

Guide to Italian Wines

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The town of Barolo and surrounding vineyards – early May morning
(Photo ©Tom Hyland)

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2007 BARBARESCO

In May, I attended the Nebbiolo Prima event in Alba, a series of tastings for journalists to preview the new releases of Nebbiolo. This year the focus was on the 2006 Barolos as well as the 2007 Barbarescos.

Later in this issue, I will write about the new bottlings of Barolo, but for now, let's deal with the Barbaresco from 2007. There has been a lot of hype about this vintage and based on the wines I tried, the excitement is legitimate. 2007 was a long growing season without excessive humidity, so the wines have lovely structure and balance with impressive concentration. The wines offer beautiful perfumes and are somewhat approachable now. Don't look for 2007 to be a long-lived vintage a la 1996, 1999 or 2001, but it will offer great pleasure over the next 7-10 years.

******* OUTSTANDING**

PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO

Bright garnet with lovely perfumes of spiced cherries and carnations. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Bright fruit, gentle entry on the palate and a lengthy finish with lively acidity. Gorgeous wine with great typicity and ideal varietal purity – great finesse. Best in 7-10 years.

CANTINA DEL PINO

Pale garnet with beautiful aromas of orange peel, dried cherry and rose petals. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Long, long finish – elegant and polished with silky tannins. Beautiful varietal purity. Best in 10-12 years.

EREDI LODALI “LORENS”

Lovely garnet color with exquisite aromas of red cherry, currant and lanolin. Medium-full with very good concentration. Lovely mid-palate with a long, long finish with excellent persistence, lively acidity and graceful tannins. Very subtle oak. Best in 7-10 years.

MASSIMO PENNA “SORI SARTU”

Persimmon, cedar and oregano aromas. Medium-full with a generous mid-palate; very good persistence and subtle oak. Lively acidity and elegant tannins. Excellent expression of Treiso terroir. Best in 7-10 years.

MOLINO “TEORAMA”

Deep garnet with appealing aromas of red cherry, strawberry jam and cedar. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Lively acidity, nicely integrated oak and very good persistence. Elegant wine with great finesse and ideal balance. Best in 10-12 years.

2007 BARBARESCO (continued)

****** EXCELLENT**

MARCHESI DI GRESY “MARTINENGA”

Cedar, oregano and dried cherry aromas; medium-full with very good concentration. Very good persistence, lively acidity and silky tannins. Beautiful varietal character and expression of terroir. Best in 10-12 years.

PRUNOTTO

Pale young garnet with persimmon, cedar and red floral aromas. Medium-full with a lengthy finish, good ripeness and persistence and nicely balanced tannins. The wood is nicely integrated. Best in 10-12 years.

CASCINA MORASSINO “MORASSINO”

Youthful garnet with aromas of red currant, orange peel and cedar. Medium-bodied with very good concentration. The finish is a bit short, but otherwise this is nicely made with balanced tannins, subtle oak and very good acidity. Best in 10-12 years.

GIACOSA FRATELLI “BASARIN”

Pale garnet with aromas of red currant and mandarin orange. Medium-full with very good persistence, very good acidity and nicely integrated oak. Nicely balanced from start to finish. Elegantly styled. Best in 10-12 years.

GIACOSA FRATELLI “BASARIN VIGNA GIANMATE”

Young garnet with aromas of red roses, cedar and orange peel. Medium-full with very good concentration. Silky tannins, lively acidity and a lengthy, elegant finish. Best in 10-12 years.

PASQUALE PELISSERO “VIGNA SAN GIULIANO”

Young garnet with lovely aromas of cedar, persimmon and dried cherry. Medium-full with very good concentration. Subtle oak, lively acidity and very good persistence. Wonderfully made in traditional style. Best in 10-12 years.

PERTINACE “MACARINI”

Pale garnet with aromas of cigar, orange peel and dried cherry. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Long, long finish with graceful acidity. Very good persistence; well balanced. Enjoy over the next 7-10 years.

CA DU RABAJA “RABAJA”

Young garnet with dried cherry, oregano and balsamic aromas. Medium-full with very good fruit persistence, very good acidity and notable oak. Give this some time to be at its best; 10-12 years.

2007 BARBARESCO (continued)

****** EXCELLENT**

RIZZI “PAJORE”

Light garnet with aromas of sour cherry and red plum. Medium-full with very good concentration. Light notes of red spice in the finish along with very good persistence and lively acidity. Nicely structured for optimal enjoyment in 7-10 years.

SOTTIMANO “PAJORE”

Young garnet with attractive aromas of red cherry, cedar and persimmon. Medium-full with very good concentration. Generous mid-palate and very good persistence; lively acidity and nicely balanced tannins. Very good expression of terroir. Best in 10-12 years.

BATTAGLIO

Pale garnet with aromas of persimmon, oregano and cedar. Medium-full with very good concentration. Elegant and traditional in style with silky tannins and very good persistence. Best in 7-10 years.

CA DU RABAJA

Young garnet with aromas of red currant, orange peel and cedar. Medium-bodied with very good concentration. Nice persistence, lively acidity and notable oak. The finish is a bit short, but otherwise this is a well made wine. Best in 7-10 years.

***** VERY GOOD**

CANTINA DEL NEBBIOLO

Lovely orange peel, cinnamon and strawberry jam aromas. Medium-full with very good concentration. Ripe and a bit oaky, but with very good persistence and balanced tannins. Best in 7-10 years.

MARCO E VITTORIO ADRIANO “BASARIN”

Bright garnet with cedar and red cherry aromas. Medium-full, this is ripe and forward, but not overly so. The oak is nicely integrated and the wine overall is nicely balanced. Best in 7-10 years.

LEGUIO UGO “GALLINA”

Lovely young garnet color; aromas of red cherry and orange peel. Medium-full, this has lively acidity and good persistence, although it is a touch oaky. Best in 7-10 years.

2007 BARBARESCO (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

FRATELLI GRASSO “VALLEGRANDE”

Bright garnet with aromas of red cherry, strawberry and a hint of tar. Medium-full, this is ripe with ample oak and very good persistence. Good levels of acidity and balanced tannins. Best in 7-10 years.

ARMANDO PIAZZO “FRATIN”

Youthful garnet with dried cherry, sandalwood and orange peel aromas. Medium-full with good concentration and persistence. Lively acidity and distinct earthiness in the finish. 7-10 years.

LA GANGHIJA DI ENZO RAPALINO

Bright garnet with aromas of red cherry and a hint of sandalwood; slightly closed though. Medium-bodied, this features good ripeness along with lively acidity and balanced tannins. Best in 7-10 years.

ORLANDO ABRIGO “VIGNA RONGALIO MERUZZANO”

Bright garnet with aromas of cedar, dried cherry and orange peel. Medium-full, this is slightly oaky, but overall well balanced with precise acidity and balanced tannins. Best in 10-12 years.

CA DEL BAIO “LORENS”

Youthful garnet with lovely aromas of persimmon, cedar and a hint of tobacco. Medium-full, this has very good persistence, young tannins and very good acidity. A bit shy on the palate, but this will come around nicely in 10-12 years.

TERRE DI VINO “NUBIOLA”

Youthful garnet with mandarin orange, cherry and cedar aromas. Medium-full with very good concentration. Young, slightly bitter tannins, nicely integrated oak and very good acidity. Give time – best in 10-12 years.

ORLANDO ABRIGO “MONTESINO”

Bright young garnet with aromas of ripe red cherry, vanilla and red roses. Big extract and a touch oaky- this is definitely in a modern style. Young tannins, good acidity and light spice in the finish. Give time – best in 10-12 years.

VIGIN “NOEMY”

Pale garnet with aromas of cedar, persimmon and a hint of tobacco. Medium-full with very nice ripeness, although a bit oaky. Good acidity and balanced tannins. Best in 7-10 years.

2007 BARBARESCO (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

CASCINA LUISIN “RABAJA”

Deep garnet with aromas of red cherry and orange peel. Medium-bodied, this is approachable and appealing; nicely balanced with moderate tannins and lively acidity. Best in 7-10 years.

GIUSEPPE CORTESE “RABAJA”

Youthful garnet with aromas of red cherry and strawberry. Medium-full, this is a well balanced wine in terms of acidity and tannins, though it is rather oaky. Give time – best in 10-12 years.

CASTELLO DI VERDUNO “RABAJA”

Youthful garnet with aromas of cedar, dried cherry and orange peel. Medium-bodied, this has rich, but sleek tannins, good acidity and nicely integrated oak. Best in 10-12 years.

BRUNO ROCCA “RABAJA”

Youthful garnet with aromas of pepper, tobacco and dried cherry. Medium-full with very good concentration. Big persistence, good acidity and refined tannins, though rather ripe with obvious oak. A modern style of Barbaresco. Give time – best in 10-12 years.

RECENT VINTAGES IN BARBARESCO

2007 - Beautiful growing season with good warmth and low humidity. Very appealing wines with lovely aromatics and very good weight. Probably not a long-lived vintage, but ideal over the next 10 years or so.

2006 – More of an old-fashioned vintage with big persistence and tannins. Not as appealing in their youth, but the wines should reward 15-20 years of patience.

2005 – Medium-weight wines with lovely aromatics and elegant tannins, this is a charming vintage. Not long-lived, but with plenty of finesse.

2004 – Beautiful wines in all ways – excellent concentration, gorgeous aromatics and lively acidity. Nicely balanced, these are appealing now, but will offer greater complexity in another 10 years. The best bottlings of 2004 Barbaresco should drink well for another 20 years.

2007 BARBARESCO (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

FRANCONI "I PATRIARCHI"

Pale garnet with aromas of cedar, dried cherry and persimmon. Medium-bodied, this is a stylish wine made in a traditional style. Elegant with very good acidity and subtle oak. A bit more persistence would be nice, but this is well made; best in 5-7 years.

ANGELO NEGRO "CASCINOTTA"

Young garnet with aromas of dried herbs, dried cherry and a note of cheesecloth. Medium-bodied, this has good weight on the palate, but is a bit oaky and displays some sharp tannins in the finish. Best in 7-10 years.

RIZZI "NERVO FONDETTA"

Pale garnet with aromas of sandalwood, cedar and dried cherry. Medium-bodied, this is well made, though a bit shy. Nicely balanced with very good acidity and subtle wood notes. Best in 5-7 years.

MASSIMO RIVETTI "FROI"

Bright garnet with aromas of red cherry, mulberry and vanilla. Medium-full, this has an earthy finish with good persistence and youthful tannins. Best in 7-10 years.

GIUSEPPE NEGRO "PIAN CAVALLO"

Deep garnet with aromas of red cherry, vanilla and strawberry jam. Medium-full, this is ripe and a bit oaky and definitely in a modern style. Give time to round out; best in 7-10 years.

FONTANABIANCA "SORI BURDIN"

Bright garnet with aromas of persimmon and red cherry. Medium-full, this is ripe with ample oak, good acidity and youthful tannins. Give this some time – best in 7-10 years.

SERGIO BARALE "SERRABOELLA"

Bright garnet with aromas of persimmon, red cherry and tobacco. Medium-full, this has impressive weight, but is a bit overoaked. Good acidity, balanced tannins and good persistence. Best in 5-7 years.

CASTELLO DI NEIVE

Bright garnet with aromas of caraway, vanilla and ripe red cherry. Medium-full with very good concentration. Ripe and forward with ample oak, balanced acidity and sharp tannins. Modern style of Barbaresco. Give this time to round out; best in 7-10 years.

2007 BARBARESCO (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

MONTIRIBALDI “PALAZZINA”

Deep garnet with aromas of red cherry and strawberry. Medium-full, this is ripe, forward and a bit oaky. Good acidity; youthful tannins. Give time to round out – best in 7-10 years.

CASCINA SARINA

Bright garnet; aromas of vanilla, sage, ripe red cherry and tobacco. Medium-full with very good persistence, youthful tannins and balanced acidity. Best in 7-10 years.

MICHELE TALIANO “AD ALTIORA”

Deep garnet with persimmon and vanilla aromas. Medium-full with good weight on the palate; Ripe and forward with ample oak, good acidity and youthful tannins. Best in 7-10 years.

**** GOOD**

Elio Filippino “San Cristoforo”

Cigliuti “Vigne Erte”

Ressia “Canova”

Cascina Luisin “Sori Paolin”

Scarpa “Tettineive”

Albino Rocca “Vigneto Brich Ronchi”

Carlo Giacosa “Montefico”

La Ca’ Nova “Montestefano”

Pelissero “Nubiola”

Punset “Campo Quadro”

Antichi Poderi dei Gallina “Vigneto L’Ciaciaret”

Cigliutti “Vigne Erte”

2006 BAROLO

The 2006 Barolos are in some ways a return to a style that has not been seen in some time. These are wines with deep concentration, rich tannins and firm structure that definitely need time.

2006 follows two very successful vintages; 2005 produced medium-weight wines with lovely aromatics and lively acidity; while the wines are not meant for 20-30 years of ageing, they are well made and offer freshness and brightness.

2004 was a superb vintage with the Barolos offering remarkable perfumes, excellent concentration and lively acidity. While not as big as 1999 or perhaps 2001, these wines are first-rate; the best should hold for 30-40 years.

Look for the top Barolos from 2006 to hold for 25-30 years. These wines will need time, as they are much more full bodied than those from 2005, but do not have the sweet fruit and perfumes of the 2004s. Some of these wines are a bit closed and tight at present, so if you haven't tasted many examples of Barolo over the past few years, you might wonder what all the fuss is about. But to Barolo veterans who prize longevity over just about anything else, 2006 could turn out to be a pretty special vintage.

***** OUTSTANDING

ELIO GRASSO "GAVARINI CHINERA"

Young garnet with aromas of cedar, dried cherry, currant and talc powder. Medium-full with excellent concentration. Generous mid-palate. Subdued wood, beautifully styled tannins and a long, long finish with excellent persistence and lively acidity. Impressive complexity and nice expression of terroir. Best in 25-30 years.

ELIO GRASSO "GINESTRA CASA MATE"

Young garnet with aromas of red plum, red cherry and a hint of truffle. Medium-full with very good concentration. Youthful tannins that are in perfect balance, lively acidity and subtle wood. Excellent persistence and a long finish. Best in 20-25 years.

GIOVANNI ROSSO "CERETTA"

Beautiful young garnet with floral perfumes – red roses, Queen Anne cherries and strawberry jam. Medium-full with very good concentration. Sleek acidity, graceful tannins and subtle wood notes. Excellent persistence and a lengthy, elegant finish. This is not as intense as most Barolos from Serrallunga, but no matter, as this is a gorgeous wine! Best in 15-20 years.

2006 BAROLO (continued)

******* OUTSTANDING**

CASCINA CUCCO “CERRATI VIGNA CUCCO”

Young garnet with aromas of caraway and cumin. Medium-full with excellent concentration. Very good acidity and excellent structure with a lengthy finish. Excellent persistence; beautiful expression of terroir. Best in 15-20 years.

LUIGI BAUDANA “BAUDANA”

Lovely young garnet with lovely perfumes of tobacco, tar, dried cherry and orange peel. Medium-full with very good concentration. Excellent grip – beautiful persistence. Young tannins, very good acidity and subtle wood. Nice expression of terroir. Best in 15-20 years.

ETTORE GERMANO “PRAPO”

Young garnet with beautiful aromas of roses, orange rind and dried cherry. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Elegant entry on the palate. Long finish with youthful tannins, lively acidity and subtle herbal notes. Beautiful finesse and lovely Serralunga style. Best in 15-20 years.

RENATO RATTI “ROCCHÉ”

Deep garnet leaning to ruby red; aromas of cedar, red cherry, sage and tobacco. Full-bodied with excellent concentration. Rich mid-palate; beautiful acidity and refined tannins. Light notes of tobacco and tar in the finish. Beautiful complexity and a lovely expression of terroir. Best in 20-25 years.

VIETTI “ROCCHÉ”

Balsamic, chestnut and cumin aromas; medium-full with excellent concentration. Generous mid-palate and excellent structure. Excellent persistence and lively acidity. Distinct note of dried brown herbs in the finish. Best in 15-25 years.

****** EXCELLENT**

LUIGI BAUDANA “CERETTA”

Deep young garnet with aromas of cedar, dried cherry and truffle. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Generous mid-palate. A bit more noticeable oak than the Baudana above, but not excessive. Slightly bitter finish- give time. Best in 15-20 years.

ETTORE GERMANO “CERETTA”

Youthful deep garnet with aromas of ripe red cherry, herbal tea and a hint of marmalade. Medium-full with excellent concentration. Young, firm tannins and a bit more noticeable oak than this producer's Prapo bottling. Very good persistence. Give plenty of time – best in 15-20 years.

2006 BAROLO (continued)

****** EXCELLENT**

FONTANAFREDDA “LA ROSA”

La Rosa is this Serralunga producer's most famous Barolo; situated in a beautiful amphitheater setting at the winery estate, this has been one of the most consistent bottlings of Barolo since 1998. Deep garnet with aromas of fresh red cherries, red roses and tar. Medium-full with excellent concentration. Excellent length, very good persistence and lively acidity. Beautifully made – best in 15-20 years.

RENATO RATTI “CONCA”

Deep garnet leaning to ruby red; floral aromas of blackthorn, cherry and tobacco. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Rich finish with very good persistence, youthful tannins – nicely refined. Very good acidity. Nice expression of La Morra terroir. Best in 20 years plus.

AZELIA “SAN ROCCO”

Young garnet with aromas of dried cherry, tar and truffle – classic! Medium-full with very good concentration. Lively acidity, round tannins and nicely integrated oak. Lovely complexity and very good persistence. Beautiful expression of terroir. Best in 15-20 years.

MICHELE CHIARLO “CERQUIO”

Youthful garnet with aromas of beechnut, orange peel and tobacco. Medium-full, this has a generous mid-palate. Nice ripeness and persistence. Rich tannins and nicely integrated oak. Quite stylish – best in 15-20 years.

GIAN PERRO MARRONE “PICHEMEJ”

This is the first Barolo (indeed, the first wine) I have tasted from this producer; the vineyard is located in La Morra. Youthful garnet with aromas of currant, orange peel and a hint of caraway seed. Medium-full with very good concentration. Brilliant acidity and elegant tannins; best in 12-15 years.

TENUTA L'ILLUMINATA “TEBAVIO”

Youthful garnet with aromas of tobacco, currant and sage. Medium-full with very good concentration. Nicely integrated oak, lively acidity and balanced tannins along with very good persistence and complexity. Nice balance and structure. Best in 12-15 years.

ELVIO COGNO “CASCINA NUOVA”

Youthful garnet with aromas of cedar, dried cherry, orange peel and thyme. Medium-full with very good concentration. Elegant entry on the palate and a long, graceful finish with elegant tannins and lively acidity. Subtle, nicely integrated oak. Typical finesse from this excellent producer in Novello. Best in 12-15 years.

2006 BAROLO (continued)

****** EXCELLENT**

ROCCHES COSTAMAGNA “BRICCO FRANCESCO”

Youthful garnet with aromas of cherry, strawberry and orange peel. Medium-full with very good concentration. Bright fruit, elegant tannins and lively acidity – very well made. Excellent persistence and complexity. Best in 12-15 years.

PIO CESARE “ORNATO”

The Ornato Barolo from Pio Cesare is from a gorgeous vineyard owned by the winery; located in Serralunga d’Alba, it borders the famed Falletto vineyard of Bruno Giacosa. Youthful bright garnet with aromas of ripe red cherry, vanilla and orange peel. Medium-full with very good concentration; lively acidity, ample oak and youthful tannins. Excellent persistence – this has plenty of stuffing! As is typical for the vintage, this is much bigger than in previous years. Give plenty of time – best in 15-20 years, perhaps longer.



Ornato Vineyard of Pio Cesare

Photo ©Tom Hyland

2006 BAROLO (continued)

****** EXCELLENT**

CORDERO DI MONTEZEMOLO “ENRICO VI”

Pale garnet with aromas of truffle, cumin and dried cherry. Medium-full with very good concentration. Big finish with excellent persistence, very good acidity, firm tannins and light herbal notes. Best in 20 years plus.

CAVALLOTTO “BRICCO BOSCHIS”

Young garnet with fragrant aromas of red cherry, cassis and a hint of bacon. Medium-full with excellent concentration. Elegant tannins, subtle wood and lively acidity. As is typical for this traditional producer, the wine is elegantly styled and presents a beautiful expression of terroir. Best in 12-15 years.

MAURO MOLINO “VIGNA GANCIA”

Deep young garnet with aromas of orange peel, sandalwood and a hint of tobacco. Medium-full – nice weight on the palate. Very good persistence and acidity. Nicely balanced. Best in 15-20 years.

AGOSTINO BOSCO “LA SERRA”

Lovely youthful garnet with aromas of balsamic, tobacco and dried currant. Medium-full with very good concentration. Generous mid-palate, very good persistence and lively acidity. Youthful tannins that are nicely ingrained. Best in 15-20 years.

LUIGI PIRA “MARENCA”

Young garnet with aromas of dried cherry and cedar. Medium-full with very good persistence, very good acidity and balanced tannins. Light note of cinnamon in the finish. Best in 12-15 years.

ANGELO GERMANO “VIGNA RUE”

Young garnet with aromas of coffee, tobacco and dried cherry, Medium-full with very good concentration. Long finish with very good persistence and lively acidity. A bit tannic now, but give time. Best in 12-15 years.

CAVALIER BARTOLOMEO “CANNUBI SAN LORENZO”

Youthful garnet with aromas of coffee, balsamic and caraway. Medium-full with very good concentration. Lively acidity, refined tannins and subtle oak. Nice expression of terroir. Best in 12-15 years.

CASCINA CUCCO “CERRATI”

Young garnet with aromas of dried cherry, orange peel and a hint of cumin. Medium-full with very good concentration. Excellent persistence and a lengthy finish; lively acidity and firm tannins. Nice Serralunga style – best in 15-20 years. An excellent, consistent, underrated producer.

2006 BAROLO (continued)

****** EXCELLENT**

VIETTI “BRUNATE”

Deep garnet with floral perfumes – dried cherry, orange peel and cedar. Medium-full with a generous mid-palate; this has excellent persistence and very good acidity. Nicely balanced throughout – this is a typical Brunate with ripe, attractive fruit and round tannins. Best in 15-20 years.

GIANNI VOERZIO “LA SERRA”

Bright, deep ruby red with aromas of black plum, black cherry and tar. Medium-full with excellent concentration. Round acidity, youthful, elegant tannins and big persistence. This is a modern style of Barolo and it is ripe with noticeable oak; however in this year, there is ample fruit to temper the wood notes. Give this time – best in 15-20 years.



Gianni Voerzio
Photo ©Tom Hyland

2006 BAROLO (continued)

****** EXCELLENT**

ASCHERI “SORANO”

Lovely garnet with aromas of caraway, dried cherry and tar. Lovely balance and typicity. Sleek acidity, subtle wood and elegant tannins. Very good persistence; structured for 15-20 years of aging potential. Lovely finesse and elegance.

ASCHERI SORANO “COSTE E BRICCO”

Youthful garnet with aromas of cinnamon, orange peel and currant. Medium-full with very good concentration. Lovely acidity, nicely integrated wood and youthful tannins. This needs a bit of time, but overall is quite elegant. Best in 15-20 years.



Matteo Ascheri (l) and his winemaker, Giuliano Bedino
Photo ©Tom Hyland

2006 BAROLO (continued)

****** EXCELLENT**

VIETTI “LAZZARITO”

Deep garnet with aromas of ripe red cherry, sage and a hint of paprika. Medium-full with excellent concentration. Rich mid-palate; this is a bit tightly wound now, but offers impressive concentration and is structured for 15-20 years of aging potential. Youthful tannins and very good acidity.

GINAFRANCO BOVIO “ROCCHETTEVINO”

Young garnet with pretty aromas of red cherry, red roses and vanilla. Medium-full, this is ripe and forward with some noticeable new oak, but it is not overdone. Very good acidity, youthful tannins. Best in 12-15 years.

BURLOTTO “ACCLIVI”

Young garnet with fresh aromas of cherry, currant and cedar. Medium-full with a rich entry on the palate. Round tannins and lively acidity give this wine a lot of style and elegance. Best in 12-15 years.

RIVETTO “LEON”

Young garnet with floral perfumes – dried cherry, currant and sandalwood. Medium-bodied with very good persistence, this is round and elegant with tart acidity. Nicely balanced throughout – this is a more subdued style of Barolo and beautifully made. Best in 10-12 years.

COSTA DI BUSSIA “TENUTA ARNULFO”

Young garnet with lovely aromas of strawberry jam, currant and orange marmalade. Medium-full, this is beautifully balanced, although a bit austere now. Lovely expression of terroir. Best in 15-20 years.

PAOLO MANZONE “SERRALUNGA”

Young garnet with aromas of truffle, orange peel and dried cherry – quite lovely! Medium-full with very good concentration, Graceful entry on the palate and a nicely structured finish with polite tannins. Lovely finesse in this wine. Best in 15-20 years.

SIMONE SCALETTA “CHIRLET”

Young garnet with aromas of orange peel, sandalwood and dried cherry. Medium-full with refined tannins and very good acidity. Nicely styled with good persistence and a generous mid-palate. Best in 12-15 years. This is my initial experience with this producer. I cannot find any information, as the website is under construction, but they are in Monforte d'Alba. Based on this wine, I will keep an eye out for future releases.

2006 BAROLO (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

GIOVANNI ROSSO “SERRALUNGA”

Pale garnet with aromas of dried cherry, dried rose petals and a hint of orange peel. Medium-bodied, this has a lengthy finish with lively acidity, subtle wood and nicely integrated tannins. Not a big wine to be sure (this is blended from several vineyards within Serralunga), but a graceful, elegant one that will be at its best in 10-12 years.

GEMMA “COLAREJ”

Youthful garnet with aromas of dried cherry, cedar and cumin. Medium-full, this is ripe and forward with good tannins and acidity. This should be at its best in 12-15 years.

RENATO RATTI “MARCENASCO”

Lovely pale garnet color with aromas of cedar, cumin and dried cherry. Medium-bodied with good concentration. Earthy, herbal finish; nicely balanced throughout with good persistence. Best in 12-15 years.

FENNOCCHIO “VILLERO”

Pale garnet with aromas of dried cherry, dried roses and cumin. Medium-full, this has vibrant acidity, nicely integrated tannins and subtle oak. Earthy, this needs some time to show its finest qualities. Best in 12-15 years.

GIANNI GAGLIARDO “SERRE”

Pale garnet with aromas of dried cherry, currant, a hint of strawberry and orange peel. Medium-bodied, this is elegantly styled with nicely integrated tannins. Best in 12-15 years.

CANTINA TERRE DEL BAROLO

Young garnet with aromas of orange peel, currant and a hint of sage. Medium-bodied with very good concentration. Lovely acidity and elegant tannins. Nicely styled. Best in 12-15 years.

MARIO GAGLIASSO “ROCCHIE DELLA ANNUNZIATA”

Young garnet with aromas of dried cherry, cedar and rose petals. Medium-full with very ripe fruit. Earthy finish with good persistence; give time – best in 12-15 years.

MARIO GAGLIASSO “TORRIGLIONE”

Young garnet with aromas of balsamic, currant and a hint of tobacco. Medium-bodied with good concentration. Straightforward and a bit simple, but nicely balanced. Best in 12-15 years.

2006 BAROLO (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

AURELIO SETTIMO

Young garnet with aromas of currant, sandalwood and cumin. Medium-full, this is a bit modern with ample oak. Good acidity and very good persistence. Slightly bitter tannins – give time. Best in 12-15 years.

SILVIO GRASSO “BRICCO LUCIANI”

Deep young garnet with aromas of sandalwood, tobacco and dried cherry. Medium-full with very good concentration. Tart acidity, moderate tannins and good persistence in the finish. Best in 12-15 years.

LUIGINO GRIMALDI “VIGNA SAN BIAGIO”

Pale garnet with aromas of currant, tobacco and orange rind. Medium-ful, this has bright acidity and elegant tannins, but lacks a bit of persistence. Nicely styled however – best in 12-15 years.

ARMANDO PARUSSO “BRUNATE”

Young garnet with aromas of currant, herbal tea and dried cherry. Medium-full with very good concentration. Good acidity, young tannins and a lightly herbal finish. Give time – best in 15-20 years.

FRANCO CONTERNO “BUSSIA MUNIE”

Young garnet with beautiful aromas of cedar, truffle and orange peel. Medium-bodied with good concentration and persistence. Lively acidity and balanced tannins. Give time – best in 15-20 years.

CASCINA DEL MONASTERO

Young garnet with aromas of currant, tar and sandalwood. Medium-full with very good concentration, this has very good persistence and good length in the finish. Best in 12-15 years.

ANDREA OBERTO “VIGNETO ROCCHIE”

Young garnet with aromas of tobacco, balsamic and dried cherry. Medium-bodied, this is a bit shy on the palate and the tannins are a bit sharp now, but this should turn out nicely in another 12-15 years.

MARIO MARENGO “BRUNATE”

Young garnet with aromas of coffee, balsamic and dried currant. Medium-bodied with good concentration and noticeable spice in the finish. Very good acidity and youthful tannins. Best in 12-15 years.

MONCHIERO “ROERE”

From La Morra. Young garnet with aromas of currant, a hint of tobacco seed and coriander. Medium-bodied, this has an elegant finish with good persistence and balanced acidity. Best in 12-15 years.

2006 BAROLO (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

GIACOSA FRATELLI “BUSSIA”

Young garnet with aromas of cedar, truffle and orange peel. Medium-bodied, this is nicely balanced, though it could use more persistence. Lively acidity and subtle oak. Best in 12-15 years.

CASCINA BALLARIN “BRICCO ROCCA”

Youthful garnet with aromas of currant, cedar and tar. Medium-bodied, this has balanced tannins and good acidity with a round finish, though it could use a bit more persistence. Best in 10-12 years.

GIANFRANCO ALESSANDRIA

Youthful garnet with aromas of red cherry, oak and white pepper. Medium-bodied with very good concentration. Balanced acidity and graceful tannins. Very good persistence – give time to settle. Best in 12-15 years.

MARZIANO ABBONA “PRESENDA”

Young garnet with fragrant aromas of orange peel, cherry and subdued oak. Medium-full, this has very good acidity, subtle wood and nicely integrated tannins. Best in 12-15 years.

ORESTE STROPPIANA “VINGA SAN GIACOMO”

Young garnet with aromas of cedar, sandalwood, tobacco and orange peel. Medium-full with ample oak and slightly gritty tannins. Good acidity and very good acidity. Give time – best in 12-15 years.

PECCHENINO “SAN GIUSEPPE”

Young garnet with aromas of dried cherry, sandalwood and orange peel. Medium-full, this has plenty of stuffing as well as ample oak. Very good acidity. Best in 12-15 years.

SILVANO BOLMIDA “VIGNE DEI FANTINI”

Young garnet with aromas of orange peel, dried cherry and currant. Medium-bodied, this has balanced acidity and refined tannins with good acidity. Nicely styled, though a bit more persistence would be nice. Best in 12-15 years.

TERRE DA VINO “Tuoi Paesi”

A blend of grapes from Grinzane Cavour and Castiglione Falletto. Young garnet with aromas of red cherry, currant and sandalwood. Medium-bodied with very good concentration. Earthy finish with good persistence. Nicely balanced with good acidity. A bit straightforward, but good varietal character. 12-15 years.

2006 BAROLO (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

SERGIO BARALE “BUSSIA”

Young garnet with aromas of sandalwood, orange peel and strawberry jam. Medium-bodied, this has a lengthy finish with good acidity and firm tannins. A bit more persistence would help. Best in 12-15 years.

PRUNOTTO “BUSSIA”

Young garnet with aromas of cedar, orange peel and sandalwood. Medium-full, this has good ripeness, persistence and acidity with distinct earthiness in the finish. Appealing now, but best in 12-15 years.

**** GOOD**

Silvio Grasso “Ciabot Manzoni”

Claudio Alario “Sorano”

Gigi Rosso “Arione”

Bel Colle

Livia Fontana

Tenuta Duecorti “Due corti”

Tenuta Rocca “Tenuta Rocca”

Aurelio Settimo “Rocche”

Cascina del Monastero “Bricco Luciani”

Podere Ruggieri Corsini “Corsini”

Silvano Bolmida “Bussia”

Cascina Ballarin “Bussia”

