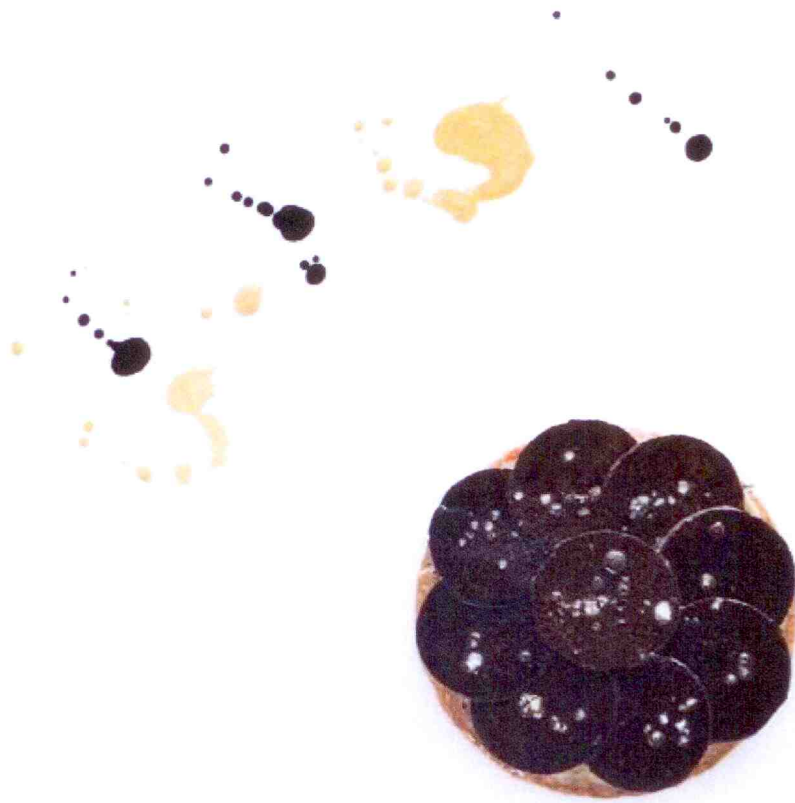


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[对酒当歌]



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BARBARESCO IS A COMMUNE, WITH A POPULATION OF 656, IN PIEDMONTE, NEXT TO ALBA, WHERE YOU GET ALBA TRUFFLES. HOWEVER, BARBARESCO, WHICH COMES FROM THE WORD "BARBARIAN", COULD ALSO REFER TO THE SAVAGE MOUTHFEEL OF THE WINES MADE HERE, WHICH IN THEIR YOUTH ARE EXTREMELY TANNIC AND TIGHT.

The Piedmontese call the grape variety from which Barbarescos are made Nebbiolo ("fog"). It could be because when the harvest is on, the first fog comes out over their beautiful landscape, with its hills and valleys. Nebbiolo is very 'sensible', and able to give the true expression of the terroir. Alberto di Grésy of the Marchesi di Grésy wine family who has planted Cabernet Sauvignon before complains that you cannot tell which continent Cabernet Sauvignon comes from, because it can be planted all over the world. "With the Nebbiolo, I can make a wine with an identity and personality," he says. "And this is what gives me passion in making the wine." Indeed, nosing his wines you can find liquorice, tobacco, leather, perfume, marmalade, berries, bon bon, balsamic tea, and toasted coffee beans. Just as beautiful are the Barbarescos from Pio Cesare. Luscious and silky, with fruits, tannins, and aromas of leather, tobacco, roses, violets, fresh fruit, and red berries, the wines are wonderful with cheeses, red meat, peasant, birds, and roasted games. Pio Cesare's winemaker Pio Boffa finds Nebbiolo a 'funny' grape – it only grows well in Barbaresco. This is why Nebbiolo is a treasure in their hands, because it cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world. He concludes, "Barbaresco is certainly the queen of Italian wines." QL

