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PIEDMONT 2021: BORN TO RUN



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BORN TO RUN



2021 is an extremely high-quality vintage that ranks amongst the finest of the past twenty years.

In the context of the past few years, the 2021s present more vibrant, succulent fruit and greater aromatic splendour than the more fearless, sinewed 2019s, which continue to impress for their depth and focus. Both are firmly terroir-driven vintages, but there is in general a little more mid-palate to the 2021s, in full ruby-toned, but insistently Alpine fashion. Acidities are high but come across as ripe and saline, as in 2019. However, 2021's inherent freshness is met with a little extra pliancy and sweetness, which has delivered wines of great harmony and pedigree. Most growers agree at this point that 2021 wears the crown in the trilogy of 2019, 2020 and 2021. But that's not to diminish the fact that each of these three vintages has produced a bevy of quality wines to choose from – and each has its own merits.

In the village of Verduno, we discussed how the acclaimed Monvigliero vineyard – a steep south facing amphitheatre that watches over the whole Barolo zone – seems to somehow draw, and hold, all the light of the day (“la luce”), only to reflect and radiate it back, without heat, through spine-tingling wines that are sumptuous, powerful, yet also highly elegant: all freshly-cut flowers, citrus and spice. It is an idea that I think at least in part is applicable to the 2021 vintage more broadly – in the way that for all its long-term potential, everything is in place and intelligible, less tucked up than the 2019s were, but with more dart and verticality than the 2020s. Whilst they have power, there is a radiance, a prism of light within them. One

producer told us: *“They were born great. It was clear right from the beginning.”*

Purists can enjoy drinking the wines young, on their vitality, especially at Classico and Comune level, but at the top end, 2018 and 2020 will deliver enjoyment ahead of 2019 and 2021. That is not to say, as perceived wisdom would have it, that 2021 will need decades before it's drinkable. Far from it. Greater attention to detail both in the vineyards with regards to ripeness, tannin management and yield, and in the cellar when it comes to extractions, choice of vessels and duration of ageing, means that the days of undrinkably dense and tannic Barolos are behind us. Check in on the wines every few years and you will love following their development. I personally drink Piedmont on its nerve and perfume, others love the complex fruit and truffley notes that Barolo and Barbaresco wines develop over the long term.

From a climatic standpoint, 2021 will go down as a “classic” year – which ultimately just means a long, not extreme growing season. Save for two days of frost in April that hit some vineyards in the lower parts of La Morra, Castiglione Falletto and Barolo, and a good summer that peaked in August (giving rise to the term “modern classic”), the year was largely cooperative.

A key factor in the success of the vintage was the blanket of winter snow that covered the Langhe, providing a slow feed of nourishment to the soils. Snow works more effectively to sustain the vines gradually through the warmer months, from deep underground, compared to the more dramatic but shorter-lasting, shallower impact of rain. After the frost in April, May

proved dry and stable, while June, July and August were hot (heat at that level is usually only seen in July). September brought with it rain and cooler temperatures to reinvigorate the vines and bring everything back to life. In Piedmont, autumn is said to make the vintage. October proved stupendous, arriving with sunny, warm days and cold nights, perfect for the late ripening Nebbiolo grapes to develop complexity, fully ripen the tannins and maintain high levels of fine, juicy tartaric acidity. Producers typically picked from the end of the first week through to mid-late October depending on their location. The vintage overall is considered to have a “fresh” profile.

It is true that we tasted at the best estates in Piedmont, so we left with a positive view on the vintage. Then again, even at the top addresses, for the most part the wines remain accessible and fairly priced for the incredible quality they offer, particularly taken in a global fine wine context. The very top wines are of course priced accordingly, but we know first-hand that the same care and focus is given to wines up and down the scale amongst the producers we work with, so there is genuine quality to be found at every level.

It may be that we don't see a trio as consistent as 2019, 2020 and 2021 for a little while, so let's enjoy them, and await Riservas with excitement too. The place, the people and the wines are brilliant.

I hope this is reflected to some small degree in our offer today.

MARK DEARING

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WORDS FROM SOME OF OUR PRODUCERS ON 2021

“The frost meant for us a 10% reduction that worked effectively as an early green harvest. The results are exceptional.”

**MARIA TERESA MASCARELLO,
BARTOLO MASCARELLO**

“2021 had a fresh, classic climate producing complete quite austere wines full of aroma and character. Harvest for Barolo started around 6th October. The grapes were perfect and we find the 2021s to be a little more discreet than our 2019s.”

MARTA RINALDI, GIUSEPPE RINALDI

“Out of 2019, 2016 and 2021 we think 2021 is the most complete and the richest. It is a new classic: generous but aromatic in the way that you don’t expect in an austere year. I think the 2019s have a different structure, more predominant tannin. The 2021s have a lot of tannins but they are integrated and super-sweet, combined with perfume. We see some similarities in style with 2013.”

LORENZO SCAVINO, AZELIA

“2021 is exceptional and shows that a little suffering for the vine is good, though torture is not (referring to the drought in 2022). I love 2018, for example, but it is not at the level of 2019, 2020 or 2021. We have in a row three very good vintages.”

ALEX SANCHEZ, BROVIA



THE COMMUNES OF BAROLO & BARBARESCO

We understand that many Justerini & Brooks customers are fully au fait with the intricacies of Piedmont's two principal wine regions: Barolo and Barbaresco. But for those less familiar, or perhaps just in need of a refresher, we provide here a summary of the key communes in both regions. When one considers the diversity of soil, elevation, aspect and micro-climate across the Langhe, even before the complexities of vine age, clonal variation, training methods and winemaking philosophies, it becomes ever-clearer that the wines of Barolo and Barbaresco comprise some of the most terroir-driven of any region in the world.

In the context of noteworthy single cru Barolo and Barbaresco, the likes of which are represented in our offer today, a little insight into the broad characteristics of each commune may help to narrow down a selection of wines that will appeal to your personal tastes. For the connoisseurs, we hope that a quick overview might tempt a move into new areas, or lesser-known crus, in the pursuit of diverse, contemporary Barolo and Barbaresco collections.

For your convenience, we have also included a summary of the single crus we offer from each commune. Whilst there are a total of eleven approved communes in the DOCG Barolo appellation, we have opted to focus only on the most prominent six. Not included are Roddi, Grinzane Cavour, Novello (home to Ravera – an increasingly famous, windy single vineyard), Cherasco and Diano d'Alba. In Barbaresco we have opted not to include San Rocco Seno d'Elvio, the southernmost zone of Barbaresco, officially in the municipality of Alba. At present, plantings are dominated by Dolcetto and simple Nebbiolo, but due to its cooler microclimate, it has potential for the future as growers explore later ripening areas for Barbaresco production.

BAROLO (BAROLO)

The township of Barolo lends its name to the DOCG appellation, and functions both physically and metaphorically as the heart of the region. Situated in the centre of the appellation, what it lacks in area under vine versus its neighbours Monforte d'Alba,

La Morra and Serralunga d'Alba, it makes up for in prestige, thanks largely to the historical importance of the Cannubi vineyard. Cannubi is undisputedly one of Italy's great "Grand Crus", with ancient documents marking out its significance for the region as early as the 1700s. The soils across the Barolo commune are broadly the softer Tortonian, made up of Sant'Agata Fossil marls, clay and sand, rather than the older, harder and calcareous Serravallian soils found commonly in Serralunga d'Alba and Monforte d'Alba. Being the lowest township in elevation, the diurnal swing is not as pronounced in Barolo as it is in other communes and this, combined with generally deep, complex soils, tends to produce grapes which ripen earlier. Consequently, the wines of Barolo are prized for their rich fruits, bold but sweet tannins and overall engaging, pliant feel. The wines of Barolo tend to drink on the early side, despite a concentration level which allows for extended ageing if desired.

- Cannubi, Elio Altare

- Sarmassa, Roberto Voerzio

- Bricco delle Viole, Marco Marengo

LA MORRA (BAROLO)

The small, pretty village of La Morra is the focal point for what is in fact the largest commune in the appellation, both in terms of production and area under vine. The wines of La Morra have a reputation for elegance, perfume, and finesse, even if the reality is a little more complex. Given that there are 62 wineries physically located in La Morra, and many who vinify grapes from the area outside, it is unsurprising that La Morra produces a wide range of styles. Overall though it is, with Monforte d'Alba, the highest commune, which means extreme shifts in temperature between day and night – perfect for ripening Nebbiolo with huge perfumes and fresh acidities. In practice, La Morra can be divided into three sub-regions, each producing wines in subtly different styles. First, the vineyards around Santa Maria; the wines here tend to be correct and solid, grown on a heavier clay base at generally lower elevations. Second, the cluster of vineyards around the hamlet of Annunziata – home

to the mighty Rocche dell'Annunziata and the lesser-known but high quality Arborina and Torriglione crus. Here the wines tend to be rounder and fuller with marked violet and rose perfumes. Lastly, the vineyards on the small, steep "Rocche" ridge comprising La Serra, Cerequio, Brunate and Fossati are considered Champions League sites, which marry La Morra's trademark seductive character with a certain mineral austerity. The commune's overall soil composition is complex but, like Barolo, is comprised primarily of silty-clay-sandy Tortonian soils with pockets of limestone.

- Brunate, Marco Marengo

- Brunate, Roberto Voerzio

- Arborina, Elio Altare

- Rocche dell'Annunziata, Roberto Voerzio

- Rocche dell'Annunziata Riserva, Paolo Scavino

- Cerequio, Roberto Voerzio

- La Serra, Roberto Voerzio

VERDUNO (BAROLO)

A commune that for a long time sat under the radar but is now widely regarded as one of the region's most exciting, Verduno is famed for the Monvigliero

vineyard – a small, steep amphitheatre producing some of Barolo's most collectable wines. Barolo's northern outpost, dubbed "*The Watchtower*", Verduno is unique in being directly influenced by the Tanaro river which separates Barolo from Barbaresco. Well-exposed vineyards and continuous breezes, combined with slightly lower temperatures, produce Barolos of soaring aromatics, lightness and spice. A radiant, luminous character characterises many of the wines produced here, which often bear a closer resemblance to Barbaresco than to the wines of other Barolo communes. Vineyards like Massara and San Lorenzo di Verduno tend to provide more accessible drinking options in typically bright, perfumed styles, whilst Monvigliero's exposure and greater complexity in general requires a decade or more in the cellar to express its true potential.

- Barolo Comune di Verduno, Fratelli Alessandria

- Barolo, Castello di Verduno

- Massara, Castello di Verduno

- Monvigliero, Castello di Verduno

- Monvigliero Riserva, Castello di Verduno

- Monvigliero, Fratelli Alessandria

- Monvigliero, Paolo Scavino



CASTIGLIONE FALLETTO (BAROLO)

Castiglione Falletto, though small, is one of the most prestigious communes in the Langhe. Vineyards such as Monprivato, Rocche di Castiglione and Villero have long been highly desirable. In recent decades vineyards such as Bricco Fiasco (Bric del Fiasc), Scarrone, Pira and Bricco Boschis have seen a surge in reputation thanks to a younger generation of producers. Located in the centre of the Barolo appellation, Castiglione Falletto sits on a rift between the Tortonian and the Serravallian soils. Many argue that the best wines combine the lifted, fruit purity and finesse of the former with the minerality and depth of the latter. There is no doubt that the best wines from Castiglione age tremendously well, though the sandier sites, of which there are a number, produce wines which are on the whole remarkably charming and attractive in youth despite their deep-seated latent power. An overall balance of power and aromatic complexity is perhaps that which best characterises Castiglione Falletto. Typically, the wines are potent and mineral, with waves of strawberries, cherries and spices.

- Bricco Fiasco, Azelia
- Bric del Fiasc, Paolo Scavino
- Rocche di Castiglione, Brovia
- Villero, Brovia
- Garblet Sue, Brovia

SERRALUNGA D'ALBA (BAROLO)

Located on the eastern side of the appellation, Serralunga d'Alba has the highest number of classified single crus in the Barolo region and historically served as an important component in Barolo Classico blends. A clearly defined, baritone, austere profile to its wines has always made it a highly desirable area for Nebbiolo. The commune is characterised by a long ridge line which runs north to south, dividing the vineyards between the south south-west exposures and the south south-east. On the eastern slopes, vineyards such as Brea, Prapo and Cerretta tend to produce structured but polished Barolos with complex liquorice and dark fruits with powerful but ripe tannins. On the western slopes, the drier soils of Vigna Rionda and Margheria, for example, tend to produce wines of a more ferrous, stony, saline expression. Serralunga sits, unsurprisingly, in the Serravallian sector where the soils are older and more compacted with a higher proportion of limestone and white and grey marls.

- Margheria, Azelia
- San Rocco, Azelia
- Cerretta, Azelia
- Cerretta, Riserva, Elio Altare
- Brea, Ca Mia, Brovia
- Prapo, Paolo Scavino

MONFORTE D'ALBA (BAROLO)

Monforte d'Alba is, like La Morra, a large and high commune. However, unlike La Morra, and especially Serralunga, the maps in Monforte were drawn to allow for fewer but more extended single vineyards. That a vineyard as large as Bussia, for example, could possibly have a clear-enough identity to be consistent across all producers is unlikely. This, combined with a significant increase in Nebbiolo plantings in areas formerly deemed unsuitable, has put the commune in a slightly troubled position. When the wines are well made and gently handled, they are dark and powerful, but at the same time mineral, fragrant and fine boned. Salty, fragrant, ferrous, almost citrus-driven Barolos are typical of the commune. Ginestra and Bussia (specifically the sub-plots of Pianpolvere and Dardi) are the two most lauded and historic crus of Monforte, though Gramolere and Perno produce increasingly fine wines too. Given the size of the crus it is common to see better wines labelled with the name of the sub-plot or zone below the official MGA. The soils are Serravallian with a high proportion of sandstone and chalk, but do vary widely from vineyard to vineyard.

- Gramolere, Fratelli Alessandria
- Bussia Fantini, Paolo Scavino

NEIVE (BARBARESCO)

As a rule, the wines of Barbaresco tend to drink slightly earlier than those of Barolo. This is evidenced in many of the beautifully succulent, full bodied wines found in the Neive commune. Built around fruit expression and bold but ripe tannins, some of Barbaresco's most lauded wines hail from Neive. The soils in Neive have a high presence of blue marls, with a deep seam of limestone and clay and big presence of Sant'Agata Fossils. These combine to make for well-draining, drier soils on the surface with a hard but relatively steady water supply towards the bedrock. The vines' roots are forced to bury deep in in order to stabilise and thus there is a



high proportion of old vines in Neive which are prized for their consistency, verticality and complexity. High-toned, floral and bewitching Barbarescos of intensity and persistence.

- Albesani-Borgese, Piero Busso
- Gallina, Piero Busso

BARBARESCO (BARBARESCO)

The historic commune in the heart of the appellation, Barbaresco itself produces complete, rounded expressions of Nebbiolo, resplendent with fine, linear tannins, brittle but jostling perfumes and lashings of red fruits and spices. Elevations overall are not especially high but a slightly cooler and breezier micro-climate compared to Neive means good freshness. The high proportion of sand in some of the most fabled sites such as Asili produces wines of incredible refinement and noble aroma. Rabaja, another great site, tends to display darker, spicier berried fruits, with epic energy

and fine balsamic and mineral notes. For those starting out, Barbaresco tends to produce consistent, fruity and elegant wines with long ageing potential.

- Rabaja, Castello di Verduno
- Rabaja Bas, Castello di Verduno

TREISO (BARBARESCO)

The highest commune in the Barbaresco appellation, rising to over 400m, Treiso is notably cooler than its two neighbours, in some cases ripening almost a full month later. Harder and more compact soils, more Serravallian in profile, mean darker and slightly wilder-styled wines tending towards crisp, forest fruit flavours, earth, salt and spices. Where the wines are occasionally described as austere, this is rarely borne out in the best examples, which combine freshness, depth and tense, jewel-like berry flavours.

- San Stunet, Piero Busso

BUYER'S PICKS



OUR TOP 5 BAROLO BLENDS

Sometimes overlooked in favour of the single cru Barolo, the traditional blended Barolo Classico is a wonderful category, produced nowadays in styles that are generally approachable from the off. This selection comprises wines of real distinction and class, at prices that won't break the bank.

	PRICE	CASE
Barolo, Castello di Verduno 2022	£170IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Comune del Verduno, Fratelli Alessandria, 2021	£225IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Altare, 2021	£250IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Fratelli Brovia, 2021	£255IB	6x75cl
Barolo Comune di La Morra, Roberto Voerzio, 2021	£425IB	6x75cl

OUR TOP 5 MID-TIER BAROLO & BARBARESCO SUGGESTIONS

These five wines represent a confident spread of winemaking styles and all hail from outstanding single vineyards. They can be broached over the next five years, but will all improve over the next fifteen years if cellared properly.

	PRICE	CASE
Barbaresco, Rabaja, Castello di Verduno, 2022	£265 IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Brunate, Marengo, 2021	£265 IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Ravera, Paolo Scavino 2021	£340 IB	6x75cl
Barbaresco, Albesani-Borgese, Piero Busso, 2021	£365 IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Bricco Fiasco, Azelia 2021	£375 IB	6x75cl

TOP 5 "MUST HAVE" WINES

These five recommendations represent some of our out-and-out favourite wines from the offer this year, irrespective of price. They are likely to be highly sought after but will provide decades of drinking pleasure and memorable drinking experiences if you are lucky enough to secure a case. They should all be laid down for ten years.

	PRICE	CASE
Barolo, Monvigliero, Fratelli Alessandria 2021	£420 IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Rocche di Castiglione, Brovia, 2021	£495 IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Cannubi, Elio Altare 2021	£750 IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Rocche dell' Annunziata, Riserva, Scavino, 2019	£915 IB	6x75cl
Barolo, Cerequio, Voerzio, 2021	£1,195 IB	6x75cl

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PIERO BUSSO (NEIVE, BARBARESCO)

The architect of exceptionally elegant wines and regarded by many of Piedmont’s starriest names as the single most exciting up and coming producer in the region, Pierguido Busso is as brilliant a winemaker as you are likely to meet. Inspired by the artisanal, historic wines of the Langhe, and those of the Cote d’Or, Germany and Champagne, he is an imbibor and student of fine wine in all its forms. Aided by propitious old-vine holdings in some of Neive and Treiso’s most desirable sites, Pier produces Barbarescos of fruit-led finesse and light-touch tannic delicacy. 2021 is a brilliant vintage here; the wines sculpted, sapid, with the most alluring textures. It caps a run of exceptional vintages. The collection is crowned by the much-awaited Riserva labels from 2019 – each one representing just a single barrel in production. “2021 is a vintage that I enjoy a lot. It is classical. Everything was exactly as it should be.” A producer that should be on everybody’s shopping list before demand catches up with the quality.



	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barbaresco, Albesani-Borgese 2021	6x75cl	£365	2030
Ripe and expressive and immediately enticing – sweetly fruited, succulent and complex, with a high-toned, detailed feel – likely the best we’ve ever tasted here. Vigna Borgese is a sub-plot in front of the Busso cellar, home to the estate’s oldest vines, averaging fifty years old. A southwest facing vineyard at 280 metres elevation planted on sandy white limestone soils. Aged in 25 hl casks for 24-26 months.			
Barbaresco San Stunet 2021	6x75cl	£365	2030
	1x1.5L	£135	
	1x3L	£295	
Bullace and sloe, plum skins and blueberries in abundance, delivered with a cleansing quality. The longer hang time of San Stunet has levied an extra kick of richness and pliancy to the tannin even if the expression is overall a bit darker and more herbal than the Albesani. Saline and sapid with a sense of concentration and focus. From the commune of Treiso, San Stunet is a southeast facing vineyard at 400m altitude, one of the highest parts of Barbaresco. The soils are mostly limestone with blue marl. The site is late ripening, usually picked ten days after the others. Typically, the wine is more linear in structure than Busso’s other Barbarescos. Aged for two years in 25hl Slavonian oak casks.			
Barbaresco Gallina 2020	6x75cl	£475	2030
Gallina presents a heady, slender perfume centred around strawberries and kirsch, with inflections of mint and dried herbs. Succulent, mid-weight, with the suave drinkability of many 2020s, this is a more gracious, open follow-up to the more structured 2019. The Busso part of Gallina is considered a good one, as it is well-exposed, facing Ovello to the west rather than full south, so it benefits from breezes coming off the Tanaro. Produced from the oldest vines of the estate, the wine sees an extra year in bottle before release.			
Barbaresco Albesani Riserva Viti Vecchie 2019	3x75cl	£475	2030
	1x1.5L	£360	
Grand-scaled but also so precise and finely tuned, the Albesani VV offers up a floral fan on the nose, super shiny and sophisticated, irresistible. Firmer, more concentrated and overtly mineral on the palate; salty and more vertical – a wine of enormous focus delivered with an array of floating alpine berries and citrus. When Pierguido took over winemaking in 2010, the first wine he introduced was this small, 70-90 year old 0.2ha plot bottling in his grandfather’s honour. The tiny area means that production is contingent on there being enough perfect grapes to fill a single cask. Typically, it requires a classic harvest at the end of October with healthy and thick enough skins to permit a long maceration of 90 days with submerged cap. Aged for three years in cask and three years in bottle before release. Total production is 900 bottles.			
Barbaresco Gallina Riserva Viti Vecchie 2019	3x75cl	£475.00	2030
	1x1.5L	£360.00	
Sumptuous, complex and aromatic, with a sculpted, youthful and purposeful bouquet. A wash of present but creamy tannins and dancing fruits, with an initially plush feel, is followed by dry stone, earth, herbs and a vivid, mineral finish; the wine as a whole presents as more concentrated and deeper than the more ethereal Albesani. A serious, exceptionally classy wine that will reward a bit of patience. The first vintage of Gallina Riserva was 2015, following the same principle as the Albesani VV i.e. only the most perfect grapes to fill a single cask from a plot of old vines, here planted in the early 1950s. The wine sees a long maceration over 90 days with submerged cap. Aged for three years in cask and three years in bottle before release. Total production is 900 bottles.			
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CASTELLO DI VERDUNO (VERDUNO, BAROLO & BARBARESCO)

The Castello di Verduno style here is one of fragrant, juicy, drinkability – never daunting or deep in colour, the wines are instead slender and focused. They can be drunk and enjoyed in youth and the best wines age, too. It does seem that the Castello is at last getting at least some of the credit they deserve for these delicious wines. In that spirit, the estate has opted to bring forward the release of the more seductive, fruit-driven, ethereal 2022 Barbarescos and hold back the tighter 2021s for an extra year. In tasting through the wines for this offer, Mario Andron has clearly navigated the different vintages with aplomb – adapting the level of extraction, duration of skin contact and ageing, to preserve the inherent qualities of each year. While the vintages are distinct from one another, they all share a sense of lift and ruby-like bright cherry fruits. Broadly speaking, the estate favours long macerations and ageing in traditional, large casks for 18–22 months depending on the wine. As ever, this is an immediately attractive, echoing style of Nebbiolo that will appeal to wine drinkers of all inclinations. The Barolo Classico (produced from fruit exclusively in the Verduno commune) is the perfect calling card for the estate.

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barbaresco 2022	6x75cl	£170	2025
Always a delicate drinkable style of Barbaresco with good intensity of flavour whisked along by light, crisp acidity and tannin. A blend of predominantly Faset (90%) and declassified Rabaja and Rabaja Bas, all in the Barbaresco commune. Fermented in stainless steel with 30 days of skin contact and aged for 18 months in large casks.			
Barbaresco Rabaja Bas 2022	6x75cl	£215	2025
2022 has a lovely, layered ripeness to it, offering red cherry and a pulpy, juicy tactile finish. Contrary to the name, Rabaja Bas is not the lower part of Rabaja but a continuation of the ridge. The Verduno parcel is at the same elevation as Rabaja itself, on the west facing end as opposed to the full south of Rabaja – it benefits from cooler mornings and direct winds coming off the Tanaro. The Castello’s plot was planted in 1942 during the war. Fermented in stainless steel and aged in cask for 20 months.			
Barbaresco Rabaja 2022	6x75cl	£265	2030
There is an extra level of density, polish, and sandalwood notes here next to the Rabaja Bas, replete with spicy hints of cinnamon and tobacco and a lovely deep, yielding feel. As you’d expect from the Castello, it keeps its drinkability in a deliciously supple, open-knit way. The Castello has a total of 1ha in the steepest, south facing part of Rabaja, 0.5ha of which is 40 years old and 0.5ha is 15 years old (this goes to the Barbaresco Classico). It is fermented and aged in 25hl Slavonian oak casks.			
Barolo 2021	6x75cl	£200	2026
Technically a “comune di Verduno” Barolo (and will be labelled as such from next year), the 2021 is less immediate than the more fluid 2022s tasted before it, tapering toward blood orange and grapefruits, peach and rosehip, all very typical of Verduno as a village. Produced from four vineyards, vinified separately. Boscatto, close to the La Morra border, brings power from the younger clay soils, whilst Campasso, Rodasca and Massara have similar soil compositions of primarily fossilised Sant’Agata marls and clay. Massara has a bit more limestone than the others.			

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo Massara 2020	6x75cl	£315	2026
Deeper textured with a cloak of rich tannin, spice and citrus, mint and eucalyptus. The 2020 offers a gentle veneer of sandalwood and spice from the barrel, framing the fruit and adding a bit of push to the tannic pull. Massara is a prominent, southeast facing Verduno vineyard situated below the village itself at 230–370m. The soils are primarily blue marl and clay based with veins of chalk – typically producing more sumptuous, rounded wines than its drier, more exposed neighbour, Monvigliero.			
Barolo Monvigliero 2020	6x75cl	£390	2026
A gorgeous, pliant and striking Monvigliero – lifted and aromatic, with a thrum of slender red plums and flowers, so easy to love. From two parcels facing southeast and south. Monvigliero is one of the Langhe’s greatest sites, one that has benefitted from a huge surge in renown over the past twenty years. Dubbed “The Watchtower” of Barolo, it is the northernmost MGA, facing primarily south in a steep, amphitheatre formation. The soils are drier, looser and whiter than its neighbours, producing typically medium bodied, highly finessed Barolos paler in colour with a full range of floral and spicy notes.			
Barbaresco Rabaja Riserva 2019	3x75cl	£195	2030
Fantastic, sculpted, blue, purple and red fruits, with heather, lavender and camphor. Grippy and mineral and exciting. Lucid and fresh but structured too. Superb. A special selection of just four rows of 75-year-old vines, fermented with submerged cap and long macerations, aged for three years in traditional 25hl cask.			
Barolo Monvigliero Riserva 2019	3x75cl	£255	2030
Smart and intense, more exotic aromatically after the Rabaja, textured and layered, with notes of spice, citrus and crushed red fruits, all cushioned by an extra level of wood texture from a newer cask and a classy spine of shimmering acidity. A selection from an older plot of vines in a prime south facing location. Fermented with submerged cap and long macerations, aged for three years in traditional 25hl cask.			
Barolo Monvigliero Riserva 2015	3x75cl	£285	2025
A library release at ten years old, the 2015 is lovely today. Super classy, aristocratic even, with spice-layered tannins and an impressively round, pliant finish. Ready to drink with more in reserve.			

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FRATELLI ALESSANDRIA (VERDUNO, BAROLO)

Fratelli Alessandria’s 2021s rank amongst the best wines we tasted. They have left a huge imprint. The affable Vittore Alessandria is at ease with this, proud of his wines, but funny and modest, too. He described 2021 as “a vintage that did not have any extreme challenges aside from a little bit of frost at the beginning of April. Winter snow was hugely beneficial, but summer was even with very few days at high peaks of temperature. Harvest began in Monvigliero on 6th October, which means a long growing cycle that qualifies 2021 as a ‘classic’ vintage.” As always, these are supremely finessed, complex Barolos that offer a stunning mix of power, energy and perfume. Vinifications are carried out plot by plot and blended gradually over the course of the ageing process. Maceration time averages 30 days, the ferments carried out in stainless steel, with only light pumpovers for the extraction of colour, no submerged cap, no pigeage. The 2021s radiate energy and vibrancy in a quite remarkable way. They are a thrill to taste.

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
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Barbera d’Alba Superiore Priora 2022	6x75cl	£105	2025
A Barbera produced from 70% Verduno and 30% Monforte fruit, The first vintage aged in Botti Grande rather than tonneaux and it is certainly closer to the Alessandria Barolo style as a result. Expressive and juicy with a red fruited and quite transparent feel despite the warmth of the year. Animated and floral and bottled under Diam for freshness.			

Barolo Comune di Verduno 2021	6x75cl	£225	2026
Fragrant and fresh and vitalising – representing all that is great about Verduno as a village, proffering notes of rose and violet and powdery, pastille-like lacy fruits in a gentle, juicy and animated style. A blend of five vineyards all in Verduno: Pisapola, Campasso, Boscatto, Rocche dell’Olmo and Riva Rocca. The first four plots are co-fermented whilst the bigger Riva Rocca plot is blended in later. Fermented in stainless steel and aged in 25hl Slavonian oak cask for three years.			

Barolo San Lorenzo di Verduno 2021	6x75cl	£315	2026
Smooth, ripe and pliant, with a fresh strawberry and juicy, pulpy frame. Here, a higher presence of ripe tannins and a hint of cocoa add an extra edge to the limpid ruby fruits and sculpted finish. San Lorenzo is the lower continuation of Monvigliero. It has the same south facing exposure but generally produces wines with an extra layer of lovely glossy fruit thanks to siltier soils. Alessandria has 0.8ha here. Fermented in stainless steel and aged in 25hl Slavonian oak cask for three years.			

Barolo Monvigliero 2021	6x75cl 1x3L	£420 £325	2030
Alessandria’s Monvigliero always offers a stunning combination of richness and minerality, with intensity, radiance and grip – stony, talc and chalk, with a grand scaled exalted feel – grown up, serious and long. Deeper and more complete, but more backward too – so much in reserve, one of the wines of the vintage for us. Alessandria has a sizeable 1.4ha and first bottled the wine as a single vineyard in 1978. Aged for three years in 25hl Slavonian oak casks.			

Barolo Gramolere 2021	6x75cl 1x3L	£335 £265	2030
The twentieth anniversary vintage of Gramolere. At this stage, more introverted and earth bound, less aromatic, more impactful on the palate – mint and stones and a touch of smoke. Bright in colour with energy and a certain tannic force. History has shown it to age graciously, with cut and sinew and mineral spark. From a 2ha plot inherited by Vittore’s mother, a Manzone (of the Giovanni Manzone estate). Steep and west facing at 400m elevation, dark soils, the vines are an impressive 60 years old; harvest takes place a week later here than in Verduno.			

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ELIO ALTARE (LA MORRA, BAROLO)

Silvia Altare asserts that “2021 is consistently elegant throughout the range. All the wines are very distinct and precisely show the site characteristics. This is a vintage where all the single vineyards shine. I’m also proud to announce that I was able to renew the Cannubi vineyard rent. This was a big sword of Damocles I had over my head. It’s now a relief to know that I will be able to continue working with this prestigious vineyard.” On that front, Silvia’s 2021 Cannubi is a masterclass in balancing richness and sparkle in true Altare fashion. As one of the very last producers to work exclusively with French barriques, Silvia is a master of the art. By gradually reducing the amount of new oak over the years to zero on the Classico and just 10–15% on the crus, her wines retain the same full, even-keeled feel that followers of Altare have adored over the years, but now come with improved transparency of fruit and energy. The 2021s are as seamless and seductive as ever. When pushed to describe the vintage in a single word, Silvia smiled and said, “BOMBA!”

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Langhe Rosso Larigi 2022	6x75cl	£290	2026
Lavish and ripe with sweet succulent chocolatey coffee bean notes, powerful and heady with a liqueur like palate. Production has dropped from 3000 bottles down to a miniscule 900 bottles per year. A stunning 70-year-old, south-facing Barbera parcel sitting at the top of the Arborina vineyard. Fermented and aged in 100% new oak barrique for 18 months.			
Langhe Rosso Giaborina 2022	6x75cl	£290	2026
Sweet raspberry and strawberry, luscious in its expression but with quite grand scaled tannins, finishing on sophisticated notes of black tea, blossom and citrus. It has a more cushioned oak impression on the palate. 100% Nebbiolo produced from two plots in the Arborina vineyard, one from the 1940s and one from the 1980s, fermented and aged in 100% new oak barrique for 18 months.			
Langhe Rosso La Villa 2022	6x75cl	£290	2026
Silky, sweet and glossy, broad and luscious, complimented by notes of liquorice and spice. A blend of 60% Nebbiolo and 40% Barbera from Arborina, fermented and aged in 100% new oak barriques for 18 months. The name La Villa is taken from the original plot for this wine in Monforte d’Alba. Many moons ago they lost the lease on that vineyard but trademarked the name for the blend.			
Barolo 2021	6x75cl	£250	2030
Fragrant but with a brooding power below, Altare’s Barolo mingles classy glossy sweet fruits with spices, liquorice and coffee bean. Feels very complete and polished with beautifully judged oak. 2021 is the first vintage with Sorrano (Serralunga) included in the blend. Accompanying is Sarmassa (a plot on the border with Le Liste, in the Barolo commune), Pernano in Castiglione Falletto and Bricco Ambrogio in Roddi. Aged for two years in neutral barrique.			
Barolo Arborina 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£395 £140	2030
Much more on the red fruits, as you’d expect for a single site La Morra Barolo. It is precise yet silky and sweet, medium in body with a high-class velour of tannin. A clay-dominated south to southeast facing amphitheatre in the Annunziata hamlet of La Morra. Aged for 24 months in 15% new barriques after fermentation in stainless steel.			

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo Unoperuno 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£1,100 £375	2030
Super intense, virile and structured with a long, saturating impression of fresh dark and red fruits, leather, citrus and coffee, full bodied, complex and deep with ripe, present acidity and a touch of florality as it opens up. Hugely impressive. What began as a super-Cannubi is now a super-Classico, representing a cross-section of their best sites, all hand-destemmed and co-fermented in barrique. They do three passes over three weeks so that they achieve an even mix of ripeness levels and then the juice is blended. In 2021, the blend is made up of Cerretta, Arborina and Cannubi with a little bit of Sorrano. Just 900 bottles were produced.			
Barolo Cannubi 2021	6x75cl	£750	2030
Gorgeous aromatics waft from the glass of the Cannubi 2021, offering up a mingling of rosehip with alpine strawberry, menthol, manuka, soy and cherry stones. Powerful ripe tannins and tilled earth on the palate, its beautifully deep structure is felt on the finish, and it will age over twenty plus years. From the historic central part of Cannubi, steep and well-draining, the wine was aged for 24 months in 15% new barrique after fermentation in stainless steel.			
Barolo Cerretta Riserva Vigna Bricco 2019	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£435 £150	2030
A return to a more typically brooding Serralunga Barolo after last year’s lighter 2018, the 2019 is deep and spicy with liquorice, salted forest fruits and black cherries, seasoned with gratings of earth, wood spice and camphor. On the palate, it is sleek and juicy with a sapid herbal finish. Long and detailed despite its density. A fine clay-rich Serralunga vineyard produced for the first time by Altare in the 2006 vintage, Cerretta is made and aged the same way as the estate’s other Barolos but with an extra two-years of bottle age before release.			

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MARCO MARENGO (LA MORRA, BAROLO)

If 2023 was a bit of a watershed year for the Marengo family in terms of media attention and sales, 2024 was to prove a more tiring one. They explained that the year was tough, requiring constant work in the vineyards, but that they are happy with the results. Excitingly, son Stefano is taking a more prominent role in the winery, and this year releases his first Barolo, bottled as a white label “Classico” but in fact comes exclusively from La Morra’s Boiolo vineyard. In a departure from the Marco Marengo style, Stefano Marengo chooses to ferment and age his wine in tronconic wooden vat, where Marco favours stainless steel and barrique. This humble family are a joy to work with and continue to produce delicious, approachable Barolos at fair prices. A vertical tasting of 1997–2019 in 2023 proved that the wines age beautifully, with Jancis Robinson reporting in the Financial Times, “*what was extraordinary about the line-up was how uniformly fine they were.*” Great people, great wines, great prices!



	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo 2021	12x75cl 1x1.5L	£325 £75	2026
An engaging and user-friendly Barolo that delivers clear fruits, juiciness and an agreeable mouthfeel. The 2021 is accessible, medium bodied, busy with red and dark berries and a leafy-herbal suggestion. Produced from four vineyards, all in La Morra: Serradenari, Roncaglie, Boiolo and Fossati. Each component is vinified separately and blended in stainless steel tank four months before bottling. The wine is aged for 24 months in 15% new oak barriques.			
Barolo Stefano Marengo 2021	6x75cl	£185	2026
The debut wine from young Stefano Marengo, designated by a white label. In a departure from the style of his parents, Stefano chooses to ferment and age in wooden tronconic vat. Modest and approachable more or less from release, it offers a nice melange of supple redcurrants and red plums, framed by a bit of supporting oak influence. Rented vines from friends with parcels in La Morra’s Boiolo vineyard.			
Barolo Bricco delle Viole 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£205 £85	2030
The Bricco delle Viole brings more substance and more tannins. It is darker and more serious in nature but with more complexity too. Produced from 70–80 year old vines inherited from Marco’s mother’s side of the family. Bricco Viole is a very fine Barolo vineyard that translates as ‘Top of the Violet Hill’ and is one of highest vineyards in the Barolo commune at 400–450 metres above sea level. Marco’s windy, exposed parcel is blessed with a fair chunk of old vines. It is a late-ripening vineyard that produces small intense berries. Compared to Brunate there is a little more clay in the soil here. The ageing is the same as for Brunate, 24 months in barriques, with 15% new oak.			
Barolo Brunate 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L 1x3L	£265 £105 £215	2030
Brunate today is all lift and perfume, being much redder in profile, but with an extra level of smooth, savoury tobacco and saline spice. Refined and high toned – the flagship wine of the estate. Brunate is one of the top cru vineyards of Barolo, situated high up in the La Morra commune. Marengo’s 0.6ha of Brunate is split across two parcels averaging 350 metres of altitude. Brunate has been in Marco’s family since 1903 and the vines average seventy years old. Aged in 15% new oak barriques for 24 months.			
Barolo Brunate Riserva 2019	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£365 £145	2030
Tasting the Brunate Riserva in this line-up shows a commonality in 2019 and 2021, but also contrasts. Of course, the Riserva comes from a parcel with more lime and austerity in the soil, but even so, it is today the most impressive aromatically, sharing the sense of lift and vitality that pervades the regular Brunate 2021. The difference here is that the fruit is altogether a little darker, more sapid, with a strapping, tannic force that presents a more youthful profile. If 2021 is typified by spice and Alpine cleanse, then 2019 Riserva is soil, fruit and muscle. A fantastic Riserva that will go the distance. The Riserva comes from old vines the heart of Brunate, the upper middle part, planted in 1942. Produced in the same way as the other wines with 24 months in 20% new oak barrels, then kept for an extra two years in bottle.			
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ROBERTO VOERZIO (LA MORRA, BAROLO)

Davide and Roberto Voerzio were effusive in their praise for 2021. *“It is a vintage of colour and freshness – it is highly aromatic but deep meanwhile. It’s everything you want!”* This year’s collection is vivid and intense – each vineyard is very clearly rendered, and the wines prove a thrill to taste. Consistent with their famously low yields, which accelerate ripening, harvest took place from 20-25th September in sunny conditions. We fell for the Cerequio on our visit, but any of the wines could have their day, such is the quality. Ferments are carried out spontaneously in stainless steel and ageing takes place in a range of formats, according to volume. For most of the wines this means a combination of traditional large cask and 500L tonneau, with a very a small amount in barrique – just Torriglione and Sarmassa – for two years. On those, they were both hugely impressive in our tasting; broad but refined, standing up well next to the RV350 2019 – Roberto’s first-rate Riserva that is only produced in the best years. It is relevant to note that Roberto Voerzio stepped back from what he dubs *“score politics”* a few years ago, believing that the wines need time to settle post-bottling and be given time to breathe while tasting – a model that doesn’t tend to accommodate critics on a tight schedule. All of the Voerzio vineyards are farmed organically.

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo Comune di La Morra 2021	6x75cl	£425	2026
Red fruit forward with a heady, rosehip and strawberry-laced feel, this Barolo “Comune” is polished and succulent, finishing on subtle toast and spice. Co-fermented in stainless steel and aged in one cask of 35hl, two of 25hl and a combined 5hl in barrique. A blend of plots from La Serra, Fossati, Case Nere and Cerequio. Production at this level is 800g per vine.			
Barolo La Serra 2021	6x75cl	£1,195	2030
Higher toned red plum and windswept flowers, La Serra has a core of glazed cherries and salts, presenting firmer tannins in step with its grander scale, yet it all feels ripe and elegant, less austere than it could be with a sappy finish. A total of 3,400 bottles were produced, aged in a combination of 25hl cask, barrique and tonneau.			
Barolo Rocche dell’ Annunziata 2021	6x75cl	£1,195	2030
Rocche is typically broader and fuller with a riper, more lavish bouquet. Powerful but controlled with a ripe integrated acidity, with touches of grated cocoa and vanilla on the finish. Long and sweeping, finishing floral and complex. From two parcels south and southeast facing within one of the region’s great vineyards, situated in the Annunziata sub zone of La Morra. Just 3,000 bottles were produced.			
Barolo Cerequio 2021	6x75cl	£1,195	2030
Stylistically, Cerequio represents the middle ground between La Serra and Rocche – offering some of the sappiness of the former with the sultry ripeness of the latter. Bright ruby in colour, it displays sculpted red fruits with an extra kick of mineral grip. Grand-scaled and serious with a deep undertow of complexity and enticement. A stunning Cerequio, perhaps our pick of the bunch this year. Cerequio is one of the historic single vineyards of La Morra, south-facing and planted at 300 metres above sea level on sandy clay soils. Sarmassa is the lower continuation of Cerequio.			
Barolo Brunate 2021	6x75cl	£1,195	2030
Naturally darker fruited and more structured, with a drier, more powdery mineral profile, this Brunate is a little more introverted but also nuanced, not dense in fruit, rather a bit more serious and strict – a very grown-up expression that will require a decade or so in the cellar to show at its best. One of the great crus of Barolo, situated high up in the La Morra commune just underneath La Serra, with a south to southeast exposure. 3,000 bottles were produced.			

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo Fossati 2021	6x75cl	£1,195	2030
Voerzio’s Fossati increasingly seems to shine at this stage every year. Sleek and energetic with forest fruits, herbs and salts, more violets and blueberries, anchored in lots of small, fine and ripe tannins. Superb. Fossati is 33ha in total, the upper part in La Morra and lower part in Barolo. One of the smallest cuvees in the Voerzio stable, just 2,200 bottles were produced.			
Barolo Sarmassa 2021	1x1.5L	£395	2030
Sarmassa is typically dark and concentrated and impressive at Voerzio – it being the product of an extreme green harvest and more powerful soils, alongside new clonal material that naturally produces small berries. The 2021 is the freshest of the “new” Sarmassas we have tasted here post-replanting, offering a wash of clear dark cherries (and stones), raspberries and roses, with a much higher level of reverberating acidity, cutting through all that luscious fruit. Indeed, it’s more precise than ever. Aged for two years in barrique, just 900 magnums have been produced.			
Barolo Torriglione 2020	1x1.5L	£395	2030
A step change to the more open 2020 vintage, Torriglione impresses immediately for its lifted and elegantly sweet nose leading into a consistently deep palate with a wash of ripe tannins. It is bold and brooding and suave, but in context, the 2020 is actually rather drinkable in its youth and would make a very fine and impressive bottle. Aged for two years in barrique and bottled exclusively in magnums. Torriglione is located below and adjacent to Rocche dell’Annunziata.			
Barolo RV 350 Riserva 2019	3x75cl	£1,195	2030
A Riserva that is only bottled in the best years, RV350 takes its name from Roberto’s maniacal approach to yield, which for this cuvee amounts to just 350g per vine, selected from the two best performing sites of the year. Rich, glossy and expansive fruits are framed by a wash of velvety tannins and a high level of concentration – this is a deep and glistening, super-smart Barolo, aged in barrique for two years. A 50/50 blend from Case Nere and Rocche dell’Annunziata.			
Barolo Riserva Case Nere 2015	3x75cl	£595	2025
Always released after ten years, the 2015 Case Nere is expressive and spicy, offering lashings of cumin, anise and camphor, around a base of pulpy, red fruits like cherry and plum and strawberry. Beautifully open in style, fruit forward and sumptuous.			
Barbera Pozzo dell’ Annunziata 2021	1x1.5L	£265	2030
Voerzio have long advocated for high quality Barbera. They own one of, if not the last, prime spots for Barbera in the Pozzo vineyard – which is now seen as Nebbiolo territory. To prove a point, they make this stunning Barbera in the same way as the Barolos to produce a savoury, complex wine – powerfully fruited and broad initially, before driving acidity meets ripe tannin, leading into a long, deep finish. Pozzo was the first vineyard that Voerzio planted himself at high density, back in 1990. That approach has since been rolled out across the estate. Aged in barrique and bottled only in magnums.			

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PAOLO SCAVINO (CASTIGLIONE FALLETTO, BAROLO)

An estate on an amazing run of form, sisters Elisa and Enrica are proud to build on their father’s legacy and take the Scavino name to new heights. We hugely admire their adaptability and innovation in the pursuit of quality, even if it makes getting to grips with the specifics of the range an increasingly hard task each year! What was no hardship though, was tasting through this exceptional collection of 2021s, including the all-new Bussia Fantini, marking the family’s return to Monforte d’Alba after a thirty-year hiatus. Elisa shares our enthusiasm for 2021, stating that “it is often in practice very difficult to combine power and elegance, but this is a vintage that truly offers both. The quality of 2021 was clear right from the beginning.” Likening the vintage to a mix of 2013 and 2016, she felt that for Scavino the wines this year have a bit more fruit richness than 2019, which they picked on acidity. Two fantastic vintages that are represented here with the release of the Riserva Rocche dell’ Annunziata 2019 – the first since 2016. Elisa thinks the Riserva is “*the best wine we have ever made.*” In the cellar, several small but collectively important developments have been instigated over the past five years. The first is that the wines are now aged almost solely in large traditional casks for two years. Fermentation is in a more even mix of stainless steel and wood, adapted according to site, to the extent that their stock of large vats has grown from two in 2016 to fifteen today. Reducing temperatures and carrying out fewer pumpovers during the vinification are further tweaks to improve the perfume and manage extractions – “*some years support a wilder profile, others less.*” Lastly, they are moving to 20 months in oak (the origin of which is being more closely paired to the cru) instead of 22 months “*in the direction of having fresher wines going into the bottle.*”

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo 2021	12x75cl 6x1.5L	£365 £410	2026
Always a nicely balanced Barolo Classico with an emphasis on drinkability. The 2021 offers more depth and cut than the 2020, offering a complex mix of succulent red fruits, dried herbs, liquorice-spice and plum. Elisa added that they now do around 60 micro-vinifications a year across the whole stable, many of which come together to form the Barolo Classico. It is sourced from eight different vineyards in La Morra, Castiglione Falletto, Serralunga and Monforte d’Alba. Aged in a combination of formats for just shy of two years.			
Barolo Bricco Ambrogio 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£275 £105	2026
A nicely tapered, bullace and damson fruited Barolo that has a creamy, floral feel to the fruit with a firm finish. A vineyard close to the Scavinos’ hearts, they bought in to the relatively unknown Bricco Ambrogio in 2002 and have expanded their holdings from 5ha to 7ha. The top cru of the lesser-known commune of Roddi, a very windy terroir exposed southeast and planted at 150 metres above sea level.			
Barolo Monvigliero 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£350 £130	2030

Classy and high toned with an array of pristine fruits and a wave of firm, mineral tannins – not as sweet and supple as it has been, this Monvigliero is definitely more on the tense, pure and racy end of the spectrum. It is almost brittle in its energy, with a powerful, driving finish. Fantastic. The prized 0.8ha that the Scavinos own in this great site was bought at the same time as Bricco Ambrogio, in 2002. From two parcels planted in 1968 (0.6ha) and 2005 (0.2ha). First bottled as a single cru in 2007, their holdings form a pyramid shape from the mid-slope up to the tree at the summit.

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo Bussia Fantini 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£340 £125	2030
The first vintage. Pleasingly easy to read, with a glassy, transparent feel that renders this Barolo sculpted and energising – not a strapping Bussia, but one of fresh alpine berries, salts and citrus. Fantini is a small area in the southern sector of Bussia. The soils are primarily sandstone-derived, and the vines are surrounded by woods, supplied by a natural well, helping to replenish the dry soils. Interestingly, this is not the first time Scavino have bottled a Bussia, rather this is a revival! In the 1980s, Scavino had a lease on a plot in Bussia Colonello, which they ultimately lost. Now, in Fantini, they have a young plot established by a leading agronomist. “It looks like a botanical garden.” Bussia is a huge cru in Monforte d’Alba. As such, it is common to include the subzone on the label to accurately reflect its origin.			
Barolo Ravera 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£340 £125	2030
In our view this is Scavino’s best Ravera so far. The 2021 opens with blue and purple fruits, mint and matcha, with a slight plum skin bitterness on the palate bringing an extra edge. Enticing, powerful with a lot of tannin and a strong sense of pine and forest fruits. Gorgeous. Ravera is a big vineyard and the highest plot that Scavino owns, at over 400m. Typically this brings a more vertical dimension to its structure, Ravera coming across in the Scavino line-up as the cool day to the Prapo’s warm night. The Scavinos’ 2.5ha is all east exposed which brings a great deal of freshness.			
Barolo Prapo 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£340 £125	2030
Gorgeous, viscous and long, with melting tannins, ripe, darker fruits; currants, plums, brioche, liquorice and white pepper. Prapo is south facing and early to ripen. Although the ageing is the same as for the other wines, it soaks up the wood a bit more, bringing a more baritone feel to the wine. Prapo is a small, prestigious Serralunga cru but it is less labelled and marketed than others so tends to be lesser-known.			
Barolo Bric del Fiasc 2021	6x75cl 1x1.5L	£430 £155	2030
As always, a glamorous yet highly focused Barolo that is easy to love. Intense and high toned, long. It is saturated with small, ripe berries, passing through crushed rocks and flowers. Bric del Fiasc is not a particularly high vineyard, but its fresh marl soils underpinning looser sand in the topsoil means good water access combined with silky ripeness and poised expression. The Scavinos own 2.8ha in the centre of the vineyard, facing southwest.			
Barolo Rocche dell' Annunziata Riserva 2019	6x75cl	£915	2030
“I think this is the best wine we have ever made” says Elisa Scavino. Last made in 2016, the 2019 Riserva Rocche dell’Annunziata is off the charts, offering a mix of explosive florality and pliant fruit with white stones and sweet earth. Expansive, ripe, yet controlled with a super classy, velvety finish – an embrace of a Barolo. Inviting and sensual. What a wine. The Scavinos have 1.5 hectares in this great Cru, one of the finest vineyards in Barolo. A sandy south facing vineyard planted with old vines, dating back to 1942, situated at 380 metres above sea level. This is released as a Riserva and so is aged for a year in small barrel, two years in large oak casks, followed by extended ageing in bottle.			

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AZELIA (CASTIGLIONE FALLETTO, BAROLO)

A late evening visit in rapid fire Italian with Luigi and Lorenzo Scavino kept us very much awake at the end of a long day! They describe 2021 as a “a new classic: generous and aromatic in a way that you don’t expect in a classic year.” Like their neighbours Paolo Scavino, they consider 2021 to be the most complete and richest vintage in the context of 2016, 2019 and 2021, adding that “2021 has a lot of tannin but they are integrated and sweet and the wines are also brightly perfumed – we see similarities there with 2013 too.” Lorenzo spoke about how the autumn was perfect in 2021, enabling them to pick each cru at leisure, finishing on 18th October. Even better, the vineyard signatures are very clear, and the wines shine as a result. In the cellar, they fermented with submerged cap for 40 days in wooden cask, charting a move away from stainless steel for the single vineyards. Ageing for all the wines is carried out over two years in large old Slavonian oak casks, so there is very little wood influence in the wines.



	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo 2021	12x75cl	£350	2026
	1x1.5L	£65	

A Barolo Classico that presents a clearer Serralunga character with notes of brine, citrus, tapenade, and layers of red and dark, spicy fruit. The 2021 has a good deal of race and structure to it. The Azelia Barolo Classico is made from a selection of grapes from 50 year old vines in seven different crus across the Castiglione Falletto (30%) and Serralunga d’Alba (70%) communes, a big part of which is Cerretta and Bricco Voghera. The wine is aged in large Slavonian oak botti for two years, so there is very little oak influence.

Barolo Bricco Fiasco 2021	6x75cl	£375	2030
	1x1.5L	£135	

Azelia’s Bricco Fiasco 2021 is a real shapeshifter of a wine. Initially it presented a darker than usual character, more bound up and restless for this typically ripe, finessed site. With air though, it emerged redder and more floral, refreshing and stony, as you’d hope it to be. The 2021 has real cut and focus, a more sculpted and acid-driven expression this year. The Bricco Fiasco is a relatively sandy plot at the top of the Fiasco hill in Castiglione Falletto, planted with 70-plus year old vines. Since 2016 the wine has been aged exclusively in large oak botti, for two years.

Barolo Margheria 2021	6x75cl	£375	2030
	1x1.5L	£135	

Blackberries, salts and dried herbs dominate the profile of the Margheria 2021, put together with great freshness and tight tannins, in a vintage that really suits the natural expression of the site. A really good Margheria, with the requisite power and linearity to age well – the best in recent years. The different plots within Margheria are quite spread out, which creates a difference in altitude of 100m depending on where you are. Azelia’s vines come from a prime south and southwest facing 55 year old plot in the Serralunga d’Alba commune planted on white clay and limestone soils. They sit alongside those used for Gaja’s Sperss. Aged in the traditional way, for 28 months in large Slavonian oak botti.

Barolo San Rocco 2021	6x75cl	£375	2030
	1x1.5L	£135	

Creamier, darker fruited, less wild herb and salts, more currants and liquorice, with a smooth veneer of coffee nib and flashy, hearty black raspberries, pastry and plums, balanced by a firm spine of acidity. Today, San Rocco presents as the most open, round, and immediately satisfying of the crus. San Rocco is predominantly south facing, though there are two exposures in San Rocco which helps to round out the mouthfeel. An Azelia monopole, San Rocco is a top notch Serralunga vineyard that faces south and southwest, where the soils are practically 100% clay, a very hard compact grey clay. The vines are over 70 years old. Aged exclusively in large oak botti for two years.

Barolo Cerretta 2021	6x75cl	£445	2030
	1x1.5L	£155	

The third Serralunga cru, each one a different articulation of the commune, Cerretta is exciting and complex – offering something of a mix of the previous two. The tannins are all front loaded and quite firm, but with that comes a pixellated windswept blue fruited, floral element, with typical savoury notes of iron, soy and miso. On drinking, it is all quality texture, finishing on a wash of ripe, sweet berries. Fantastic. “The freshest single vineyard in Serralunga according to Alessandro Masnaghetti on account of constant cooling breezes.” Azelia has a big block of 2.5ha, but only 3500 bottles go into the single cru wine. It is typically aged in one big barrel for 30 months. The rest of the juice is declassified into Barolo Classico.

All wines are priced under bond in GBP and orders are for full cases only.
Wines are abroad and due to ship autumn 2025.
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BROVIA (CASTIGLIONE FALLETTO, BAROLO)

Followers of Brovia will know that they represent some of the most elegant and sophisticated wines in all of Piedmont. Small production and high quality up and down the ladder, the Barolos here really quicken the pulse. They are not showy nor dense but rather tense, aromatic and finely tuned. Each of the 2021s offers stunning clarity of flavour and sculpt – in satisfyingly different ways. Put simply, 2021 is a vintage where you can buy anything from Brovia and be extremely happy. The only blot on an otherwise perfect 2021 was the April frost that reduced Brovia’s crop in the Garblet Sue vineyard by 50%, hence its omission from the offer. However, orders can be facilitated by specific request. This is a stunning collection of wines that will delight Piedmont drinkers. We expect it to be in high demand.

	CASE	PRICE	DRINK FROM
Barolo Classico 2021	6x75cl	£255	2026
The Barolo Classico is assembled in huge old oak casks, so it needs more time in wood than the others before bottling. It predominantly comes from the younger 25 year old vines of the very fine Brea vineyard, as well as leftover wine from the estate’s top crus once their individual casks have been filled. In that regard, it is a Barolo Classico of great pedigree.			
Barolo Rocche di Castiglione 2021	6x75cl	£495	2030
	3x1.5L	£540	
Super vibrant and explosive aromatically, powerful but so integrated and long you barely notice. A great marriage of energy, ripeness and elegance. A stunning Rocche that often shows its class earlier than the other wines. One of the most famous crus in Barolo, Rocche is a steep, south-east facing Castiglione Falletto vineyard. Brovia’s plot was planted in 1966 at 350m. The high proportion of sand here means about 70% of the soils are dry, producing wines of great nerve and minerality. Aged in large used oak casks for two years.			
Barolo Villero 2021	6x75cl	£495	2030
	3x1.5L	£540	
Villero offers a beautiful, knock-out nose of fresh flowers and sweet red fruits. It is layered and lacy and floating. Gentle initially but it grows in stature the more you sit with it. Powerful on the palate, with vigour and breadth and warmer feeling notes of anise, camphor and spice. Villero has a higher density of tannin than the more vertical, lively Rocche. Power matched with finesse and seriously long. Brovia’s vine age here is 62 years old, planted on a good proportion of hard clay under sand. Southwest facing at 300m, Villero has less air circulation and receives the warmer afternoon sun. Aged in large used oak casks for two years.			
Barolo Brea Vigna Ca’Mia 2021	6x75cl	£495	2030
	3x1.5L	£540	
Lip-smacking dark cherry, sage and fresh hedgerow notes interspersed with serious briny, iron-rich aromas and complex notes of spearmint, cumin and mineral salts, the 2021 comes armed with serious vibrancy. It is super fresh and energetic, long and vital – a truly great Barolo. From Serralunga d’Alba, Brea is home to the oldest vines of the Brovia estate – the Ca Mia plot was planted in 1958. A 65 year old monopole vineyard with a relatively high amount of limestone soils as well as clay that faces south southeast – it is situated on the eastern side of the commune. The wines tend to show dark, layered and silky fruits with supporting floral and menthol notes.			

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