

Clabot Berton, Roggeri 18 (93)

£35 Gerrad Seel, Majestic

Ripe, sweet tannins and menthol tobacco nuances accent ripe dark cherry flavours.

Drink 2022-2035 Alc 14%

GB Burlotto, Monvigliero 18 (93)

£29-£40 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Fine & Rare, The Wine Society

Dense and sweet with smooth tannins and lingering menthol and wild herb hints. Drink 2022-2035 Alc 14%

Cascina Bruciata, Cannubi-Muscatel 17.75 (92)

N/A UK www.cascinabruciata.it

Politely styled, almost light, fragrant Barolo that is archetypal of Cannubi's graceful charm, with Muscatel backbone. Drink 2020-2030 Alc 14%



Cognito, Ravera 17.75 (92)

£55 Fine & Rare, Lay & Wheeler

Suave and sweet, with truffle underbrush and ripe red cherry characters. Drink 2025-2040 Alc 14%

Altare 17.5 (91)

£43 Farr Vintners, Fine & Rare, Justerlini & Brooks

The Brunate is deeper and more perfumed but this is a stand-out Barolo for the price. Dense, luscious and perfumed. Drink 2020-2030 Alc 14%



Cavallotto, Bricco Boschis 17.5 (91)

£40-£50 Fine & Rare, Lay & Wheeler

Almost Burgundy-like perfume with strawberry and sweet spice notes. Drink 2020-2040 Alc 14%

Ettore Germano, Cerretta 17.5 (91)

£45 Astrum, Woodwinters

A tannic, taut, high acid wine that needs time but has plenty of depth and purity. Drink 2022-2045 Alc 14%

Francesco Rinaldi & Figli 17.5 (91)

£34.50-£37.50 Astrum, Woodwinters

Fresh and floral; with juicy strawberry flavours and minty notes. Bright finish. Drink 2020-2035 Alc 14%

Giulio Grimaldi, Le Coste 17.5 (91)

£35-£40 Fine & Rare, Pipal

Sweet and savoury, with balsamic dark cherry and sweet spice accents. Drink 2020-2035 Alc 14%

Luigi Pira 17.5 (91)

£35 James Nicholson, Liberty Wines, Slurp

Rich and ripe, offers early appeal and fairly soft tannins. Drink 2020-2030 Alc 14%

Oddero 17.5 (91)

£29.05 Pipal, Waitrose

Delicate rose and red cherry notes, high acids and tannins. Traditionally made, stand-out affordable entry level Barolo. Drink 2020-2035 Alc 14%

will prove very ageworthy thanks to sound acidities; all should further gain in texture with age. Luca Currado of Vietti put it succinctly: 'Quality in 2010 is all about location, location and location: it's 80% terroir, 10% the work of man and 10% luck.' Last but not least, though you will read otherwise elsewhere, I do not believe one commune outperformed the others, and the same was true of the 30 or so winemakers I talked to recently: some liked La Morra's wines, others Serralunga's, still others Castiglione Falletto's.

Overall, I believe that 2010 was slightly overrated by some critics, who often taste too early when the wines really aren't developed. That said, the 2010 Barolos are generally very good to outstanding. Most will never reach the lofty quality levels of the five stellar Barolo vintages of the past 50 to 60 years (1961, 1971, 1978, 1982 and 1989), but many will be memorable wines. In fact, 2010 is the best Barolo vintage of the 21st century to date (along with 2001), and will go down in the books as one of Barolo's better vintages. Last but not least, the fact Bruno Giacosa chose to declassify his wines and not bottle any 2010s is not a comment on the vintage's quality but rather of problems at the winery linked to his poor health and temporary absence, problems that have since been resolved. His 2011s, for example, promise to be outstanding.

Barbaresco 2011

Alberto di Grésy of Marchesi di Grésy doesn't hold back: 'The 2011s are super!' and most of his winemaking colleagues agree. Angelo Gaja notes that the 2011s show more acid than tannins, making for lively, powerful wines. Luisa Rocca of Bruno Rocca cautioned that the key to successful 2011s was timing the harvest right: 'Those who waited too long risked making overripe, alcoholic wines.' Similarly, Alessandro Ceretto of Ceretto observed, 'the hottest sites fared less well in 2011'. In fact, Di Grésy believes that though quality was high throughout Barbaresco's four communes, the Barbarescos of Barbaresco performed best: 'There's more complexity than in those of Treiso and those

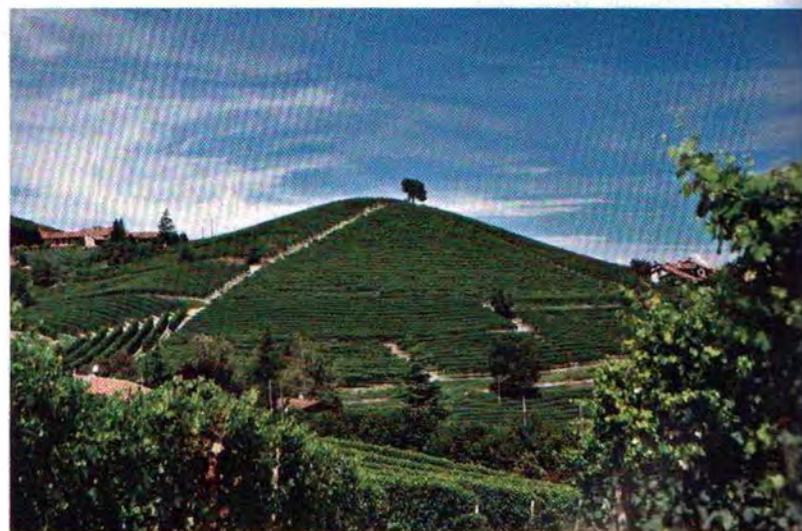


What the producers say

'Modern-day, excellent Barolo: ageworthy, but many are readier to drink sooner than originally thought'

Federico Scarzello (above) of Gioglio Scarzello and also president of the Enoteca Regionale del Barolo

'2010 is a classic, exciting Barolo vintage; one of the finest. It is rare, in that the wines have almost perfect balance. Still young, they show somewhat linear structures but have real complexity, depth and and harmony' **Ellsa Scavino, Paolo Scavino**



Above: Paolo Scavino's Monvigliero vineyard is a 'grand cru' of the Verduno commune