PB 17 ID 17 MG 17.5
POA Dudley-Jones Fine Wine, HS Fine Wines
Seductive and noble aromas of ripe plums, sweet spices and Dahlia. Rich, well-extracted, showing a lovely structure with balanced but firm tannins and a lingering, aromatic finish. Drink 2015–2026 Alc 15%

Andrea Oberto, Vigneto Brunate, La Morra
17 (90) PB 17 ID 18 MG 16
£44.30–£63.75 Fine & Rare, Lea & Sandeman
Toasty and oaky with a charred, smoky quality. Coffee and cocoa complement red cherry and tobacco. Rich, dense and ripe, this has brown spice nuances typical of a Brunate and a balsamic, tobacco tone. Drink 2015–2022 Alc 14.5%
Decanter PANEL TASTING

Highly Recommended (continued) 17-18.25pts (90-94pts)

Aurelio Settimo, Rocche dell’Annunziata, La Morra
17 (90) PB 16 ID 17.75 MG 17
£35 Waterloo Wine Co
Intense, flowery, quite modern nose with aromas of sweet tobacco and strawberries. Big, rich, deep wine, showing menthol, dark cherry, plum and sweet spices. Needs time. Drink 2015-2025 Alc 14%

Battaglio, Monforte d’Alba
17 (90) PB 16.5 ID 17.5 MG 17
N/A UK www.battaglio.com
Crème brûlée nose with red and black fruit aromas. Fresh, long, pure and floral with lovely red berry and pomegranate juice notes, plus mint and red cherry. Very Monforte. Drink 2015-2028 Alc 14%

Borgogno Francesco, Vigneti Brunate, La Morra
17 (90) PB 17 ID 16.5 MG 17.5
N/A UK www.cantinaborgogno.com
Intense and expressive nose of nougat, spices and violets. Full palate with ripe, soft fruit flavours and a hint of liquorice. Well-balanced and long. Drink 2015-2025 Alc 14.6%

Bric Cenciurio, Coste di Rose, Barolo 17 (90) PB 17 ID 17.25 MG 16.5
N/A UK www.barolodibarolo.com
Cedary, sweet and sour nose with strong notes of black pepper, tobacco, vanilla and sweet spices. Dense, full and ripe with burly but ripe tannins, this has presence and length. Drink 2015-2024 Alc 14.5%

Cascina Ballarin, Bricco Rocca, La Morra 17 (90) PB 17 ID 17 MG 17
POA Jascots
Spicy, sweet aromas and flavours of red cherry, underbrush and a touch of old leather. Round, ripe and juicy with liquorice and cherry flavours. Bold fruit flavours with balanced structure and good length. Drink 2013-2022 Alc 14.5%

Gianni Gagliardo
17 (90) PB 17 ID 17 MG 17
N/A UK www.gagliardo.it
Intense aromas of spiciness, violet and blackberries. Round and ripe-tasting, medium-bodied with good length. Spicy aromatic finish with notes of clove and camphor. Drink 2015-2025 Alc 14.5%

La Fusina, Monforte d’Alba
17 (90) PB 18 ID 16 MG 17
POA Pipai
Incense, smoky and fruity aromas of black berries and red cherries and plums. Impressive youthful freshness and verve with good concentration and balance. Again, will take time to develop but very promising at this stage. Drink 2014-2022 Alc 15%

Luigi Oddero, La Morra & Castiglione Falletto
17 (90) PB 17 ID 16.25 MG 17.5
£33.95 (2008) Berry Bros & Rudd
Very ripe nose of red cherries, strawberries, beetroot and nougat. Attractive, intense redcurrant fruit flavours. Lots of seasoned oak with good acid and balance. Quite stylish and very individual. Drink 2014-2022 Alc 14.5%

Marchesi di Barolo, Cannubi, Barolo 17 (90) PB 17 ID 17 MG 17
£35 (2007) Try Wines
Oak with a strong cassis note, plus a touch of cedar. Sweet spices, ripe strawberries and red cherries. Harmonious structure yet with currently big, dense, rich, chewy, serious tannins. Drink 2015-2028 Alc 14.5%

Silvano Bolmida, Bussia, Monforte d’Alba 17 (90) PB 16 ID 17 MG 18
£28.95 Bancroft, Savage Selection
Fresh herbs, green wood, fresh plums. Ripe, scented and succulent. Full, juicy palate with impressive, rich plum and anise flavours. Excellent balance and length with plenty of life ahead. Drink 2014-2022 Alc 14.5%

Terre del Barolo 17 (90) PB 16.5 ID 17.5 MG 17
£18.69 Han slope Wines
Broad and aromatic. Pure, penetrating, perfumed aromas of rose and sweet spices; sour red cherry follows. Excellent on the slightly austere finish with lovely balance. Drink 2013-2025 Alc 14%

‘Many of the smaller producers gave a good account of themselves, which bodes well for Barolo’s future’

Michael Garner
Recommended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wine</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Tasting note</th>
<th>Alc</th>
<th>Drink</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Stockists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruna Grimaldi, Badarina,</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Rippe plums, spicy, rich. Rich and well-extracted with a tasty palate. Clean, fresh, long, a very young wine that needs plenty of time.</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.grimaldibruna.it">www.grimaldibruna.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serralunga d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Intense and persistent opened nose: chocolate, clove, balsamic aromas. Full palate with good balance. Spicy and long.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.brunadebardi.it">www.brunadebardi.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavesana, Ollo</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.25</td>
<td>Intense and expressive nose of spiciness and wild fruit. Round and ripe with good texture and impressive aromas to finish.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cavesana.it">www.cavesana.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cappelli, Belotto</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.25</td>
<td>Ripe cherries, sweet spices, coffee, cinnamon and blueberries. Surprising breadth of flavour and aroma with good spicy notes to finish.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cappelli.it">www.cappelli.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordero di Montezemolo, Monfalletto, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Intense and persistent opened nose: chocolate, clove, balsamic aromas. Full palate with good balance. Spicy and long.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.corderodimontezemolo.it">www.corderodimontezemolo.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Perfumed, long and clean. Balanced, juicy and fresh; very La Morra in its delicate delivery of pristine floral and red cherry aromas.</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamorra.it">www.lamorra.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fratelli Alessandria, Monvigliero, Verdundo</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Spiced notes of cloves, green pepper and ripe strawberries, hint of truffle. Redcurrant and red cherry, enlivened by a touch of sweet brown spices.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fratellipiemontesi.it">www.fratellipiemontesi.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giulia Negri, La Tartufala, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sweet, clean, lively ripe black and red fruit syrup. Very intense body with a lot of mature and well-integrated tannins. Long and savoury finish.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.giulianeigrillami.it">www.giulianeigrillami.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcarini, Brunate, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>Open and seductive nose of dried roses, violet and spices. Round and juicy with pretty fruit flavours and good intensity of flavour.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.marcarini.it">www.marcarini.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliverio Mario, Bricco Rocca, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pear and featuring dark red fruit aromas and flavours. Needs time.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oliveriowine.com">www.oliveriowine.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelassa, Verdundo</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Complex aromas of violet, black berries, spices and a smoky note. Clean and fresh, with crunchy red fruit, though perhaps lacking in depth.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pelassa.com">www.pelassa.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarpa, Tettemera, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ripe nose with balsamic notes, anise, sweet spices and dried flowers. Slightly reduced at first, then fresher with silky tannins and lingering red fruit aromas.</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>The Wineery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simone Scalletta, Chirlet, Monteforte d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ripe, sweet and sour nose with spicy notes. Balanced toast oak. Very clean, comes across as a little skeletal. Think Modigliani, rather than Rubens.</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Bianca Trading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barale Fratelli, Bussia, Monforte d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Impressive nose of blackcurrant, fresh red cherries, smoky aromas. Ripe, round and full with quite concentrated fruit flavours.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.baralebarolo.it">www.baralebarolo.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantina della Porta Rossa, Biij, Roddi</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Initially closed down and hard as nails in typical Roddi fashion, then opens to reveal moderately intense red cherry and violet aromas and flavours.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.portorroas.it">www.portorroas.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascina Chico, Rocche di Castelletto, Monforte d'Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>Intense nose of liquorice, anise, blackcurrant and strawberries, finishing with spicy apricot jam and orange peel notes.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cascinachico.com">www.cascinachico.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cogno, Ravera, Novello</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Walnuts, ripe plums, ink and black pepper. Medium-weight palate with some development of flavour. Complexity, but a twinge of bitterness on the back.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ravera.it">www.ravera.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dezzani, San Carlo, Verdundo</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Intense nose of black pepper, black cherries and spices. Still closed and hard as nails right now, but promising.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dezzani.it">www.dezzani.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Strette, Bergera Ponzello, Novello</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Scented and spicy aromas of plum, anise and nutmeg. Touch of new oak, peppery spice finish, long and fresh.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.istrette.com">www.istrette.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Marengo, Brunate, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Gently aromatic nose of blackcurrant and violet but balanced palate with good fruity notes in the finish.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Justerini &amp; Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paolo Scavino, Monvigliero, Verdundo</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cinnamon, ripe raspberries, cherries and white pepper. Elegant and harmonious, medium to full-bodied, soft tannins and pleasant finish.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.piave.it">www.piave.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plazza, Novello</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Liquorice, anise and blackcurrant. Well-structured and savoury. Austere, tight but precise wine, with a clean, fresh, peppery finish.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.piavino.it">www.piavino.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podere Ruggeri Corsini, Bussia Corsini, Monteforte d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Big, warm and ripe with tight and focused fruit. Balanced and elegant with a lingering, aromatic finish.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Justerini &amp; Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renato Ratti, Rocche</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Noble nose of dried plums, blackcurrant, black cherries. Minty and balsamic hints that tie in with attention to red and dark cherry aromas and flavours.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.renatocelli.it">www.renatocelli.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scopu Enolologico Alba, Castello, Grinzane Cavour</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Balanced nose of good depth and concentration - sweet and rosy. Rich, ripe and polished with a touch of finishing heat and mounting tannins.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Australia’s, The Sunday Times Wine Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sordo, Perno, Monforte d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Very sweet and polished then tarry and oily, but stays balanced throughout.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sordowine.it">www.sordowine.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenuta Rocca, Monforte d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Crushed strawberries, milky, sweet spices. Rich and powerful, full and ripe with a heavy oak overlay.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.deconinckwinemakers.com">www.deconinckwinemakers.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascheri, Sorano, Serralunga d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Good intensity with aromas of fresh strawberries, cloves and sweet spices. Big but balanced palate with soft fruit flavours backed up by savoury notes.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Corbett &amp; Kent, Great Western Wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baitaolo, Vigneto Cerequio, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sweet, upfront fruit with cherry aromas and a hint of spice. Supple and round with a deep and intense savoury structure.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Mondial Wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boasso, Gabutti</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Cinnamon, violet, pomegranate, ink. Rich, savoury, intense and well-extracted, ripe, round tannins, intense and long finish.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gabuttiboasso.com">www.gabuttiboasso.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campano</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sweet oriental spices, cinnamon and incense. Balanced, ripe and round with a deep and intense savoury structure.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.campano.it">www.campano.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casella, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Vanilla, sweet spices, balsamic nose, intense, rich and savoury, with liquorice tobacco and leather on the palate.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Anthony Byrne, Bellini, La Botin Win</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franco M Martinetti, Marasco, Serralunga d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Intensely perfumed, fruity wine, with irresistible cinnamon-coated red cherries and mulled wine aromas. Rich, powerful and well-extracted.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.francomartinetti.it">www.francomartinetti.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gianni Voerzio, La Serra, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Spicy and flowery nose with vegetable touch. Quite ripe and full with juicy cassis fruit. Decent structure and length, but typical.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Morts &amp; Spencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauro Veglio, Gattera, La Morra</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Open and expressive nose of dried flowers, sweet spices and cloves. Bright, floral, spicy red cherry and raspberry fruit.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>The Winey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paolo Monti</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Coffee, black chocolate, aromatic herbs, black pepper. Black fruits and aniseed. Round and balanced with some depth of ripe black fruits.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>British Airways Wine Club, Laithwaite’s, The Sunday Times Wine Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parusso, Bussia, Monforte d’Alba</td>
<td>16.75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Black chocolate, crushed raspberries and a light vegetal touch. Enters sweet and ripe, with a red berry-juice quality, then increasingly leafy and autumnal.</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.parusso.com">www.parusso.com</a></td>
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## Recommended (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wine</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>PB</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>MG</th>
<th>Alc</th>
<th>Drink</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Stockists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pio Cesare</td>
<td>16.25</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2023</td>
<td>£48</td>
<td>Whitebridge Wines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricola Brandini, Brandini</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.agricolabrandini.com">www.agricolabrandini.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alasia</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamonasterudella.it">www.lamonasterudella.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barone Ricasoli, Cannubi</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.licito.com.it">www.licito.com.it</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casiscia del Monastiero, Bricco Luciani, La Morra</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.casiscia.it">www.casiscia.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caste Viu</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamolinari.it">www.lamolinari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceselli, Rocche dell'Annunziata</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamolinari.it">www.lamolinari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giacosa Fratteli, Bussola, Monteforte d’Alba</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamolinari.it">www.lamolinari.it</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gigi Rosso, risorgente</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gigironero.com">www.gigironero.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icardi, Parej</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamolinari.it">www.lamolinari.it</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raineri, Monferrato, Monferrato d’Alba</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamolinari.it">www.lamolinari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberto Sarotto, Audace</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamolinari.it">www.lamolinari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terre di Vigna, Essenze</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lamolinari.it">www.lamolinari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casa di Miraforte, Piazzale</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.miraforte.it">www.miraforte.it</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Enzo Boboleti, Brunate, La Morra</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.enzobobolleti.com">www.enzobobolleti.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eraldo Viberti, Rocchettevino</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eroldoviberti.it">www.eroldoviberti.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josetta Saffirio</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.josettasaffirio.it">www.josettasaffirio.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauro Sebaste, Prapo, Serralunga d’Alba</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.masebaste.it">www.masebaste.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Chiari, Cerequio</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cerequio.it">www.cerequio.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocca Giovanni, Bricco Rovera</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vangelio Giovanni, Bon Padre</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bersano, Nervasc, Serralunga d’Alba</td>
<td>15.55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brovia, Ca’ Mía</td>
<td>15.55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Attilio Ghisolfi, Bricco Visette, Monteforte d’Alba</td>
<td>15.55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bava, Scaroni</td>
<td>15.55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bava.com">www.bava.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boroli, Villero, Castiglione Falletti</td>
<td>15.55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemma, Collare, Serralunga d’Alba</td>
<td>15.55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroppiana, Vigna San Giacomo, La Morra</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavallotto, Bricco Boschis, Castiglione Falletti</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ennena Accorsi, Ascheri</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenuta Carretta, Vigneti in Cannubi, Barolo</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>N/A UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gorivari.it">www.gorivari.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fair** 13-14.75pts (76-82pts)
- Castello di Verduno, Massara 14.75 (82)
- E Pira & Figi, Chiara Boschi, Via Nuova 14.75 (82)
- Sandrone, Le Vigne 14.75 (82)
- Anselma, Serralunga d’Alba 14.25 (80+)
- Reverdito, Badarina 13.75 (79)
- Erbaluna 13.25 (77)

For full UK stockist details, see p105

**Next month’s panel tastings**
- Pomerol 2010
- Gigondas 2010 & 2011
My top three
Paolo Basso

- **Viña, Cannubi Boschis**, Barolo
  The seductive nose of wild strawberries is mixed with aromas of balsamic, eucalyptus and anise. The wood is well-integrated and gives notes of vanilla and sweet spices. A rich, complex mouthfeel, complemented by round, ripe tannins and a long, savoury aftertaste. 19 (96) Drink 2015–2025

- **Rocche dei Manzoni, Vigna Cappella di Santo Stefano, Monforte d’Alba** A refined wine from one of the lesser-known crus of Monforte d’Alba. Yellow, rose, sweet spices and blackcurrant introduce a wine of great personality, deep taste, velvety tannins and very long finish. You can enjoy it young, but it will age well. 18.5 (95) Drink 2015–2035

- **Paolo Manzone, Meriame, Serralunga d’Alba** This lovely wine displays aromas of ripe plums, cloves, dried violet and black pepper. The gentle winemaking technique gives a round, soft and well-extracted, full-bodied wine. This is a very pleasant Barolo with a great price-to-quality ratio. 17.5 (91) Drink 2015–2025

My top three
Ian D’Agata

- **Luigi Pira, Marencan, Barolo** A Serralunga d’Alba Barolo that is slightly more approachable than most, given the tough-as-nails tannins this area is known for. This result is a fitting tribute to a family that has been making outstanding wines for decades. 18.25 (94) Drink 2015–2024

- **Oddero, Rocche di Castiglione, Castiglione Falletto** There might be better traditional Barolos than Oddero’s, but not many. Mariacristina Oddero runs the estate with passion, grace and charm, and this wine, though less famous than her Vigna Rionda or Brunate, is an excellent introduction to the house style and to Barolo. 17.5 (91) Drink 2014–2025

- **Francesco Rinaldi & Figli, Cannubi, Barolo** You'd never guess this sat for 36 months in oak: it's an absolutely splendid rendition of the Cannubi vineyard. Like at Oddero, women run the show here, and run it well. 17.25 (90+) Drink 2014–2022

My top three
Michael Garner

- **Fratelli Savigliano, La Morra** This is from a Dolcetto specialist at Diano d’Alba. I loved the unrestrained exuberance of the wine – its fleshy, ripe and scented character is so typical of La Morra. 19 (96) Drink 2013–2022

- **Viña, Cannubi Boschis, Barolo** Barolo’s most famous vineyard doesn’t always deliver, but this example was seductively aromatic and expressive, yet with decent structure too, highlighting the tendency for the wines from this commune to show a little more substance than those from La Morra. 19 (96) Drink 2015–2025

- **Sobero, Caiot Tanasio, Castiglione Falletto** Another winery I had not come across before: tasting this traditionally styled wine was a little like stepping back in time. Lovely aromas with good texture and a tight structure, which promises the ability to age well. Classic Nebbiolo. 19 (96) Drink 2014–2022

NB: the tasters’ top wines are not necessarily their top scoring, rather those which, on learning the wines’ identity, they feel are the most notable given their provenance, price or other factors

**Expert summary: Ian D’Agata**

This was a tasting that confirmed Barolo’s general greatness. Encouragingly, we saw top performances from a mix of more established and younger producers.

**AN ADMIRABLE PERFORMANCE, everyone agreed. I was surprised by just how luscious and downright enjoyable almost all the wines were – and, though they might not be the most age-worthy Barolos of the past few decades, the better wines will improve over the next 10 years and have enough acid and tannic spine to age for another 20.**

A number of very interesting observations arise. First, that great Barolos were made across sub-zones in 2009, with splendid wines from both famous and less famous crus, such as the Monvigliero cru in Verdero (Fratelli Alessandria) and the Ravera and Barbera Pezzolle crus of Novello (respectively by Cogno and Le Strette. The Scuola Enologica d’Alba also turned in a very good effort from Grinzane Cavour.

However, there is no clear-cut winner among the communes: Barolo and Monforte each placed six wines in the top 20, La Morra four; and, at two each, Castiglione Falletto and Serralunga are perhaps somewhat less represented than current wisdom might have led one to imagine. The big five communes of Barolo, La Morra, Castiglione Falletto, Monforte and Serralunga remain the source of the vast majority of great Barolo, an observation further strengthened by the fact that those producers who own vineyards and make wines in other communes still chose to send in a wine from one of the big five (producers were allowed to send in only one wine each).

A very encouraging finding is the many up-and-coming producers confirming the many good things being said about them: Bric Cencrici, Diego Conterno, Bruna Grimaldi, Caiot Bertin, Giacomo Grimaldi, Ferdinando Principiano, Rivetto, Serradenari, Sobero and Viña are just some of the many rising stars of the region. Another plus is that some estates appear to have made one of their best wines in decade: I don’t believe I have ever tasted a better wine from Stefano Farina or from Stefano Farina or from Serio and Battista Borgogno. Last but not least, all the usual suspects have confirmed their star status, with outstanding wines made by the likes of Brezza, Ceretto, Conterno Fantino, Renato Corino, Mario Marengo, Paolo Scavino and many more.

There were some usually very great wines that performed poorly (Sandrone, Chiara Boschis, Castello di Verduno and Cavallotto); though on other recent occasions I had personally found them to be better – a slight tannic grittiness may have held less appeal on the day of this particular tasting. Time will tell.

*I don’t believe I have ever tasted a better wine from Stefano Farina or Borgogno’*