# **Piemonte** Barolo 2019 and Barbaresco 2020

BAROLO

BAROL

Barolo

JEROBOAMS

# Barolo 2019 and Barbaresco 2020: The Highlights

Vintages like this only come round a handful of times a decade.

We knew heading out to Piemonte this year that the wines were going to be completely different to last year. 2019 and 2018 really couldn't be more diametrically opposed, however the real surprise was not that the 2019s were every bit as brilliant as they were hyped up to be, but that 2018, with an extra year in bottle, is proving to be the dark horse vintage of the decade. Being given the opportunity to retaste some 2018s on this trip, it's clear that the vintage is much better than initially assumed.

If you are looking for wines to drink in the relative short term, and indeed for which to take delivery straight away, then 2018 is your vintage. Clearly much better than 2017, 2014 and 2011, 2018s are showing undeniable charm that, with exception of the very top vineyards, means they are already supremely approachable. I cannot stress enough my joy at having a Barolo vintage in my cellar for which I won't need to wait around before drinking... these wines are already firing on all cylinders. We have a few cases left from last year's campaign, so do ask your Account Manager for a list. This offer, however, is focusing on the newly bottled 2019s, and with that in mind I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight some of the wines that really stood out from our tastings.

**Einaudi** continues to impress. The lightness of style here is a welcome change, and the wines speak for themselves in terms of quality and typicity, with vineyard character really coming through. Their **Cannubi** is stunning and well worth seeking out. Their **Bussia** again surprised us for just how pretty and perfumed this vineyard can be in the right hands.

**Guido Porro** is a new addition to our offering, and the wines are phenomenal. Possibly the most "traditional" of the producers we work with, a new generation is taking over at Porro and with it introducing some subtle changes that are well worth paying attention to.

Already hailed as one of the most under-the-radar producers, we were very impressed with the attention to detail and quality of winemaking. Their **Langhe Nebbiolo** is declassified Serralunga Nebbiolo that could be bottled as Barolo, making it arguably the best value for money Langhe Nebbiolo in our offering. **Voerzio Martini's** Freisa is one of the most interesting wines that we offer; a semi-sparkling red made in tiny quantities (3,000 bottles) that would go well with a barbecue, what's not to love? Their winemaking goes from strength to strength and their **Barolo Classico** is unbelievable wine for the money too.

Not a typo, **Castello di Verduno** are just now releasing their 2018 single vineyards, of which we have **Massara** and **Monvigliero**, along with **Monvigliero Riserva 2017**. We will need to wait another year for their 2019 Cru Barolo, however if you want an insight as to what 2019 looks like at Verduno then their **Barolo Classico 2019** is a good place to start. Judging by what we tasted, 2019 looks very good here indeed!

## **66** 2018 is proving to be the dark horse vintage of the decade.

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Clearly Freisa is having a bit of a moment, and in tasting over 10 different Freisa over three days I can safely say that **Paitin's Freisa** stands head and shoulders above the rest. It is a remarkable wine, and I personally will be buying as much as I can afford. The whole range at Paitin is exceptional, with special mention going to **Faset 2020**, which in its second vintage is already a benchmark for the vineyard.

### Diego Conterno's Le Coste di Monforte

**2019** is one of my top wines of the vintage; the high altitude clearly coming in to play with hauntingly crystalline fruit and tremendous acidity and precision. They were named last year by Galloni as one of the wineries to watch, and I couldn't agree more. There is a reassuring precision to the wine. You know stepping in to their (new) tasting room that everything is going to be excellent. If there is one single producer that everyone should be stocking up on now it is **Paolo Boffa's Amalia**. Paolo has spent two decades perfecting his style, and he is (we think), at long last happy. His 2019s represent a new pinnacle for the estate and are some of the most elegant and finessed wines we have ever tasted here. You can't really go wrong with either, so buy both **Bussia** and **Coste di Monforte** and enjoy doing the same horizontal tasting we were treated to.

Azelia have gone from strength to strength in recent years and the 2019s are glorious across the board. They reminded me of their stunning 2013s, which, if you have had the pleasure of drinking any recently, is a reason to get excited. Barbera "Punta" was hands down the best Barbera I tried over the course of three days in Piemonte, and has a fantastic story to go with it, while Bricco Fiasco just edged at the front of the pack on the single Cru Barolo, demonstrating unbelievably fine tannins and superb length.

Finally, if you haven't yet discovered the wines of **Matteo Ascheri**, then you really are missing out on one of the most exciting producers in Piemonte. Based in Bra, it is a wonder that Ascheri's wines have flown under the radar for so long. While last year Matteo did not make any Cru, opting instead to blend into a **Barolo Classico 2018** (which, by the way, is delicious one year on!), this year sees the return of the Cru. It was hard to pick a favourite, but **Sorano** with all of its earthiness and savoury, mushroom almost truffle character, is delicious.

With 2019 Barolo and 2020 Barbaresco you really cannot go wrong, the vintages being a lot more homogenous than 2018 and 2017 for instance. Buy right across the board and enjoy having wines in your cellar that speak of terroir above all else; vintages like this only come round a handful of times a decade. Saluti!

Alexander Turnbull Private Sales Manager

# Vintage Review

After two warmer than average vintages, 2019 heralded a return to the norm, with the harvest of Nebbiolo commencing at the beginning of October once again. As is increasingly typical throughout the wine growing regions of Europe, there are always fears that a succession of warmer-than-average vintages signals the arrival of a trend that may only continue upwards. The relative cool weather of 2019, although temperamental at times, was greeted with joy by the producers of Piemonte. The only blemish is that such intensely flavoured grapes come at the cost of a reduced yield, which is down 15 – 20%, mirroring what we have seen in Burgundy of late.

A normal winter, peppered with flurries of snow throughout January and February, preceded a firm cold and rainy Spring. With the growth cycle of the vines delayed, viticulturalists predicted that, all things going well, the harvest would be protracted but manageable. Deluges of heavy rain threatened disease, yet were essential to for replenishing water reserves to ensure vines sustained healthy grapes throughout the summer season. Summer was hot and cloudless from June to September, with an especially violent heat spike in July causing further disruption to the growing cycle, leading to a harvest time projected to be a full ten days later than in 2018. Regular fits of rain throughout September, including a very localised hail storm, ensured that the vines avoided stress in the run up to harvest, producing grapes with thick skins and a

greater skin to pulp ratio than the previous year. The Nebbiolo harvest kicked off week commencing 9th October in Roero, with no further surprises.

From the moment grapes were picked, there has been great excitement over the potential of the 2019 vintage. Following a week spent tasting Nebbiolo in all of its guises, set against the backdrop of the Langhe hills in February 2023, it is clear to see why producers were so excited. A consistent pattern of weather throughout 2019 has produced wines of exceptionally impressive quality at all price points. Langhe Nebbiolos are charming in their youthful exuberance and singing "drink me now" while the Barbarescos and Barolos are quietly chanting "good things come to those who wait", which will prove difficult as they're already incredibly beguiling with many moreish qualities coming through despite their powerful structure. For those who are yet to experience the joys of Nebbiolo, 2019 is the perfect vintage to do so. The producers are happy, we are happy, and so will you be upon that first sip.

Maggie MacPherson Group Buyer

# Talk to our team

The wines in this brochure have been hand-picked by our team from well over 300 samples. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if there is a specific wine you'd like which you don't see listed. We will always do our best to help.

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Or if you know what you'd like simply order through our website now.

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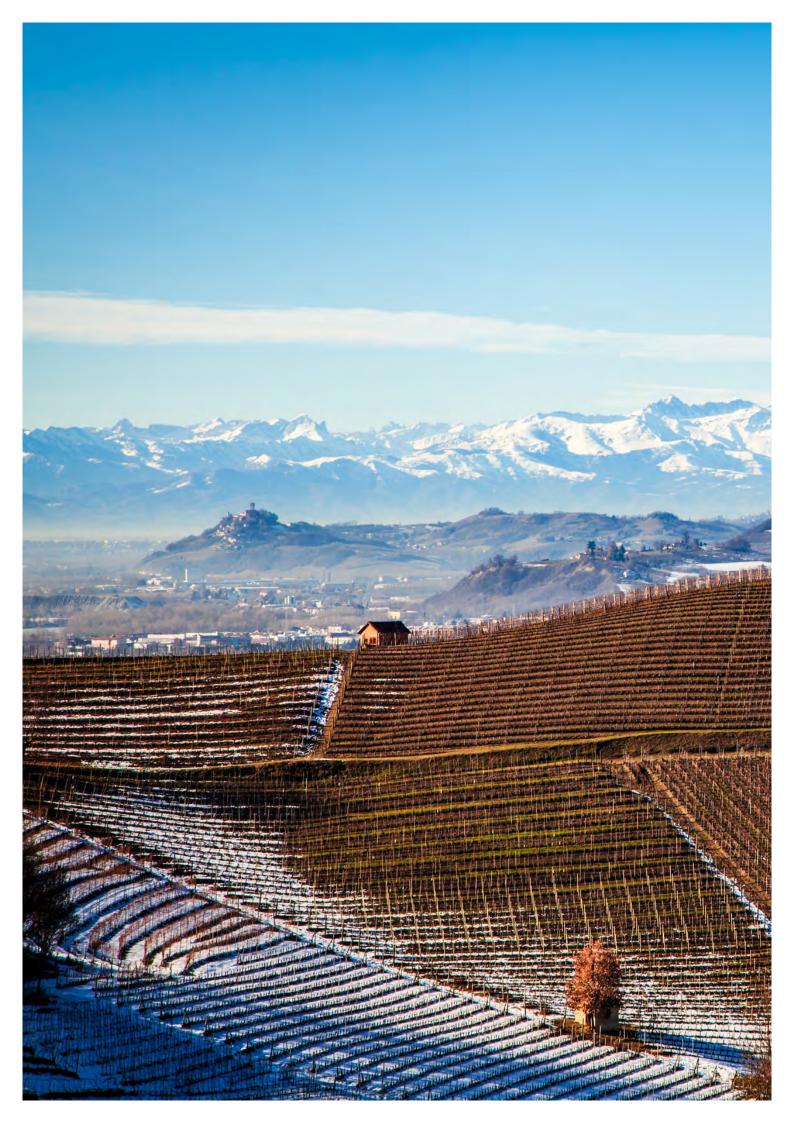
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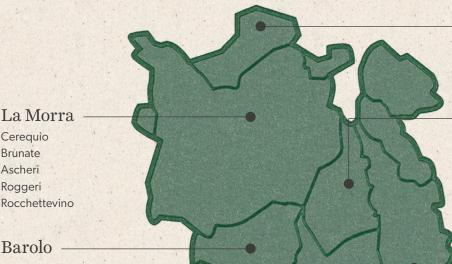


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## BAROLO



## Brúnate Ascheri Roggeri Rocchettevino

## Barolo

Cannubi Cannubi San Lorenzo Ravera

## Novello

Stretching from the tip of Verduno all the way down to Monforte, Barolo is one of the most majestic and awe-inspiring wine regions in Europe, and arguably the world. Today 1,900 hectares, made up over 11 communes and their respective vineyards are allowed to be planted with Nebbiolo and label their wine "Barolo." As with any wine region, style varies from north to south, east to west, producer to producer. The best way to understand Barolo is to look at its soils. There are essentially two valleys, the Serralunga valley to the east which encompasses Castiglione Falleto, Serralunga d'Alba and Monforte d'Alba, and where you find more sand and limestone. The Central Valley to the west covers Verduno, La Morra, and Barolo (town), where you have more clay and calcareous marl. The sandy soils of Serralunga

## Verduno

Monvigliero Massara Pisapola

## Castiglione Falleto

Rocche di Castiglione Bricco Rocche

## Serralunga d'Alba

Lazzarito Prapo Cerretta Sorano

## Monforte d'Alba

Bussia Ginestra Le Coste di Monforte

produce more intense wines that demand a lot longer in the cellar, whereas the Central Valley is known for softer, fruitier expressions that typically drink younger out of the gate. Monforte curiously chose not to divide their vineyards into sub-plots in the same way that the other communes in Barolo did, so looking at a map of the Cru of Barolo can be somewhat confusing as you go from the extremes of Bussia (seemingly stretching the whole valley) to Cannubi San Lorenzo (seemingly a sliver of a few fields by the side of the road). Important to note is that vineyard size has no bearing on quality, and indeed some of the top wines come from bigger vineyards typically occupying an amphitheatre on the side of a steep hill with perfect exposition (Lazzarito for instance). Much like Burgundy, terroir in Barolo is king.

## BARBARESCO



Less than half the size of Barolo at roughly 750 hectares under vine, Barbaresco has traditionally sat in the shadow of its sibling wine region. Angelo Gaja can be credited for transforming Barbaresco's name and today there are a number of icon wines being made here. Geographically Barbaresco can be guartered around the municipalities of Barbaresco, Neive, Treiso and San Rocco. Here the soils are typically more clay-calcareous, fertile and rich in decomposed marine sediment. The soils of Treiso, San Rocco, and most of Neive are less compact and produce more slender, elegant wines, whereas the soils of Barbaresco and the rest of Neive are more compact and produce more complex, nuanced wines that require longer ageing. Barbaresco curiously tends to have better climate than Barolo and can often go entirely untouched by the bad weather just 17km south. As such there tends to be better consistency to Barbaresco vintages, and less variability. Cru is still an important concept, and the top vineyard sites tend to be located on the hilltops in and around the municipalities. Vineyards such as Asili and Rabajá are famed for making seriously age worthy wines that will go toe to toe with the very best Barolo.

## Amalia

Amalia was started in 2003 when the Boffa family purchased an early 20th century farmhouse and its surrounding six hectares of vineyard in Monforte d'Alba. At first all their holdings were planted with Dolcetto and Barbera, but they soon purchased some Barolo vineyards in the prestigious cru of Bussia and Le Coste di Monforte and built a new winery. Paolo Boffa makes the wines with a focus on quality and provenance, meaning only very small quantities are produced of their seven bottlings. Whilst the style is unmistakably traditional Piemontese, they still have an edge of modernity to them. This is a future star to watch.



| 2019 Barolo, Amalia   | 6 x Bottle | £180 |
|---|------------|------|
| Powerful, yet charming with aromatic red cherry, the palate is broad and vibrant,<br>with fine tannins and a long length.   |            |      |
| 2019 Barolo Bussia, Amalia  | 6 x Bottle | £205 |
| Youthful and for now quite shy on the nose, the palate has lovely sweet dark berry fr<br>and beautiful tannins. The structure here is a superb counterpoint to the Monforte p<br>with a few years of bottle age this will be an immense effort. |            |      |
| 2019 Barolo La Coste di Monforte, Amalia  | 6 x Bottle | £205 |
| Currently very accessible, this has rich brambly cherry fruit with some lovely spicy no<br>Very fragrant and with crystaline dark fruits, this is sooo moreish, finishing with a kiss<br>and rich yet melting tannins.                          |            |      |
| 2020 Barbera d'Alba Superiore, Amalia   | 6 x Bottle | £90  |
| Quite deep coloured, this has an intensely perfumed nose of cherry and woodsmok<br>The palate is broad, rich and supple, with glorious bite on the finish.  | e.         |      |
| 2020 Langhe Rossese Bianco, Amalia  | 6 x Bottle | £70  |
| Delicate floral nose, with notes of vanilla and cream. The palate is medium bodied,<br>crisp and quite intense, with noticable bite on the finish.  |            |      |

## Azelia

Located in Castiglione Falleto, Azelia was established in in the early 1920s by the famed Scavino family who still run the estate today. From the outset Azelia pursued a more modern style of Barolo, and under the watchful eye of Luigi, and now his son Lorenzo, they have spent the last 100 years perfecting their winemaking to produce some of the most pretty and perfectly poised Barolo from the entire region. Using a combination of French oak barriques and large Slavonian and Austrian botti, Azelia have, in the last decade, been making some of the best



wines in the history of the estate. Their veritable array of holdings include the famed Ceretta, San Rocco and Margheria vineyards from Serralunga (the latter of which their holdings sit right alongside Gaja's Sperss) as well as Bricco Fiasco from Castiglione Falleto. These wines are well worth seeking out.

### 2021 Dolcetto, Azelia

From 50 year old vines, 600m above sea level in Montelupo Albese to the East of the region. Bright crunchy fruit melds with lovely sweet spice on the finish. Crisp and clean, plush but still retains a lightness and the palate is actually a lot lighter and more lifted than the nose would initially suggest. Usually, Dolcetto has the worst positions in Barolo with difficulty ripening (bottom of the valleys where Nebbiolo isn't feasible), whereas here in Montelupo it has excellent exposure. A super-fine expression of Dolcetto done right.

### 📂 2019 Barbera d'Alba "Punta", Azelia

Punta is the name of the vineyard, located just behind the winery in Castiglione Falleto at the top of the hill. Azelia have sadly removed some rows this year due to extending the winery. However, they intend to replant on top of the new winery's roof. It means we will go a few years with reduced availability on Punta. With approximately 6,000 bottles before these rows were removed, the production over the next few years will be even smaller. 60 year old vines. This is stunningly delicious Barbera. Milk chocolate, sweet spice, Christmas cake all meld together in the mouth. There are no rough edges here, the palate is really well rounded with a lovely core of minerality and salinity that carry a moreish body of purple fruit. The finish is long – superb.

12 x Bottle **£120** 

12 x Bottle **£200** 

### 2021 Langhe Nebbiolo, Azelia

Azelia's Langhe Nebbiolo comes from 20 year old vines, which for them is too young to make Barolo out of. Aged in steel just like the Dolcetto in order to have more freshness, and without the influence of oak Lorenzo Scavino says you can really taste the individual grapes and vineyards. There is a beautifully fresh nose of crushed violets and red cherry. The body is light and lithe with very fine tannins and long finish. This could end up being one of the best value-for-money wines of the vintage.

### 2019 Barolo, Azelia

Azelia's Barolo Classico comes from seven single vineyards from Castiglione Falleto and Serralunga. These vineyards are too small to vinify as individual wines so combine together here, with the largest portion coming from Cerretta. The average age of the vines is 55 years old and the wine spends two years in botti (large oak) and one in bottle. Already on the nose this is super expressive. The palate smacks of Serralunga; the tannins super fine, a subtle waft of oak coming through, and the minerality and structure of Serralunga reigning king. Excellent length – this is one of the best Barolo Classico we have tasted. Bravo.

## 2019 Barolo, Bricco Fiasco, Azelia

This is where Azelia started, the vineyards being close to the winery in Castiglione. It's one of the oldest single vineyards they own, with the average age being 85 years old. There is concentration of fruit and sweetness here not found in the other wines, and the higher proportion of sand in the soils really comes through. The fruit is lively and energetic, complemented beautifully by violets and roses. The tannins are very fine and wonderfully tapered. Superb.

#### 💴 🗕 2019 Barolo, Margheria, Azelia

Margheria is always very perfumed and aromatic, and seldom reveals much at this early stage. Tightly coiled, there is a saline spine that suggests this will age a very long time. The tannins are slightly drier, so you get less sweet fruit and exuberance, however the length and density is impressive. The vines here are on average 65 years old, sitting just below the castle in Serralunga d'Alba.

## 2019 Barolo, San Rocco, Azelia

The average vine age here is 65 years old, with San Rocco sitting on the northern side of Serralunga, as if driving towards Castiglione. San Rocco is always the most powerful and structured Barolo that Azelia makes, with darker fruit, bigger concentration, and a totally different grain of tannin. If Margheria is the shy one of the range then San Rocco is the showboat, there is plenty to fall in love with immediately with Azelia's San Rocco 2019. You can really feel the power here.

### 2019 Barolo, Cerretta, Azelia

Cerretta for years went in to the Barolo Classico before the winery decided in 2016 to start making it as a single Cru, once the vines reached the correct age. The 2.5 hectare vineyard has been in the family since 1991, however was completely replanted vine by vine, by hand. There is a ton of energy here with the fruit being a lot wilder and the aromas more floral and aromatic. There's a strong element of mint which helps retain freshness and balance, and the tannins are really smooth and almost chocolatey. A beautiful wine, sadly produced in small quantities of only 3,000 bottles.

#### 12 x Bottle **£180**

12 x Bottle **£365** 

6 x Bottle **£405** 

6 x Bottle **£405** 

6 x Bottle

6 x Bottle **£465** 

£405

## Ciabot Berton

Although the Obertos can trace their links to the Langhe back several centuries, they only started producing Barolo in the 1950s. Established by Luigi Oberto and his father Giovenale, they initially only had two hectares of Nebbiolo on the Bricco San Biagio hill which they sold to the Alba market. It wasn't long, however, before Luigi realised he'd be better off keeping the grapes and producing his own wines. He started gently with just a few thousand bottles a year. Slowly the family began acquiring more and more land, which they entirely dedicated to grape growing.

Today the Obertos hold 12 hectares and a modestlysized winery in La Morra – known as a 'ciabot' in Piemontese dialect. Situated on a hill overlooking their Nebbiolo vineyards, the winery boasts stunning views of the Alpine peaks of Cervino and Monte Rosa. In the 1990s, Luigi handed the reigns over to



his children: Marco, a trained oenologist, and Paola, an agronomist. Aware of the quality and potential of their grapes, they took the decision to vinify the different vineyards separately, so as to highlight the differences between their Nebbiolo sites.

| 2021 Barbera d'Alba Fisetta, Ciabot Berton  | 6 x Bottle      | £60  |
|---|-----------------|------|
| Vibrant and fresh, with a plate of red fruit sours and sweet cherry. Brisk acidity and make this an immediate pleasure.   | d light tannins |      |
| 2021 Nebbiolo Langhe 3 Utin, Ciabot Berton  | 6 x Bottle      | £80  |
| Youthful looking, this has a lovely nose full of fragrant and crunchy fruits. There are<br>balancing the fruit and this is certainly not a light Nebbiolo, but the balance is sup<br>nice depth and length.                     |                 |      |
| 2019 Barolo Rochettevino, Ciabot Berton   | 6 x Bottle      | £185 |
| This is perfumed, floral, almost ethereal on the nose. Very upright palate with juic<br>of pepper and a warming creamy texture. The tannins here are very fine. This is a f<br>style with plenty of power to back up the grace. | -               |      |
| 2019 Barolo, 'Roggeri', Ciabot Berton   | 6 x Bottle      | £180 |
|   | l by a hint of  |      |

## Ascheri

The Ascheri family can be traced back to 1880 in the Langhe region. The cantina is located in the town of Bra, but the family originates from the legendary Barolo village of La Morra. Bra was very much a key hub in the movement of Barolo in the early years, thanks to its train station built in 1874, linking Torino to Savona, via Bra & Cervere, predating Alba as the central city in the region. In those days there were around ten Barolo producers and negociants in the town, of which only Cantine Ascheri Giacomo survives today. The family now have 16 hectares of Nebbiolo in Barolo vineyards located across three villages: La Morra, Verduno, and Serralunga d'Alba. Current winemaker Matteo is also the President of the Consorzio of Barbaresco & Barolo growers.



Historically, Cantine Aschieri Giacomo have always made a single traditional Barolo, blended from across the three villages. From 1999 they started releasing their wines as single vineyard Barolo: Pisapola (Verduno), Sorano (Serralunga d'Alba), & 'Coste e Bricco' (Serralunga d'Alba). These single vineyard Barolos are, however, only made in exceptional years –most recently 2010, 2013, 2015, 2016, and now 2019.

|   | 0. 5          | 6160 |
|---|---------------|------|
| 2019 Barolo, Ascheri  | 6 x Bottle    | £160 |
| An opulent nose bursting with sweet red fruits and pink peppercorn spice. Super lift<br>with violets mingling amongst the rich raspberry fruit and balanced by refined yet pe                                     |               |      |
| 2019 Barolo Pisapola, Ascheri   | 6 x Bottle    | £190 |
| Barolo unplugged! Blood orange and ferrous iron notes dominate the nose giving cigar box and leather on the palate with chalky fine tannins providing structure.  | way to smokey |      |
| 2019 Barolo Sorano, Ascheri   | 6 x Bottle    | £230 |
| Starts off almost delicate with floral saffron notes but as it opens up, complex mush<br>cherry and white pepper come through. The palate is slippery with a typical Serral<br>on the finish. Incredibly moreish! |               |      |
| 2019 Barolo Ascheri, La Morra, Ascheri  | 6 x Bottle    | £420 |
| A smokey brooding nose with notes of wild strawberry continuing onto the palate<br>punch! Broad and powerful with firm tannins giving way to sweet spices on the fini   | -             |      |
| 2019 Coste e Bricco, Ascheri  | 6 x Bottle    | £500 |
| Super finessed yet lively nose bursting with macerated strawberries and fresh mini-<br>sweet oak is balanced by fine tannins on the concentrated and hedonistic palate.   | t. A touch of |      |

## Castello di Verduno

This beautiful historic estate (built in the 1500s) was bought from the Royal House of Savoy by local wine-growing dynasty the Burlotto family in 1909. They began producing wine a few decades later when Gabriella Burlotto married Franco Bianco, also from a large winemaking family and they consolidated their assets: prime vineyards in the Langhe heartland, and generations of quality Barbaresco and Barolomaking expertise.

In the 1650s, Commander Giovanni Battista Burlotto, who took over the property after 15 years' service in Eritrea, decided to expand operations to create a food and wine meeting point complete with restaurant, winery, farmhouse, and a hotel. Today, Mario Andrion looks after winemaking and upholds the Burlotto-Bianco family's traditional style.



| <b>2019 Barbaresco Rabajà-Bas, Castello di Verduno</b> 6 x Bottle   | £240 |
|---|------|
| Across Rabajá and Rabajá-Bas there are approximately 4,000 bottles made each vintage, with fermentation on Rabajá-Bas taking place in stainless steel before ageing in large Austrian oak, 18 months in barrel and a further 18 months in bottle. This is very pretty and perfumed with crystalline fruit and a cool menthol-ness that makes it very refreshing. It is all aromatics and florality.   |      |
| <b>2019 Barbaresco Rabajà, Castello di Verduno</b> 6 x Bottle   | £280 |
| Rabajá is vinified in Tigne rather than stainless steel as per Rabajá-Bas, and immediately, you can see that Rabajá is a much bigger wine. There is more power and concentration, and the tannins are bigger and more classically styled. Clearly a mammoth wine that is going to require time in bottle.   |      |
| <b>2019 Barolo Classico, Castello di Verduno</b> 6 x Bottle   | £195 |
| This is quintessential traditional Barolo at its very best. The fruit is tight and taut with great energy<br>and clarity. Glace cherries and crushed rose petals, this is all perfume and aromatics. The palate<br>is really complex with a different aspect revealing itself with each sip. The finish is long and<br>persistent, with lovely glazed fruit character. Superb.  |      |
| <b>2018 Barolo Massara, Castello di Verduno</b> 6 x Bottle  | £290 |
| Winemaker Mario Andrion commented that in 2018 it was even more important to preserve freshness and retain elegance as the vines were still suffering considerable hydric stress from 2017. Massara wasn't used in their 2018 Barolo Classico, so this is the first time we have seen Massara 2018 from Castello di Verduno in any shape or form. For a 2018 this shows considerable complexity and body, but with a softness of tannin seldom seen in this vintage. Truly spectacular. |      |

### 2018 Barolo Monvigliero, Castello di Verduno

There will be no Monvigliero Riserva in 2018, so this is it from this iconic vineyard. Very perfumed and lifted on the nose with enticing aromas of sweet spice and savoury fruit. The palate displays considerably more weight, with a smoked meat-like quality. The fruit is dark and brooding, with excellent acidity that will make this age beautifully. Extremely long finish.

### 2017 Barolo Riserva Monvigliero, Castello di Verduno

A mighty wine that defies all preconceptions about 2017 as a vintage. The nose is bigger and oakier, with a waft of perfume. The palate has an almost prickly sensation to it and is remarkably fresh and juicy with oodles of bright cherry fruit and minerality coming through in waves. The tannins are supremely elegant and refined, you really would not know this is from 2017 in a vintage where most wines are characterised by heat. Bravo!

## Ceretto

The Ceretto winery was founded in the 1930s by Riccardo Ceretto, who initially didn't own any vineyards, producing wine from grapes he purchased from around the region. The turning point came when his sons Bruno and Marcello joined the business, and recognising the importance of terroir in wine production, hassled their very reluctant farther to purchase some land. In the 1960s, Bruno and Marcello started mapping out the vineyards that produced the best wines and eventually manged to buy some small plots.

Now, the Ceretto family holdings reads like a 'best of' of Barolo and Barbaresco's finest sites: in Barolo, they have holdings in Brunate, Cannubi San Lorenzo, Prapò, and Bricco Rocche, which is a Ceretto monopole in Castiglione Falletto. In Barbaresco, they have parcels in Asili, Pajoré, Rabajà and the very prestigious Santo Stefano as well as part of Bernardot, a littleknown but noteworthy cooler-climate, higher-altitude site in Treiso.

Over the years, viticulture and winemaking have evolved at Ceretto. In 2010, under the leadership of Alessandro Ceretto, the family began the lengthy process of obtaining organic certification for all of their vineyard holdings. Green cover crops are planted between the rows of vines to reinforce soil fertility and structure, and of course, no pesticides are used. This is aimed at developing a sensitive and healthy vineyard system capable of maintaining its own natural resources over time.



6 x Bottle **£481** 

6 x Bottle **£390** 

| 2020 Barbaresco Bernadot, Ceretto  | 6 x Bottle       | £520 |
|--|------------------|------|
| Redcurrants with grapefruit and fennel highlights. Slightly softer tannins than its bro<br>super approachable yet vibrant.   | others making it |      |
| 2020 Barbaresco Gallina, Ceretto   | 6 x Bottle       | £520 |
| Darker fruit on the nose with blackcurrent coming through migling with sweet clove<br>spice. The palate is powerful with a graphite texture to it and a velvety finish.  | e and cinnamon   |      |
| 2020 Barbaresco Asili, Ceretto   | 6 x Bottle       | £800 |
| Classic Barbaresco at its finest – bright red cherries and plenty of tension on the pal<br>mouthwatering acidity with a silky finish which just keeps going. Bravo!  | ate with         |      |
| 2019 Barolo, Ceretto   | 6 x Bottle       | £270 |
| Immediately appealing with up front sweet red fruits. The sweetness continues on t<br>clove and vanilla joining the party. The tannins are fine and give way to a long and e   | -                |      |
| 2019 Barolo Brunate, Ceretto   | 6 x Bottle       | £600 |
| Rich and brooding with black cherry dominating the nose. On the palate the fruit gives iron, spice and tobacco. Tannins are generous yet balanced in a way which seems utte  | -                |      |
| 2019 Barolo Bussia, Ceretto  | 6 x Bottle       | £600 |
| A nose so deep you want to dive into it, bursting with black cherry, blood orange as<br>garrigue herbs. The tannins are super fine with a broad expansive palate. A superb<br>invites you to linger over its complex layers. | -                |      |
| 2019 Barolo Rocche de Castiglione, Ceretto   | 6 x Bottle       | £600 |
| Super finessed and elegant with fresh fennel dancing across the palate giving way t<br>and a youthful exuberance on the finish.  | o fine tannins   |      |
| 2019 Barolo Prapo, Ceretto   | 6 x Bottle       | £600 |
| A dense style of barolo yet extremely floral with rose and lavender bursting through<br>The palate has all the classic tension of a serralunga and finishing with that classic sa  |                  |      |
| 2019 Barolo Bricco Rocche, Ceretto   | 6 x Bottle       | £850 |
| What. A. Wine. Black and red cherry dance across the palate with vibrant floral note   | -                |      |

What. A. Wine. Black and red cherry dance across the palate with vibrant floral notes and savoury dried liquorice. Incredibly layered yet lively with fabulous structure. A wine that is only going to get better and better.

# Giro d'Alba: Three days in Piemonte

The Private Client team, along with an army of Buyers, spent three days in Piemonte in early February. Beautiful weather only helped tasting a five-star vintage; stunning settings were accompanied by generous Italian hospitality, and wines that will go down in history as some of the finest the region has ever produced. Here our Account Managers, Xavier, Henry and Luke, guide us through their three days in the Piemonte.

## Il primo giorno Xavier Hornblow

Our first tasting experience of both the 2019 Barolo and 2020 Barbaresco vintage was at **Luigi Einaudi** situated in Dogliani, slightly outside the Barolo region. Einaudi has been a family-run operation since 1897. Family clearly means a lot to them – our tasting was set to the dulcet tones of pianist Ludovico Einaudi, their cousin! The combined effect of the beautiful wines, the stunning view from their impressively slick tasting room and indeed the musical backing, cast quite a spell.

Although Einaudi is larger than many of the producers we represent, there was an impression that everything is still done on a small-scale compared to other world class wine regions. A mere 3,500 bottles are made of the **Barolo Villero** per year, for instance, and we were all surprised and beguiled by the unique "Super Piemonte" **Luigi Einaudi Langhe Rosso 2018**; just 5,000 bottles made of a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Nebbiolo, Merlot and Barbera... how could something which on paper sounds so wrong taste so right?!

**Guido Porro** was our second visit of the day. A new producer for Jeroboams, and at oneeighth of the size of Einaudi, this is the epitome of a small-scale, family run operation, where everything is done with the greatest of care. The production of their flagship **Barolo Vigna Rionda**, for instance, is so small that it fits into just two slightly differently sized barrels! I was also struck by their **Barolo Gianetto** for just how good it was, with one colleague remarking "dreamy". Their **Barolo Lazzairasco**, hailing from a portion of Lazzarito, which is known for making some of the most powerful Barolo, I described as simply "big mamma!" These are wonderful wines made in a caring and traditional style that all Barolo lovers ought to be seeking out.

After lunch we headed to **Ciabot Berton**, which any of our regulars will know well. This small scale family run producer (notice a theme?) stepped out of the mould in 1961 when they made wines under their own name, in a time where the region was dominated by negociants. Their lead was followed by so many – a huge reason Barolo and Barbaresco

**66** After my first day of tasting, I couldn't help but reflect on the sheer beauty of the place. now offer such a stunning variety of wines and wineries! I was reminded when I tried the **2021 Barbera Fisetta** that this wine was, almost 16 years ago, the first wine to grace my staff account. It is reassuring to see that they continue to produce some of the most delicious and excellent value for money wines that we import.

A wonderful first day was capped off with a visit to **Voerzio Martini**. In a winery that traces its roots back to the 60's, the winery's future is now preserved by the brother and sister twins Mirko and Federica, who took over the reins aged only 23 years old! Their enthusiasm is infectious, and their wines brilliant. After trying the trendy varieties such as Arneis, Timorasso and their gently sparkling red, Freisa, we got into the serious stuff. The **2020 Barolo Monvigliero** was a standout – silky, mellifluous perfume... positively Burgundian in its gracefulness and subtle power. Our resident Master of Wine Peter Mitchell called it "cracking"!

After my first ever day of tasting in Barolo and Barbaresco I couldn't help but reflect on the sheer beauty of the place. The terrain is a myriad of soils brought down from the Alps after the last ice age millennia ago in hills that ripple like wind on a pond. The nuances of gradient, aspect and soil give the wines so much variety, with a complexity of terroir that is perhaps the world's only serious match to Burgundy. These hills in winter are shrouded in mist, with ever-changing shadows in the winter sunlight, and always in the distance you are reminded by the presence of the jaggedpeaked Alps, covered in snow on almost every side, that Piemonte after all, means "foothills".

## Il secondo giorno Henry Chambers

This was my first trip to Piemonte and the beauty and history of it all firmly put me in my place. So too did the endless twisting complexity of its hillside vineyards. But there was at least some reassurance to be found in its relative smallness of size. Barolo the brand might be extremely well-established, but the region itself is less than 2,000 hectares, and the individual growers that make up this brand yet to be discovered.

To make sense of hectares: Château Lafite is 112, while Tignanello in Tuscany is 130 and Vega Sicilia in the Ribera del Duero is 210... The heart of Burgundy, meaning just the Côte de Nuits and the Côte de Beaune, totals about 5,300 and is therefore the natural comparison, both in size and numerous other ways too.

Seeing the vineyards in person and speaking to producers in their wineries was an incomparable experience. Terroir is an over relied upon word to indicate geographical factors influencing the final taste of the wine. (Often used when there is no real understanding of how!) But in Piemonte there is simply no getting away from this concept. Differences of aspect, elevation, soil type are just the beginning, and in the hands of skilful winemakers the vineyards here speak with brilliantly clear voice, particularly in a vintage like 2019.

Our first appointment on day two was at **Castello di Verduno**, who take a traditional approach to winemaking; evident in the proud heritage on their labels. Outstanding holdings across Barolo and Barbaresco are vinified parcel by parcel to retain their innate characters. Only large Slavonian oak botti are used to keep the influence of wood to a minimum. The focus is on balance over extraction. Tannins are always extremely fine and well judged, and flavours and textures often have something stony about them. Winemaker Mario Andrion has a fantastic natural sensitivity, and the wines are a masterclass in purity and finesse.

Our first tasting of the day was their famous Barbaresco pair of Rabajá and Rabajá-Bas, which were split in 2008. Rabajá at lower altitude has density of structure and darker fruit, while the increased elevation and western exposition of Rabajá-Bas gives a kiss of red fruit and an ethereal quality to the wine. Both super expressive in 2019, you could not ask for better demonstrations of vineyard character.

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Barolo the brand might be well-established but the individual growers are yet to be discovered.

This was repeated across all the other wines which we tasted with Marcella Burlotto, who oversees this historic estate on behalf of her family. A special mention must go to their Barolo Monvigliero 2018 – which is released this year as a non-Riserva. Marcella was clearly bemused that 2018 has been talked down as a lesser vintage by some. Anyone that is fortunate enough to taste this wine will see why. The finish on their 2018 "non-Riserva" is showstopping.

We travelled from Verduno in the North of Barolo, through the town of Alba, across to Barbaresco for our next appointment at **Paitin**. We started with a survey of their Serraboella vineyard, which fans out on a hillside directly beneath the winery, before a tour of the historic cellar and winery. Giovanni Pasquero-Elia was our guide, and he forms a triumvirate at this estate with his brother Silvano, and son Luca. Recent history has seen them acquire new Barbaresco Crus Faset and Basarin (Luca's projects) and there is a palpable sense of energy about the future.

Giovanni is thoughtful and measured, much like the wines produced at Paitin. Though they experimented with rotofermenters and barriques in the 90s, the style is resolutely elegant. Wines are beautifully translucent, hightoned in their aromatics, often statuesque, with biting acidity that drives through the palate. We sampled quite a lot of Freisa in our time in Piemonte, much of which was middling. Paitin's offering was a cut above: cool, crunchy, precise, with a snap of cranberry fruit. Their Langhe Nebbiolo 'Starda' was possibly the most serious Langhe we tasted and clearly exceptional value. Moving on to the single Crus and quality kicks up higher. My notes become verbose: "Pinot like perfume. Gorgeous rose, strawberry, truffle notes in the back... Lovely softness to the fruit, tension to the palate" "Complexity and beauty on the nose. Vibrancy and richness of fruit", etc.

## We arrived later that afternoon at **Diego Conterno** to find the most exquisite panorama of the whole trip. I suppose locals must get used to it at some point.

The heart of this 8.5ha property in Monforte d'Alba was carved out of Conterno-Fantino in 2000, when Diego decided to sell his shares and set up for himself, taking with him 2ha of Ginestra – a Grand Cru if ever there was one. Stefano joined his father in 2010, as the work was simply too much for one person alone. Together they produce benchmark wines of the region. Working with large botti, including several Stockingers, though often fermenting first in steel to ensure purity and precision, these are notably deep, dark, and rounded expressions of Barolo, with flashes of blood orange and salted licorice.

We talk of the power of Monforte, but what does that mean? Very broadly, the compacted nature of the soils in this area (and in Serralunga) tends to produce wines of structure and power, whereas the looser soils of La Morra (and Verduno) tend to produce more aromatically open wines, often with a floral touch and more in the red fruits than the black fruits.

The 2019s at Diego Conterno are superb, with the vibrant acidities harmonising with the assertive but well-proportioned tannins. There have been tweaks in recent vintages, with vineyard holdings parcelled up depending on differences of exposition and altitude, with some fruit moved from the Crus into the Barolo Classico, to find the best expression possible. Le Coste di Monforte was a personal highlight. Directly open to the cool Alta Langa winds, and at an altitude of 400 metres, it is a dense wine but with tremendous vibrancy. From the junior wines, the Dolcetto also jumped out with its purity of blackberry and bramble fruit as did the Langhe Nebbiolo and the Barbera. Honestly, I was impressed with everything we tasted here, bravo!

Our final appointment of the day was minutes away, and it was a good thing we had the time, because the brilliant and hugely generous Paolo Boffa at **Amalia** had organised a deep dive into his Bussia and Le Coste di Monforte, with side-by-side tasting of vintages 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Having the opportunity to taste the vintages and the vineyards like this made it clear why these are consistently some of the best value single Cru Barolo that Jeroboams offers.

Since forming the estate in 2003, Paolo has judiciously been making changes to find the style that truly represents Amalia. In 2018 he moved over to working with large format oak for his Barolo, to reduce the imprint of wood, preferring the richness which comes from smaller barriques for his excellent Barbera. The fine-tuning also continues in the vineyards, where from 2022 he will be fully certified organic.

His 2018 Bussia, which is produced from the lieu-dit Vigna Fantini – right at the top of the

Cru at 450 metres altitude and southwest facing, was one of my favourite wines at our Piemonte tasting in 2022 and it was fascinating to taste the different characters it exemplifies in different vintages. The transition from 2016 to 2019 also shows the wine becoming more finessed and chiselled, yet while still retaining its captivatingly open and spicy perfume. Bussia is a big cru, but when you know where to look, the rewards are well worth it!

We finished with the Rossese Bianco in vintages 2021, 2019 and 2016, which was a great revelation. It blossoms from a relatively tight and textured, citrussy white wine into something rich and honeyed, without missing a beat. If you can manage to age it even just two to three years, the rewards are seriously worth it.

And that was it. All in all, a very impressive and inspiring day of tasting.

One last general impression. It can only be a matter of time before more people better understand this region. When they do, access to the best wines will become more complicated. My advice is to get stuck in while you can – quality is at an all-time high. As we like to say, your future self will thank you!

## L'ultimo giorno Luke Cianfarani

Our final day would take in the important Barolo communes of La Morra, Serralunga d'Alba and Castiglione Falletto. A prompt start for a busy schedule, we snaked our way around the stunning Piemontese hills, the staggering Alpine skyline coming in and out of view. Burgundian references are never far away here. Not least because Nebbiolo and Pinot Noir can produce that perfumed, ethereal style. But more the patchwork quilt of small vineyards with multiple owners, myriad complexities, and the need to understand the specific terroir and the style of winemaking to know what will be in your glass.

Bussia, for example, at 280 hectares is a relatively large Grand Cru – "this is perhaps

our Clos Vougeot, it can be great but..." an unprompted Burgundy metaphor referring to its counterpart in the Côte de Nuits, where in the right hands you have greatness, but quality is not assured. However, the complexity also remains accessible. As, importantly, does pricing. Where also there are other varieties; quirky whites for something different, Dolcetto is a delight, top Barbera should be in every red wine lover's glass. Nebbiolo itself can be approached from all angles, from the regional level to classico Barolo blends and up to the loftiest of Grand Cru.

We began at **Azelia** where we were warmly welcomed by Lorenzo, fifth generation of this

amazing family-owned Cantina. Steeped in over 100 years of history, visionaries who as early as the 1920s began bottling their own wines: something few did in what was a very poor region at the time. Lorenzo's father Luigi readily took up the challenge when his time came and has now overseen 40 vintages. A constant reminder of the heritage is the incredible "Grandfather" clock hand made by the family in 1930. Horologists and viticulturalists is a solid CV!

Part of the mighty Scavino family, Azelia is named after the local flower that was prominent in the vineyards. This was a brilliant visit; they work only with old vines, full respect for the vineyards, hard graft and passion to showcase the purest expression of the individuality of each cru. The average age of vines for even their Dolcetto is 50 years, with the oldest going up to well over 120!

A treat was to taste **Cerretta**, a 2.5ha parcel they acquired in 1991. A huge investment at the time, replanting by hand over 12,000 vines – knowing that at the very least the site would be declassified for 10 years. Lorenzo's father Luigi then waited THIRTY years until he deemed the vineyard was ready to release its first Cerretta in 2016. Such perseverance, patience and dedication. Their Bricco Fiasco was vinified separately in 1978, paving the way to the intricate single cru system we have today.

Other top tips, **Langhe Nebbiolo 2021** – they declassify this – it COULD be labelled as Barolo. A gorgeous **Barbera 2019** – unctuous and luxurious, 60 year old vines (!!) in the Barolo heartland, no one would persist with Barbera here now, but Azelia do.

Buoyed by Azelia we headed back towards La Morra and the inimitable **Roberto Voerzio**. Here we were awed by the scale of construction underway for their new winery – not to mention their tractor fleet! Situated next to the Cerreto vineyard with a panoramic view of the Alps this is an important address in Piemonte, and a huge contrast in style with his fanatical approach to low yielding viticulture. These are richly textured unique expressions of Nebbiolo, their iconic labels first appearing in 1988 and with extensive large format options, it is easy to see why collectors love Voerzio. Hard to condense this visit into a paragraph as one felt like we left with an Oenology PHD!

The top names kept coming with **Vietti** up next, who are not just a benchmark producer but were also one of the first to explore single Cru bottlings. We tasted the full range – starting with their Barolo classico "**Castiglione**" which was as good as they've made and a reference point for Barolo, before proceeding to some of the top wines of the vintage. If pushed then Rocche di Castiglione, Ravera and Cerequio stood out, but this was a wonderful range! Sadly, it will be allocation only!

And so onwards we lept to **Cerretto**, who are making brilliant wines in both Barbaresco and Barolo. Although it proved hard to concentrate such was the spectacular nature of their tasting room looking onto the vineyards (why can't our office be like this?!), the wines were stunning. Alessandro is the third generation Ceretto and has taken this cantina into a superb new era.

Hitting his stride form around 2010 he has brought in his philosophies on terroir, healthy fruit, more subtle barrel maturation, and minimal intervention, with the results being clear. We had a flight of Barbaresco 2020 to begin – three distinct terroirs – and stating the obvious, Asili was a beauty. Then another thrilling set of Barolo 2019s. Their tiny monopole Bricco Rocche, Brunate of which no one has more and where elevation can vary by up to 200m and the first "Prapo" cru of the trip – where Serralunga is at play and the power, meatiness, and spine are at work.

Our final visit of the day and trip was **Ascheri** – dinner party trivia, of the 181 crus created in the 2010 classification among them there is also an Ascheri sub-area, where the family originates and from which it takes its name. On arrival we were given a special welcome and impromptu history lesson by Matteo Ascheri's mother and matriarch of the winery. She stressed the importance that women had played keeping Piemonte alive when the lure of the factories of Fiat and the like had taken the workforce away. Again we are reminded how far this region has come in a relatively short space of time, and it's an important piece of history. Her Grandson Giuseppe nodded assuredly, deeply respectful of his Grandmother's role in keeping this winery alive.

Matteo is a calm authority, oozing charm and experience discussing wine in language that is easy to understand (yet holding senior research and Consorzio roles – he is comfortable in any company). He wants to make real wine and to have unique expressions in a world where so many now have the same tools, techniques, and consultants..

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## If you haven't discovered Piemonte yet, go seek this magical place before it realises how good it is.

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As we over-analysed the surprising drinkability of the 2018s, Matteo unexpectedly interjected that he had tickets to Depeche Mode in Milan... with a glint that took him back to his youth, "wine can be unplugged too". Neal Martin would have punched the air "Breakfast Club" style. The inference was clear, wine should also be enjoyed. We need a 2018 just as we need a 2019.

Pelaverga, brought back into fashion by a famous New York food critic column - a variety from Verduno kicked things off. "A wine for anytime!" Then onto 2018 Barolo Classico with the historic label, which, like so many 2018s we tried, in a good place and great value. The 2019 Classico has more Serralunga in the blend and was paler yet more powerful for it; Ascheri have the luxury of being able to blend different communes for their Classico depending on vintage. Pisapola 2019, higher altitude, only gets morning sun, cooler, elegant, snelllo (slender) and timido (as in English). Ascheri (not guite a monopole) single vineyard faces La Morra has more clay, afternoon sun, more backbone and flesh than

Pisapola. "We like this wine". **Sorano** has sandier soil, leans more towards Castiglione Falletto's fruit.

The 2019 Barolo vintage? Comparisons to 2013 and 2016 have been made, although they had been reticent, more austere at this stage. There is charm and fruit in abundance with 2019 and above all typicity of site. These Barolo 2019s are very exciting.

Warmer temperatures have replaced desolate winters. Nebbiolo as a variety has likely benefitted from the warmer climes (so far), and with the right altitude and exposure can retain freshness and balance. But lack of water is becoming an issue - skiers will attest to the snow-less Alpine slopes this Christmas - and the knock-on effects cause prolonged hydric stress. Water bomb phenomena and extreme climate incidents also are making erosion an issue in a region famed for its steepness. What is clear is there is serious know-how to deal with these challenges - perhaps unlike than they did 20 years ago. For example, vintages like the sweltering 2003 had never been seen before, and how much everyone has learnt since then!

Gastronomy goes hand in hand with winemaking across Italy and none more so than Piemonte. Most tastings include a welcome array of gourmet pairing snacks – unthinkable not to do so. Restaurants are superb, down to earth, very local ingredients and dishes and with brilliant wine lists. As we headed back to Torino airport, we were already missing our Ravioli del Plin and Vitello Tonnato.

Piemonte is a region where lessons have been handed down through the generations. Starting with visionary ancestors who began when making wine here was not a prosperous endeavour. To arrive at a time when now the whole region has been painstakingly mapped out. Techniques and know how, radical changes to tannins and use of oak, investment, sustainability, family pride and ambition. Always a smile greets – you can feel the future here. If you haven't discovered Piemonte yet, then go seek this magical region before it realises quite how good it is.

## Diego Conterno

The Conterno name can get a little confusing in Barolo as it can be found everywhere. In this case Diego is related to the famous Conterno-Fantino winemaking family, but whilst of a similar high quality, his wine style is more classic, eschewing French oak barrels for large old botti for ageing. To add confusion, the Diego Conterno winery is next door to that of Giacomo Conterno, no relation. Along with his wife, Anna, and children, Stefano and Lorenza, Diego parted ways from the family estate in 2000 taking his share of 7.5 hectares of vineyards located in the village of



Monforte, including a beautiful plot of Ginestra. Here, they farm fully organically, producing classic Monforte Barolo: fermented in cement and aged in botte grande.

The first vintage under the Diego Conterno label was 2003, and the family have been going from strength to strength ever since, making a raft of beautiful Barolo as well as some very interesting Barbera, Dolcetto and a very rare local white grape called Nascetta. The winery gained full organic certification in 2014.

| 2021 Dolcetto d'Alba, Diego Conterno  | 6 x Bottle       | £75  |
|---|------------------|------|
| Full of purple and red fruits with a hint of liquorice, this has warm and spice on the body and plush tannins.  | palate with full |      |
| 2021 Barbera d'Alba 'Ferrione', Diego Conterno  | 6 x Bottle       | £70  |
| A serious style of Barbera, quite deep in colour and packed with black cherry, spic<br>earth notes. Dense on the palate with a touch of blueberry fruit, lovely gentle tann<br>energy. Could be enjoyed now, but will improve in bottle over the next 2 – 5 years | ins and real     |      |
| 2020 Barbera d'Alba 'Ferrione', Diego Conterno  | 6 x Bottle       | £70  |
| Bright red cherry fruit, herbs and a hint of forest floor lead to a palate with modera<br>acidity and warmth on the finish.   | te weight, fresh |      |
| 2021 Langhe Nebbiolo 'Baluma', Diego Conterno   | 6 x Bottle       | £75  |
| Delicate ruby colured, the nose is expressive with fresh redcurrant, a hint of rhubat<br>floral tones. The palate mixes redcurrant jelly flavours with juicy plum and hints of s<br>tannins are soft and elegant.   |                  |      |
| 2019 Barolo, Diego Conterno   | 6 x Bottle       | £160 |
| Youthful colour, just showing a few brick coloured tints. With aromas of mineral lac<br>fruits, this is at once compact and full. The crystaline fruit beautifully balances the s<br>will take a few years to fully unwind.                                       |                  |      |

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#### 2019 Barolo del Comune di Monforte d'Alba, Diego Conterno

Real power on the nose, with spices, cassis and dark raspberry flavours. Quite creamy at first on the palate there are plenty of succelent tannins lurking behind. A really elegant wine.

| <b>2019 Barolo Le Coste di Monforte d'Alba, Diego Conterno</b> 6 x Bottle | £225 |
|---|------|
|---|------|

Quite deep coloured for Nebbiolo, the deep dark fruit is plump yet sleek. Black plum, cherry and a hint of smoke on the nose lead to a palate with a creamy feel to it, with exhuberant cherry and cassis fruit with hints of violet and mint. Full-bodied and powerful, yet supremely elegant.

## Guido Porro

Guido Porro are based in Serralunga d'Alba with the winery and family home perching above the iconic amphitheatre of Lazzarito. They own 10 hectares of prime vineyards, and have an annual production of roughly 50,000 bottles. The winemaking and style is deeply traditional, with first fermentations taking place in stainless steel and Tigne before ageing in traditional oak botti.

Regularly referred to as one of the most "under the radar" Barolo producers, the wines made at Guido Porro are seriously ageworthy, and fabulous examples of the magic that is Serralunga. Guido is the fourth generation and the baton is now passing to his son Fabio, however their winemaking and practices remain virtually unchanged, with only very subtle tweaks being introduced by each new generation.

The major change was the decision to bottle their own wines, something the estate only began doing in the mid 1980s, rather than selling the wine off in demijohns or barrels.

This is the first year we are working with Guido Porro, having been mightily impressed tasting samples both in London and later at the estate in Serralunga, and we cannot praise these wines highly enough. For lovers of traditional Barolo, think Bartolo Mascarello or Giacomo Conterno, Guido Porro should be on your radar.



6 x Bottle **£190** 

| 2022 Dolcetto d'Alba, Guido Porro   | 6 x Bottle  | £75  |
|---|---|------|
| An intensely aromatic Dolcetto. Lots of perfume on the nose. The palate is a<br>floor. This is quite a serious Dolcetto, an impressive wine to introduce some   |   |      |
| 2022 Barbera d'Alba Santa Caterina, Guido Porro   | 6 x Bottle  | £90  |
| Now this is Barbera! A little bundle of joy, full of nervous energy and incred<br>It jumps out of the glass. The palate is seriously saline and mineral driven wi<br>purple fruit. Loads of depth and complexity and very moreish. This is Giaco<br>Seek out.   | th a tightly knit core of   |      |
| 2019 Barolo Gianetto, Guido Porro   | 6 x Bottle  | £190 |
| A vineyard seldom seen, mainly because there are only two owners of which<br>Located the other side of the hill to Serralunga, and next to Bricco Voghera<br>stunning example of just how savoury Nebbiolo can be. The nose is super effruit pastille, morello cherries, and smoked game aromas coming through lo<br>tannins are chalky and very fine, with a noticeably tapered finish. Excellent her<br>nervosity at this early age that would suggest this will age extremely well.  | and Brea, this is a<br>expressive with purple<br>oud and clear. The   |      |
| 2019 Barolo Santa Caterina, Guido Porro   | 6 x Bottle  | £210 |
| Guido Porro are right at the top of the Lazzarito vineyard, and Santa Caterin<br>right next to the winery, on the top-most part of the slope, and comprised of<br>It is remarkably expressive in its youth, given its old vine material, with bright<br>and a touch of spice. It is an undeniably delicious glass of wine, even at this<br>complexity is awe inspiring. Very fine tannins seemingly go on forever. Well<br>this is a rare example of a Barolo that will drink beautifully upon arrival but e  | of 40-60 year old vines.<br>ht open fruit character<br>early stage, and the<br>I worth seeking out,             |      |
| 2019 Barolo Lazzairasco, Guido Porro  | 6 x Bottle  | £220 |
| Again this is a sub-plot within Lazzarito, this time the vines being closer to S<br>forming a small amphitheatre lower down the hill. The vines are even older<br>years. The salinity of Serralunga clearly comes through; the nose is powerfu<br>palate tightly wound and not giving anything away. Blood orange, a hint of<br>earth, this is what Serralunga is all about. Turbo-charged intensity suggests<br>old bones, and the length, just like Santa Caterina, is impressive.  | here, averaging 80<br>Il and beguiling, the<br>balsamic, iodine, and  |      |
| 2019 Barolo Vigna Rionda, Guido Porro   | 6 x Bottle  | £600 |
| Arguably the most iconic and storied vineyard in Serralunga, there are just<br>Rionda, several (including Porro) of which are relatively new to making it, have<br>vines as recently as 2010. They replanted immediately, with the first harvest<br>vintage. Five years on and it is clear that the magic of Vigna Rionda coupled<br>traditional winemaking is a match made in heaven. This is an ethereal wine<br>complex and seriously vibrant, the nervous energy of young vines come the<br>yet it still manages to maintain a level of seriousness. This is every Barolo-low<br>all you can get your hands on. | aving inherited the<br>being the 2014<br>I with Porro's deeply<br>on every level. Hugely<br>rough in spades and |      |

## Paitin

The Paitin estate was founded in 1796 when Benedetto Elia purchased just two hectares of vineyard in Bricco di Neive and began planting Nebbiolo and Barbera. In the couple of centuries since Benedetto's time, the Elia family have remained committed to producing high quality Barbera and Nebbiolo through various disasters, including two World Wars (throughout which the family continued producing wine) and the devastating Phylloxera plague in 1948, that required all vineyards to be totally replanted.



Currently in the eighth generation of family ownership, Paitin is run by Giovanni Pasquero Elia and his son Luca. Azienda Paitin remains a small familyrun business whose only aim is making the best wine possible from their unique terroir. One of Paitin's main lasting legacies is the creation of Serraboella's greatest MGA "Sorì Paitin" in 1893. Still today, it is one of the most recognisable and classic expressions of the traditional Barbaresco of Neive.

| 2021 Freisa Bonina, Paitin   | 6 x Bottle           | £90  |
|--|----------------------|------|
| Crunchy red fruits, charming light tannins balanced with mouthwatering acidity and protes. A seriously smashy wine that cries out to be chilled and drunk by the bottle i                              |                      |      |
| 2021 Langhe Nebbiolo Starda, Paitin  | 6 x Bottle           | £100 |
| Fresh fennel provides freshness to the rich and generous sweet red cherries and spic<br>Violet highlights on the palate continue providing freshness and intrigue. Super fin                           |                      |      |
| 2020 Barbaresco Faset, Paitin  | 6 x Bottle           | £260 |
| Layers and layer of complex spice, garrigue herbs, cigar box and clove on this wi<br>powerful with fine tannins and a lifted palate. Utterly charming.   | ne. Super            |      |
| 2020 Barbaresco Basarin, Paitin  | 6 x Bottle           | £260 |
| There is a coolness to this wine provided by the graphite structure and fine tannir<br>dance with crushed dried herbs while grapefruit zing explodes on the palate. Su<br>light on its feet, fabulous! |                      |      |
| 2020 Barbaresco Serraboella, Paitin  | 6 x Bottle           | £220 |
| A pretty style of barbaresco with supple tannins and layers of spice, rose and che<br>some shy savoury tobacco notes come through to linger on the long finish.  | erry fruit. Finally, |      |

### 2020 Barbaresco Sori Paitin Serraboella, Paitin

6 x Bottle **£290** 

A rich and dark fruit profile, super sensual on the nose but gives way to a livelier palate full of tension. Lovely sweet fruit and licks of vanilla on the finish, yum.

## Poderi Luigi Einaudi

Amazingly, Luigi Einaudi never missed a harvest throughout his life. This is especially impressive when you consider he was successively the Governor of the Banca d'Italia, Italy's first Minister for Finance, Italy's first Deputy Prime Minister, and finally President of Italy from 1948 to 1955. After his death in 1961, his second child Roberto, born in Dogliani, took on the supervision of the family Farmhouse in nearby San Giacomo. A mechanical engineer by trade, Roberto continued his father's legacy of innovation, keeping the winery at the cutting edge of technology until the 1980s, when he handed the farm over to his daughter Paola and her partner Giorgio Ruffo. Paola's forward-thinking approach coupled with some major investments helped bring the Einaudi brand to a broader audience and cemented the name as a classic of Barolo.



Today, Paola's son Matteo is in charge. Educated at a Steiner school, he qualified as an architect before being inevitably drawn back to his home region to work the land at the family farm. Matteo has been keeping the Poderi Luigi Einaudi name alive and well with his focus on tradition bolstered by the family's historic drive to innovate.

| 2018 Langhe Rosso, Poderi Luigi Einaudi  | 6 x Bottle | £140 |
|--|------------|------|
| Deep burgundy in colour with plenty of blackcurrant fruit and sour black cher<br>on the nose. The palate is plump and generous with muscular yet fine tannins.   |            |      |
| 2020 Barbaresco, Poderi Luigi Einaudi  | 6 x Bottle | £170 |
| A beautiful limpid brick colour, the nose shows ripe red berries, warm earth a<br>Highly aromatic, the palate is juicy and sweet at the front, beautifully set off by<br>and fine persistent tannins.  |            |      |
| 2019 Barolo Ludo, Poderi Luigi Einaudi   | 6 x Bottle | £160 |
| Rich an complex aromatics with black fruits, spice and floral hints. A silky palat<br>cherry and raspberry fruit with some herbs and blood orange. Fine tannins an<br>make this precise but welcoming. |            |      |

### EXPLORE AND PURCHASE PIEMONTE WINES AT JEROBOAMS.CO.UK

#### 2019 Barolo Terlo Vigna Costa Grimaldi, Poderi Luigi Einaudi

Rich and intense with a dark fruit profile bolstered by herb and spice notes. On the palate this has some real structure with full tannins and fine acidity, beautifully balanced by the dense fruit.

| 2019 Barolo Bussia, Poderi Luigi Einaudi  | 6 x Bottle      | £300 |
|---|-----------------|------|
| Quite a savoury nose with warm beetroot, raspberry and a whiff of smoke. The palate is sumptuous and laden with black fruits. Powerful, with notable sweetness on the mid p full rich finish. This has real presence, but not at the expense of elegance. | -               |      |
| 2019 Barolo Cannubi, Poderi Luigi Einaudi   | 6 x Bottle      | £300 |
| Intense and focussed nose featuring warm spices, red berry compote and some balsam some warm earth tones, a creamy palate feel and super fine tannins. Elegance personifie  |                 |      |
| 2019 Barolo Monvigliero, Poderi Luigi Einaudi   | 6 x Bottle      | £300 |
| A classic Monvigliero, this is quite pale with an explosive nose of warm red fruits, strawber   | ry jam and spic | æ.   |

A classic Monvigliero, this is quite pale with an explosive nose of warm red fruits, strawberry jam and spice Ther palate is expansive and gentle with focus and silky tannins. There is a coolness to the crystaline fruit and lovely balance and whilst surprisingly approachable now, this has a long life ahead.

## Vietti

Located in the heart of the Langhe hills, at the top of the village of Castiglione Falletto, the Vietti wine cellar was founded in the late 1800s by Carlo Vietti. The estate has gradually grown over the years, and today the vineyards include some of the most highly prized terroirs within the Barolo winegrowing area.

Although they have been making wine for four generations, the turning point came in the 1960s when Luciana Vietti married winemaker and art connoisseur Alfredo Currado, whose intuitions – from the production of one of the first Barolo crus (Rocche di Castiglione, 1961), through to the single-varietal vinification of Arneis (1967) to the invention of Artist Labels (1974) – made him both symbol and architect of some of the most significant vinous revolutions of the time.

His intellectual, professional, and prospective legacy was taken up by Luca Currado Vietti (Luciana and Alfredo's son) and his

wife Elena, who have contributed to the success of the Vietti brand – universally recognized today as one of the very finest Italian wine labels – by continuing the pursuit of quality, considered experimentation and working for expansion and international consolidation.



6 x Bottle **£220** 

| 2020 Barbera d'Alba Scarrone, Vietti   | 6 x Bottle          | POA  |
|--|---------------------|------|
| Incredibly intense with black cherry, pepper spice and sweet notes of liquorice<br>Barbera, and one to enjoy now and in years to come.   | e. Not your average |      |
| 2020 Barbera d'Asti La Crena, Vietti   | 6 x Bottle          | POA  |
| Still a baby but notes of plum mingle with savoury dried herbs and a linear lick freshness to the palate. Looking forward to tasting this again in five years.   | fo acidty provides  |      |
| 2020 Langhe Nebbiolo Perbacco, Vietti  | 6 x Bottle          | POA  |
| Bright red cherry with notes of sour cherry and layers of mint, floral violet notes<br>Fine tannins give way to a long floral length. A serious Langhe Nebbiolo that m<br>increadly moreish in its youth. Absolutely fabulous! |                     |      |
| 2019 Barbaresco, Roncaglie Masseria, Vietti  | 3 x Bottle          | POA  |
| The nose has some earth tones, raspberry and a hint of cassis. Quite upright, the fine. A serious style of Barbaresco, this has finesse in bucketloads and an almost et  |                     |      |
| 2019 Barolo, Castiglione, Vietti   | 6 x Bottle          | £290 |
| A blend across the region, this is a complete wine, bright and fresh with lovely<br>Lovely acidity, full but fine tannins and loads of finesse.  | red berry fruit.    |      |
| 2019 Barolo, Lazzarito, Vietti   | 3 x Bottle          | £590 |
| Fresh mineral laced nose with strawberry and raspberry fruit and a savoury hin<br>feel to the fruit here and this needs time to unwind. Some salinity on the finish<br>tannins carry a kick for now.                           |                     |      |
| 2019 Barolo Brunate, Vietti  | 6 x Bottle          | POA  |
| An explosive wine with black cherry, crushed herbs and lifted fresh fennel note<br>broad and expansive with fine tannins and graphite texture on the finish.   | es. The palate is   |      |
| 2019 Barolo Monvigliero, Vietti  | 3 x Bottle          | £590 |
| Really fresh nose that is full of high-toned red fruits and floral notes, with warm backup. Very silky and supple with a creaminess before the structure pulls the   |                     |      |
| 2019 Barolo Ravera, Vietti   | 3 x Bottle          | £700 |
| This has a fresh character, with cool raspberry and red plum fruit. Broad textur<br>on the palate with some hints of darker fruits and spices, the tannins are quite f   |                     |      |
| 2019 Barolo Cerequio, Vietti   | 3 x Bottle          | POA  |
| Perfumed and floral this has a nose of rose petal, red currant, and cherry. A juicy spice notes, freshness without being uptight, super fine tannins and a lovely swe  |                     |      |
|  |                     |      |
| 2019 Barolo Rocche di Castiglione, Vietti  | 3 x Bottle          | POA  |

of florals and a sweet sappy quality. The tannins have presence with a sweet strawberry laced finish.

## Voerzio Martini

In 1987, the Voerzio family holdings were split when brothers Roberto and Gianni decided to part ways and follow different styles of wine making. The brother in the Voerzio Martini name is Gianni, who kept 17 hectares of premium vineyards in La Morra. In 2012, he teamed up with Piero Martini who appended his name to the winery and together, they handed over management to Piero's children Mirko and Federica, known locally as 'The Barolo Twins'.

Mirko is now the winemaker and Federica looks after the administrative side of the business. The property comprises three separate azienda, growing a variety of Piemontese grapes in different parts of the province of Cuneo: La Morra, Castellinaldo and Castiglione Tinella, including some exquisite holdings in such prestigious Barolo vineyards as Cerequio and Monvigliero. Together, the twins are converting the property to organic and have an eye on the future acquiring new parcels around the region.



| 2022 Arneis Langhe Bricco Cappellina, Voerzio Martini   | 6 x Bottle                                 | £58    |
|---|--|--------|
| If you are not already drinking Arneis then you should be. It is such a versatile and lidelicious grape, the perfect replacement to your everyday white. Voerzio Martini's clean with a subtle hint of tropicality, but bone dry and undeniably thirst-quenching  | s is crisp and                             |        |
| 2021 Timorasso Colli Tortonesi Derthona, Voerzio Martini  | 6 x Bottle                                 | £82    |
| Timorasso is having a moment with the likes of Vietti and Luca Roagna even jumping or<br>Martini's Timorasso has character in spades, with mint, fennel and an almost savoury-like<br>palate is dry with a enough weight that would be the perfect accompaniment to roast ch  | quality on the nose                        | e. The |
| 2021 Freisa Langhe Lamorrina, Voerzio Martini   | 6 x Bottle                                 | £65    |
| Freisa is one of the most exciting grape varieties in Piemonte and Voerzio Martini's is<br>example of how it used to be made. Ever so slightly sparkling, this might just be the r<br>that we sell. The palate is a fruit bomb, with layers upon layers of cherry bakewell, cas<br>leaf. Quite literally THE perfect BBQ wine; chill it down and enjoy the magic that is se | nost interesting re<br>ssis, and blackcurr | ant    |
| 2021 Nebbiolo Ciabot della Luna, Voerzio Martini  | 6 x Bottle                                 | £90    |
| The fruit for Voerzio Martini's Langhe Nebbiolo comes mainly from Boiolo, one of the vineyards in La Morra commune. This is quite a modern expression of Langhe Nebbio result is undeniably charming and approachable, even at this young age. Very easy callovely roundness of tannin and ever so subtle influence of oak. Yum!  | olo and as a                               |        |
| 2019 Barolo Classico, Voerzio Martini   | 6 x Bottle                                 | £150   |

The fruit for Voerzio Martini's Barolo Classico hails from Boiolo, La Serra, and Cerequio, co-fermented with the vineyards being blended at harvest time. A big step up on their Langhe Nebbiolo, and a lot more serious. Crushed violets and rose petal, it is all about the florality and perfume here. The tannins are there but soft, and gently caress rather than grip. Excellent length, this will undoubtedly be one of the best-value wines we offer from the vintage.

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## ⊨ 2019 Barolo Monvigliero, Voerzio Martini

Decidedly post-modern in style with a decent slap of oak on the nose. Really bright and clear fruit. The palate has excellent structure with tannins that quite literally melt away. Highly aromatic and perfumed but with plenty of bright red fruit and a moreish, Christmas cake finish. Showing unbelievably well already, it will be fascinating to watch how this ages.

### 2019 Barolo Cerequio, Voerzio Martini

A lot more reserved than Monvigliero at this early stage, Cerequio shows more sweetness of fruit and a tighter core of minerality and tannin. Structured and serious, almost brooding, but clearly with a long life ahead of it. There is lovely depth and texture, even if it is a bit shy, and the finish is impressive. Stick this in the cellar and forget about it, your future self will thank you.

## **2022 Moscato d'Asti Vignasergente, Voerzio Martini** 6 x Bottle

A beautifully refreshing Moscato with light alcohol and lovely sweet fruits balanced by bright acidity and some appealing ginger spice notes.

## Roberto Voerzio

Voerzio is a name synonymous with quality and Roberto has spent his lifetime pursuing it. An estate that will vehemently reject any ideas of "modernism" in Barolo, Roberto Voerzio is unashamedly "post-modern", incorporating a mixture of French oak and large botti to ferment and mature their wines. The philosophy here is simple: from only the healthiest, lowyielding vines in the greatest plots come the very finest wines. Their vineyard management is meticulous, pursuing a policy of high-density planting and rigorous leaf-thinning that ends up producing painfully tiny yields of roughly 500g (or one bunch) per vine, some of the lowest in the entire region. These are cult Barolo that are deserving of a place in any true collectors cellar, one of Italy's very top producers.

## 2019 Barolo del Comune di La Morra, Roberto Voerzio

A relatively new addition to the Voerzio portfolio, this is Barolo Classico but from the commune of La Morra, showcasing the wondrous ability for La Morra Cru to blend seamlessly together and create a wine that is quite simply more than the sum of its parts.

#### 2019 Barolo Brunate, Roberto Voerzio

Brunate is all power. Richer and broader than Sarmassa, and with more grip on the tannins, this is a masterclass in how serious Brunate can be, and no doubt will age beautifully. Incredible precision, and an awesome wine.

#### 2019 Barolo Cerequio, Roberto Voerzio

One of the historic single vineyards of La Morra, Cerequio is always sweet ripe red fruit and florality. On average just 300 cases are produced per year, which makes it one of the smallest Cru that Voerzio makes.



£475

32

£56

£320

6 x Bottle

6 x Bottle **£1,235** 

6 x Bottle

## 📂 2019 Barolo Fossati, Roberto Voerzio

If there is one producer who understands Fossati it is Roberto Voerzio. In the same cluster as Cerequio, Brunate and La Serra, you have Fossati on the Barolo side of La Morra, and often seen as the join between the two communes. While there is plenty of unexciting Fossati out there, Roberto Voerzio's Fossati is a cult wine in its own right, and proves that by employing some of the most selective vineyard harvesting techniques within the region you can push an often underperforming vineyard to greatness.

## 2019 Barolo La Serra, Roberto Voerzio

La Serra is a high-altitude vineyard, and the highest in the Voerzio stable at 380-400m, that always shows in the style of its wine. Heavenly aromatics are often accompanied by vibrant bittersweet fruit flavours, and energy. It is one of the most ageworthy Cru in all of Barolo, being situated just underneath the town of La Morra and perching above Cerequio and Brunate.

| 2019 Barolo Rocche dell'Annunziata, Roberto Voerzio | 6 x Bottle | £1,235 |
|---|------------|--------|
|---|------------|--------|

A flagship wine for Roberto Voerzio in many ways, this comes from one of the most iconic and celebrated vineyards in La Morra. If you have never drunk Roberto Voerzio's wines before then this is always a good starting point as Rocche conveys everything you need to know about Roberto's style and also gives you all the joy of drinking top quality Nebbiolo from La Morra. Bravo.

| 2007 Barolo Riserva, 10 Anni, Case Nere, Roberto Voerzio | 3 x Bottle | £615 |
|--|------------|------|
|--|------------|------|

Roberto Voerzio's Riserva 10 Anni is exactly what it says on the label, a reserve wine kept back for 10 years prior to release. So this 2007 was in fact originally released in 2017, however the Estate have opened up their cellars and offered us a small ex-cellars parcel, an opportunity too good to pass up! Case Nere is a piece of Fossati vineyard, located on the southern side of La Morra, and produces some exceptional wine. This 2007 should be drinking beautifully, but equally can be kept much longer. A towering wine of incredible precision and depth, this deserves a place in every great cellar.

| 2018 Barolo Torriglione, Roberto Voerzio  | 1 x Magnum  | £410 |
|---|-------------|------|
| Bottled exclusively in magnum format as it is intended for a celebration, Torriglione is one of the other |             |      |
| "cult" wines that Voerzio makes, having only separated out this Cru from Rocche dell                      | 'Annunziata |      |
| from 2010 onwards. Torriglione is a small vineyard on its own hill at the southern end                    | of Rocche   |      |
| dell'Annunziata, and on the right-hand side of Boiolo. Rare doesn't even begin to cov                     | ver it.     |      |
|   |             |      |

### 2018 Barbera Riserva Pozzo dell'Annunziata, Roberto Voerzio 1 x Magnum £275

At one point in time the Annunziata vineyards were filled with Barbera, rather than Nebbiolo. Wanting to prove the point that Barbera can be just as serious as top Barolo, Roberto makes this Barbera from some of the most expensive vines in La Morra, and applies to it the same winemaking as his Barolo, opting to then bottle exclusively in magnum, not just because it should age better but also because he firmly believes this wine should be opened with friends. His meticulous selection in the vineyard means that his yields for Barbera are less than 450g per vine, which in practical terms is less than a bottle per vine. Frequently labelled as "the best Barbera out there" and a consistently high-scorer with the critics, this is a cult wine that is well worth collecting. Only 1,500 magnums made for the world...

## **2019 Barolo Sarmassa, Roberto Voerzio**

Only bottled in magnum, roughly 1,000 magnums made per year. Absolutely stunning nose; milk chocolate and cacao, vanilla, sweet spice, and crushed flowers. Wow. Stunning nose. Milk chocolate and cocoa. Vanilla. Really aromatic and lifted. Super smooth and rounded. Delicious. Super fine tannins. 1,000 magnums per year. Unbelievable. £410

1 x Magnum

6 x Bottle

£1,235

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