



Written by
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Barbaresco 2015s and Riserva 2013s



My trip to Barbaresco to taste the new 2015 vintage last month was dominated by one topic only: rain. For more than a month it had rained so much that producers had been unable to enter their vineyards with tractors. Spraying copper and sulphur to ward off fungal disease and cutting rampant weeds on Barolo and Barbaresco's slippery clay slopes could be done only on foot, which means much-increased man-hours and cost.

The weather was forecast to improve only at the end of June and several producers expressed their concern that they could have another 2014 on their hands, the coldest and wettest vintage in the last 60 years - but one that, in general, delivered fresh and delicious Barbarescos with more of a spring in their step than the just-released 2014 Barolos. To console them I suggested a comparison with 2013, an excellent, but uneven vintage, which had started off just like 2018 with endless rain and lots of manual spraying due to waterlogged soils.

It made me think of what Tino Colla of Poderi Colla told me when I visited the estate owned by him and his brother Beppe, who was responsible for some of Prunotto's finest wines until it was sold to Antinori in 2004. When I asked him if he thought the spring of 2018 looked dangerously like that of 2014, he said that weather apps have made all the difference, as their forecasts are so much more precise and much longer into the future, giving producers time to prepare.

Whatever the talk of 2014, 2015 is quite different. When I started to taste cask samples a couple of years ago, several producers were raving about it. Initially I had put their enthusiasm down to the traumatic experience of 2014, but several producers told me that they had never seen such perfectly shaped and healthy bunches as in 2015, and in good quantity too. But while the 2014 was one of the smallest vintages in the last 40 years or so in Barolo, causing a big hole in the market (two million bottles short compared with 2013), for Barbaresco the loss was much less dramatic: the total production in 2013 was 4.68 million bottles compared with 4.37 in 2014.

What I had already understood was that in 2015 sugar levels were high, but matched by perfect levels of acidity. I therefore expected alcohol levels to be high with lots of very ripe fruit, especially when several producers started to compare 2015 favourably with 2011, which, until 2017 came along, was the hottest vintage on record and not one I find consistently successful. But if climate change has caused anything, it is the total absence of regularity, leaving producers scratching their heads when it comes to making a comparison with a past vintage. After having tasted about 130 Barbarescos, I am convinced that 2015 has nothing in common with 2011. It is much better than that, because it possesses something 2011 was short of in my opinion: balance.

The winter preceding 2015 was mild and had an abundance of rain. Only during January did temperatures dip below freezing and then plenty of snow filled up the water tables. An early spring characterised by warm weather triggered an early vegetative cycle and an early and even flowering at the end of May. The precociousness and speed of the growing cycle was kept up during the entire season, with regular rainfall until the end of June. July and August were very warm with daytime temperatures peaking at 40 °C (104 °F) but, according to official reports, the heat didn't cause any hydric stress because of the heavy winter precipitation.

From mid August onwards, things cooled down somewhat, and the first week of September was dry and much cooler, the second a little warmer and with rains, and the third dry with warm days and distinctly cooler nights. Harvest in Barbaresco began at the end of September, 10 days earlier than what is considered the norm, with grapes that were exceptionally healthy and regular. The official report from the Enoteca del Barbaresco characterises the 2015 Barbarescos as 'sumptuous', which I think is spot on.

In between sips during my extensive tasting organised by Marisa and Giusi of the Enoteca del Barbaresco (whom I cannot praise enough for their hard work putting it together so swiftly), I jotted down impressions, such as: 'approachable', 'forward', 'plush', 'the best can be approached now but also have good ageing potential' and 'hedonistic'.

The 2015 is a 'safe' vintage of few surprises. While there is a regularity in quality throughout the wines, the top crus, while possessing the same kind of sumptuous fruit, are truly a cut above the rest, displaying more complexity than the generic Barbarescos, and with the very important addition of truly ripe tannins. The abundance of ripe fruit, which, I must emphasise, is never stewed and is a whole lot fresher than the 2011s in the Langhe, easily makes you overlook what is at times a dry finish.

A final word on the 2015s comes from Francesco Versio, who, when he isn't working as a winemaker at Luigi Oddero in La Morra, runs his own tiny estate in Neive on evenings and at weekends. Versio also believes the 2015 is an excellent vintage for such a hot year. 'The approach in hot years has changed, because we have learned [since the super-hot 2003 vintage]. Before that we had problems in hot vintages of cooked fruit flavours, but this is now very rare.' According to him the 2015 wines are quite forward and aromatic because temperatures didn't drop much during the night. In some cases this led to heat stress and unripe tannins. He likens 2015 to 2011 and 2007, while adding, 'I think that 2011 and 2007 are more elegant.'

The wines

The 154 wines below are listed in the order I tasted them, from intercommunal blends to communal wines to 'cru' or single-vineyard wines. The notes on the 2015s are followed by those on several 2013 Riservas, first of all the truly stunning single-vineyard range of Produttori del Barbaresco, which is so remarkable that I didn't separate the flight by commune so as to allow direct comparison between the tasting notes. The wines are sold en primeur and are no longer available at the source, so I strongly recommend you buy these 2013s as soon as possible before they are snapped up.

The 2013 Riservas are, perhaps illogically, followed below by several current, but surprisingly late, releases of 2014 Barbaresco, proving that this vintage has come up with some very pleasant surprises as well as some seriously ageworthy wines, which every Nebbiolo lover should seek out.

Our picture shows Barbaresco viewed from the Albesani cru in Neive.

2015 BARBARESCO

INTER-COMMUNAL BLENDS

- [Vite Colte, La Casa in Collina 2015 Barbaresco](#) Tasted blind. Healthy mid ruby. Cherry nose with a hint of bell pepper. Lots of coating tannins dominating the finish. A little rustic but convincing. Ready now. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- [Giuseppe Negro, Pian Cavallo 2015 Barbaresco](#) *Grapes for this wine came from Neive and Treiso.* Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Really pretty and multi-layered cherry nose. Succulent with bags of bitter-sweet tannins. Just the slightest touch of oak. Long and with lots of substance. Already approachable. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
16.5
- [Molino, Teorema 2015 Barbaresco](#) Tasted blind. Dark ruby with the beginning of orange tinges. Ripe cherry fruit with quite a bit of concentration behind it and with a suggestion of oak. Generous fruit-driven palate with plenty of powdery tannins. Real Nebbiolo vigour and with plenty of ripe fruit on the finish. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
17
- [Bersano, Mantico 2015 Barbaresco](#) Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with orange rim. Spicy cherry fruit, already with a bit of development on the nose. Sour-cherry palate with a firm core of slightly drying tannins that dominate the finish. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024

16

- **Cantina del Nebbiolo 2015 Barbaresco** Tasted blind. Mature-looking ruby with orange rim. Leafy cherry nose with hints of undergrowth. Fine cherry fruit with waves of tannins. The fruit doesn't follow entirely through onto the finish. Ready now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- **Beni di Batasiolo 2015 Barbaresco** Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with bricky rim. Savoury-sweet cherry with hints of undergrowth and cherry liqueur. Good length and with liquorice tannins, but not super-complex or deep. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- **Bera 2015 Barbaresco** Mid ruby with bright orange rim. Perfumed, sweet fruit nose with a hint of fruit cake. Ripe and with lots of stuffing. Already accessible, but probably needs more time to open up and become more complex. Quite a lot of fruit concentration. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2028
16+

COMMUNE OF ALBA

- **Marco e Vittorio Adriano, Sanadaive 2015 BarbarescoAlba.** Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby with orange tinges. Rich and perfumed nose of cherry and cherry liqueur. Generous cherry palate with good balance and clinging, powdery tannins. Good introduction to Nebbiolo. Long and super-accessible. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
16+
- **Taliano Michele, Ad Altiora 2015 BarbarescoAlba.** Tasted blind. Mature-looking cherry with bricky rim. Soft, round, cherry-liqueur notes and with some development on the nose. A little sweet and rich on the palate and looking far older than it is. Finish dominated by lots of stalky tannins. Lacks finesse, but not concentration. Ready now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024
15.5

RIZZI

The cru Rizzi is situated both in Alba and in Treiso.

- **Manera, Rizzi 2015 BarbarescoAlba.** Tasted blind. Dark ruby with orange tinges. Ripe nose with soft, sweet notes of cinnamon. Lots of stuffing on the palate with hints of fruit cake. Very ripe and dense all the way through to the finish with grainy tannins pulling it up. Ready now. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
16
- **Armando Piazza, Fratin 2015 BarbarescoAlba.** Tasted blind. Concentrated, deep ruby with orange tinges. Firm yet generous fruit nose. Plenty of fruit stitched together by supple tannins. Generous and long. Ready now. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
16.5
- **Rizzi, Rizzi 2015 BarbarescoAlba.** Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Cherry and forest-fruit on the nose. Ripe red fruit on the palate with firm tannins. Enormous length yet elegant. Needs more time to come together. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2028
17

COMMUNE OF BARBARESCO

- **Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Concentrated ruby. Lots of concentrated, sweet cherry fruit and grainy tannins and plenty of acidity, too. Generous, tannic and long with youthful vigour but can be approached now. Good ageing potential. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2030
17+
- **Fletcher, Recta Pete 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Lifted cherry liqueur on the nose with hints of cinnamon. Much less forward on the palate. Sweet attack, then bags of coating tannins. Succulent acidity and brooding length and maintains superb elegance. Grows on you, but needs more time. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2030
17.5
- **Albino Rocca, Angelo 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with orange tinges. Open-knit, concentrated cherry nose and generous fruit on the palate. Wonderful balance and depth with lots of stuffing. Coating tannins are perfectly integrated in the whole. Almost too easy to like. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2030
17
- **Socrè 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby with orange tinges. Lifted, voluptuous cherry nose with top notes of exotic spice and hints of iron. Lots of concentrated, sweet fruit on the palate offset by bitter-sweet tannins. The acidity is almost completely integrated in the whole. Very generous and forward. (WS)15% Drink 2018-2028
16
- **Morassino 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with orange tinges. Peppery yet concentrated cherry nose and with generous fruit on the palate. Quite a bit of drying tannins only partially offset by the concentrated fruit on the finish. Not (yet) very complex. Curious overripeness on the nose and then quite dry on the finish. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
15.5
- **Boffa Carlo 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with orange tinges. Cherry and hints of raw meat. Contained generosity on the palate with fine, coating tannins. The nose is much less refined than the palate but I suspect age will bring this together. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2030
17
- **De Forville 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. A little reluctant on the nose. Elegant palate with succulent acidity and stalky tannins. Lighter than most wines of this vintage. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2028
16+
- **Quazzolo 2015 Barbaresco***Grapes come from the crus Ovello and Cole both located in Barbaresco.*
Tasted blind. Concentrated youthful ruby. Gorgeous, earthy cherry nose of great concentration. Concentrated and embryonic on the palate with perfect balance but still stubborn tannins. Long and multi-layered and in need of age. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2032
17++

MUNCAGOTA

- **Moccagatta, Bric Balin 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with orange tinges. Bags of ripe cherry and coconut cream. Coconut-cherry fruit on the palate. It is nothing less than a miracle that this still has appeal due to the concentrated, succulent fruit, but this level of oak kills everything off. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2023
14.5

MONTARIBALDI

- **Prunotto, Bric Turot 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Palish ruby. Perfumed, lifted and fine on the nose and very different from the normally so very generous fruit of this vintage. Same elegance on the palate and light of touch. Bitter-sweet, grainy tannins on a long finish. Lacks a little in stuffing, but it certainly is an elegant wine. (WS)13.5% Drink 2018-2028
16.5

MONTEFICO

- **Carlo Giacosa, Montefico 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with bricky rim. Sweetly concentrated red-fruit nose. Less expressive/complex if generous on the palate but with real length and soft, drying tannins. Ready now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
16

ASILI

- **Ca' del Baio, Asili 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with orange tinges. Plentiful cherry nose with huge lift. Enormously generous on the palate too, long and with perfect balance. Gorgeous, finely chiselled tannins. Can be approached now, but age would bring out its more complex side, which is a little hidden behind all that fruit. (WS)15% Drink 2020-2030
17+
- **Michele Chiarlo, Asili 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with orange tinges. Perfumed cherry nose with hints of cinnamon bark. Bags of fruit that is perfectly balanced with gorgeous tannic grip on the finish. You might be seduced into drinking this now but this will repay cellaring. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2032
17+
- **Ceretto, Asili 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Hints of oak and spice on the nose with brooding fruit. Brooding concentration on the palate, too, with fine coating tannins. Great elegance and style. Needs time to open up. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2030
17.5
- **Luisin, Asili 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with orange tinges. Sweet, spicy nose already showing some development with the first hints of undergrowth. Supple and multi-layered. Really classic and old school with both red and dried fruit on the finish. Alcohol seems a little biting, even if it is not excessive. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2028
16.5

MONTESTEFANO

- **Luigi Giordano, Montestefano 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Sweetly perfumed, complex cherry nose. Succulent, supple and elegant with bags of fine tannins. Hedonistic and thoroughbred at the same time. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2034
17++
- **La Ca' Nova, Montestefano 2015 Barbaresco**Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Concentrated, maturing ruby with bright, bricky rim. Rich, concentrated nose with hints of fruit cake. Palate is equally concentrated if a little more complex than the nose would have it. Still a little marked by dried

fruit and just veering off overripeness. Ready now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026

16

- Rivella Silvia, Montestefano 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Slightly stinky yet sweet nose with a hint of vanilla. Sweet cherry with hints of vanilla on the palate and with gripping tannins. Proper tannic grip and length on the finish. Embryonic and reluctant. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2028

17

OVELLO

- Boffa Carlo, Ovello 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Dark ruby. Youthful cherry nose. Embryonic and fresh on the palate too, with fine-grained, persistent tannins. Great length and balance. Has plenty of everything, but needs more time to show it all. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2030

17+

- Morassino, Ovello 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with orange tinges. Concentrated and full on the nose and with plenty of fruit on the palate. Great balance between fruit, ripe, fine tannins and plenty of acidity. Long and mouth-filling and in need of more bottle age, even if it is approachable now. (WS)15% Drink 2020-2030

17

- Albino Rocca, Ovello 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with the beginning of orange tinges. Fine, yet rich cherry fruit nose with a little lift and a hint of oak. Finely balanced, generous mouthful of cherry and red fruit with ripe, grainy tannins. Lots of promise. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2032

17.5

- Cantina del Pino, Ovello 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Aromatic cherry nose with hints of black tea leaves. Gorgeous chewy tannins and succulent fruit. Great appeal as well as depth. (WS) Drink 2020-2030

17+

PAJÈ

- Boffa Carlo, Pajè 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Deep ruby with orange tinges. Stubborn cherry nose with hints of beef stock. Holding back on the palate too, with chewy tannins and supple, slow-to-unfurl cherry. Elegant but very slow. Definitely a long-distance runner. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2028

17

PORA

- Musso, Pora 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. Rich fruit nose with quite a bit of vanilla but lifts with aeration. Gorgeous cherry fruit palate with succulent acidity. A little too oaky for me, but the fruit undeniably has class. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024

17

RABAJÀ

- Luisin, Rabajà 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing and just mid ruby with orange tinges. Brooding and a little closed and weedy on the nose. Really holding back on the palate too, or is this just because all the other wines have an abundance of fruit? Very slow to unfurl and with plenty of tannins on the finish, but the brooding fruit holds up effortlessly. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2028
17+
- Giuseppe Cortese, Rabajà 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Pretty nose of ripe, sweet red fruits. Tea leaf and nutmeg. Very restrained on the palate but with aromatic depth. Elegant and long with firm tannins. Perhaps not as substantially fruity as the rest, for that the more elegant. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
17
- Castello di Verduno, Rabajà-Bas 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Concentrated mid ruby. Concentrated nose with real depth of fruit. Embryonic and full concentration on the palate and gorgeous balance with polished tannins. A thoroughbred that needs more time. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2030
17.5

RIO SORDO

- Cascina delle Rose, Rio Sordo 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with brickly rim. Gorgeous nose of fruit coulis and sour cherry. Plenty of fruit on the palate, finely balanced and with a richly tannic finish, but the whole is undeniably elegant for this bold vintage. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
17+
- Musso, Rio Sordo 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Concentrated mid ruby with orange tinges. Bags of sweet fruit and hints of vanilla. Great length and depth of fruit. Perfectly ripe, coating tannins, but it could have done without the creamy oak note on the finish. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2028
17
- Cascina Bruciata 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. *No vineyard name stated on the label, but the grapes come from the Rio Sordo cru.* Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with orange tinges. Classic Nebbiolo nose with sour cherry and hints of spice. Succulent and supple with gripping tannins. Old school but of the good sort. (WS)Drink 2020-2028
16.5

RONCAGLIE

- Colla, Roncaglie 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. A little brooding with minerally spicy notes and the ripe fruit just beginning to creep out of its shell. Firm but gorgeous chewy tannins. Fine red-fruit finish, but this needs much more time to open up. Elegant and poised yet with some tannic power (WS)14% Drink 2018-2018
17.5

RONCAGLIETTE

- Olek Bondonio, Roncagliette 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Lustrous mid ruby with

orange tinges. Perfumed sour-cherry nose with hints of iron. Already some development. Austere, perfumed cherry fruit with firm tannins on the palate. Elegant and quite tightly wound, but less generous than most in this voluptuous vintage. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
17

RONCHI

- Albino Rocca, Ronchi 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing dark ruby with narrow, bricky rim. Rich, sweet red fruit underpinned by a good dose of acidity and ripe, grippy tannins. Long, concentrated, elegant and with a finely tuned balance. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
17.5
- La Biòca, Ronchi 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Concentrated mid ruby with orange tinges. Concentrated fruit and oak nose. Supple and generous on the palate with fine gripping tannins and succulent acidity on the finish. Still embryonic. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2028
17

TRE STELLE

- Cascina delle Rose, Tre Stelle 2015 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with bricky rim. Concentrated and quite pure cherry nose. Wonderful chewy tannins framing supple, juicy cherry fruit. Already quite irresistible. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2028
17

COMMUNE OF NEIVE

- Francesco Versio 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Youthful mid ruby. A little closed but classic nose with hints of perfumed red fruit and a hint of spice and iron. Austere but perfumed and long and with compact cherry. Very tightly wound tannins and perfumed finish. Elegant but not ready yet. (WS)14.5% Drink 2022-2032
17+
- Bruno Rocca 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Cool raspberry and iron nose. Still a little closed on the palate and with brooding depth on the finish with a big layer of powdery tannins. Needs more time to unfurl, but showing lots of promise. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2028
17+
- Baracco Pietro 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Cask sample. Tasted blind. Concentrated mid ruby with orange tinges. Concentrated, aromatic cherry nose with hints of forest fruit and spicy top notes. Quite austere, if long and perfumed, but the firm tannins could have done with a little more fruit on the finish. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
16
- Castello di Neive 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Maturing mid ruby with bricky rim. Pine and cherry liqueur on the nose. Already a little developed on the palate too, with cherry and hints of malt. Bags of coating tannins and rather thin if perfumed cherry fruit. Ready now. (WS) Drink 2018-2023
15
- Mainardo, Gudrù 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Concentrated ruby with orange tinges.

Brooding on the nose and with a hint of leather. Lots of sour cherry and plenty of coating tannins. Ready now. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024

16

- [Sassi San Cristoforo 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Minty coconut and cherry on the nose and a palate shot through by acidity. More than a little new oak used here in a modernist style, but it is finely balanced too, and with gorgeous, crunchy tannins. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2030

17.5

- [Fontanabianca 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Tasted blind. Concentrated mid ruby with narrow orange rim. Alluring nose of raspberry and cherry with hints of exotic spice and leather. Juicy cherry-fruit palate marked by quite a bit of drying tannins. Huge length, though. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026

16

- [Massimo Rivetti, Froi 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with orange rim. Hints of undergrowth and herb liqueur indicating some development. Fragrant and already a little developed with firm tannins dominating the finish. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024

15.5

- [Francone, I Patriarchi 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with orange tinges. Lively, concentrated cherry fruit that is richly tannic. Long and multi-layered and the tannins definitely demand more time in bottle. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2030

16.5

- [Saria, Colle del Gelso 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Tasted blind. Unusually dark for Nebbiolo – lots of new oak? Compact and backwards on the nose with brooding cherry liqueur and a mere suggestion of oak. Bags of dark fruit and cherry compote. Plenty of fruit concentration to back up the rich tannins. Long, but not that complex (yet). (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026

16

COTTÁ

- [Sottimano, Cottá 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with narrow brickly rim. Cloves, cinnamon bark and cherry palate with lots of coating tannins. Great balance, length and concentration. Hedonistic but needs more time. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2030

17.5

- [Albino Rocca, Cottá 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Just mid ruby. Focused nose of raspberry, cherry and minerals. A little backward on the palate, yet supple, concentrated and finely balanced and with a thick layer of fine, powdery tannins. Elegant but still embryonic. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2030

17+

BORDINI

- [Fontanabianca, Bordini 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby with orange tinges. Sour-cherry and strawberry compote on what looks like a touch of oak. Succulent acidity and perfumed cherry fruit and lots of concentration and coating tannins. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026

16.5

- [La Spinetta, Bordini 2015 Barbaresco](#)Neive. Tasted blind. Maturing concentrated ruby with brickly rim. Herbal nose with notes of sour cherry and mint. Tightly wound marasca cherry.

Elegant palate weight, but also has plenty of concentration and lots of powdery tannins.
(WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
17

STARDERI

- Renato Fenocchio, Starderì 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with bricky rim. Savoury more than fruity but with good depth. Already some development on the palate with cherry and herb-liqueur notes. Long and satisfying and ready now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
16
- Icardi, Starderì 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby. Raw meat, spice, pine and cherry on the nose. Bags of attractive sweet-sour cherry flushed with tannins. Mouth-filling and impressive. Ready now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
17
- La Spinetta, Vürsù Starderì 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Mature-looking ruby with bright, bricky rim. Iron, cherry and raspberry nose. Plenty of cherry fruit on the palate and with gripping tannins. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
16

BASARIN

- Marco e Vittorio Adriano, Basarin 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Really herbal and a little numb on the nose. Supple palate but without huge expression. Perhaps this is still to come? (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- Fratelli Giacosa, Basarin Vigna Gianmatè 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Concentrated ruby. Perfumed, lifted and concentrated cherry nose. Generous mouthful of cherry with plenty of ripe tannins and a medicinal note on the finish, which lets it down a little. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
16
- Angelo Negro e Figli, Basarin 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Savoury raspberry nose with elegant oak note and succulent cherry fruit with fine yet powerful tannins. Elegant and poised and with a long, tannic finish. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2032
17
- Sottimano, Basarin 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Deep ruby with narrow bricky rim. Cherry nose with complex sweet-spice notes and already supple palate that is still a little closed and with bags of tannins and a sense of generous fruit on the finish. Long and tactile. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
17+
- Luisin, Paolin 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with bricky rim. Savoury nose that is slow to open up to fruit, but a brooding intensity. Brooding strawberry fruit on the palate with ripe, coating tannins. Genuine, old school and long. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
17

ALBESANI

- **Castello di Neive, Santo Stefano 2015 BarbarescoNeive.** Tasted blind. Mid ruby with bricky rim. Lift and concentration on the nose, and cherry and the beginning of tar. Generous and quite ripe fruit sustained by lots of grainy tannins. Gorgeous succulence on the finish with plenty of fine, powdery tannins. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2031
17+

SAN CRISTOFORO

- **Pietro Rinaldi, San Cristoforo 2015 BarbarescoNeive.** Deep ruby with bright orange tinges. Rich, minty strawberry nose and succulent mouthful of fruit and tannins with spicy notes on the finish. Long and concentrated and something for neophytes. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
16

SAN GIULIANO

- **Pelissero, Bricco San Giuliano 2015 BarbarescoNeive.** Tasted blind. Maturing dark ruby with orange tinges. Lifted nose of cherry and garden herbs. Supple fruit with crunchy tannins on the palate. Ticks all the boxes without being overtly complex. Ready now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
16
- **Pelissero, Cascina Crosa 2015 BarbarescoNeive.** Maturing mid ruby with narrow bricky rim. Ripe, multi-layered nose and plenty of fruit as well as lovely fresh acidity and a big bite of tannins on the finish. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024
16

SERRABOELLA

- **Barale, Serraboella 2015 BarbarescoNeive.** Maturing mid ruby with orange tinges. A nose that is a little rich with hints of dried fruit. Supple and generous palate with long cherry and herb-liqueur finish and plenty of ripe acidity. Not super-complex but satisfying. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2025
16
- **Fontanabianca, Serraboella 2015 BarbarescoNeive.** Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby with orange tinges. Cherry nose of real vigour. Generous palate and with a build-up of coating tannins and ripe, supple acidity. Already approachable. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2028
16.5
- **Paitin, Serraboella 2015 BarbarescoNeive.** Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with watery, bricky rim. Savoury nose with hints of iron and minty garden-herb notes. Savoury herb-liqueur palate with slightly drying tannins. Lacks a little in fruit vigour. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- **Paitin, Sorì Paitin 2015 BarbarescoNeive.** Tasted blind. Just mid ruby and already maturing with bricky rim. Cool, pine and cherry nose. Medium-bodied, mature palate with hints of dried fruit. Supple if with a drying finish, and older-looking than it is. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024
15.5

SERRACAPELLI

- Icardi, Montubert 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Mature-looking, medium-deep ruby with orange tinges. Subdued herb-liqueur nose and sour cherry with a hint of mint/oak on the palate. Elegant and understated and with bags of coating tannins. A pretty wine that seems to be ageing fast. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
16+

SERRAGRILLI

- Marchesi di Barolo, Serragrilli 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Mid-to-deep ruby. Concentrated cherry nose with real vigour. Generous sour cherry matched by crunchy tannins. Long and invigorating. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2028
17

GALLINA

- Castello di Neive, Gallina 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Maturing mid-to-deep ruby with orange tinges. Sweet dark-cherry nose with a hint of tar. Quiet developed on the palate, too. Proper length and depth, but looks older than it is. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- Antichi Poderi dei Gallina, Gallina 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with orange tinges. Lifted, compact fruit nose with a hint of fruit cake, but this has real life to it. Great layer of chewy tannins over ripe, spicy fruit. Generous, animating finish. Ready now. (WS)15% Drink 2018-2026
16.5
- La Spinetta, Gallina 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Deep ruby with bright bricky rim. Perfumed sour cherry and a hint of damson and herb liqueur. Succulent acidity running through sweet fruit with ripe coating tannins. Not super-complex but really satisfying. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
16.5
- Giuseppe Negro, Gallina 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Full, sweet, marasca-cherry nose with top notes of sweet spice and the merest hint of fruit cake. Juicy, full sweet-sour fruit palate with long, grainy tannins. Lots of substance and can be approached now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
17
- Oddero, Gallina 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Quite herbal and a little stinky on the nose. Already quite developed on the palate and quite light in fruit. Looks much older than it is. (WS)13.5% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- Ugo Lequio, Gallina 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with bricky rim. Not hugely expressive on the nose, with a hint of dried fruit, but more interesting on the palate. Supple fruit framed by gripping tannins. Already a little developed, and can be approached now. Good balance, though. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024
16

GAIA PRINCIPE

- Rabaglio, Gaia Principe 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Dark, maturing ruby with bricky

rim. Subdued nose that is a touch candied. Ripe and developed palate and older looking than it actually is. Good acidity, but overall a little numb with dried-fruit notes on the finish, and could do with a little more stuffing. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024

15.5

- Prinsi, Gaia Principe 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Chalky, herbal fruit nose and herbal sweet fruit on the palate. Slow to open up and a little brooding. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2023
15.5
- Roberto Sarotto, Gaia Principe 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with orange rim. Herbs and dried fruit on the nose. Rather sweet dried fruit and herb liqueur on the palate. Concentrated, but one-dimensional and completely ready now. (WS)16% Drink 2018-2023
15

CANOVA

- Ressia, Canova 2015 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Unusually opaque and dark for a Nebbiolo. Very reluctant and slow on the nose and with brooding concentration. Plush sour-cherry fruit with layers and layers of ripe tannins. Attention-grabbing and generous. Deep, rich fruit finish. But still impressively balanced. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2030
17+

BALLURI

- Piero Busso, Mondino 2015 Barbaresco Neive. *Grapes come from the cru Balluri, while their parcel is called Bricco Mondino. Stainless steel and a total of 20 days on the skins. Aged for two years in large Slavonian oak casks.*
Spicy, savoury, minerally fruit with bags of grainy tannins. Can be approached now, but needs food. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
16

COMMUNE OF TREISO

- Pier, La Fenice 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with bricky rim. Sweet baking-spice and cherry nose hinting at fruit cake. Tightly wound and deep but not heavy cherry fruit with lots of powdery tannins. Well balanced. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2030
16.5
- Mauro Abrigo 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. Nutty, oaky cherry nose that becomes more perfumed with aeration. Modernist polish on the palate with succulent fruit and oak and with finely chiselled, long tannins. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2030
17+
- La Ganghija 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Deep ruby with bricky rim. Savoury beef-broth nose showing more depth with aeration. Subdued but concentrated palate and quite a bit of chewy tannins that stick out a little on the finish. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2028
16
- Pelissero, Nubiola 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Deep ruby with bricky rim. Savoury-sweet, concentrated nose and a little chalky. Already a little developed on the palate with a thick layer of ripe tannins and hints of fruit cake. A little old school. Satisfying but not hugely

complex. (WS)14.5% Drink 2019-2026

16

- Corrado Meinardi 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. The lift of pine on the nose, dark-fruit notes and just a touch of leather. Concentrated mouthful of fruit that is not hugely expressive. Supple, long and with soft powdery tannins. Ready now. (WS)13.5% Drink 2018-2026
15.5+

BERNADOT

- Ceretto, Bernadot 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Palish ruby. Soft nose of red fruit. Juicy and lively red-fruit palate with an elegant medium-bodied weight and crunchy tannins. Fine, soft, perfumed cherry on the finish. Can already be approached. (WS)13% Drink 2018-2026
17.5

CASOT

- Giuseppe Nada, Casot 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with bricky rim. A brooding nose that is a little ethereal and with a hint of cardamom. Slightly dusty and leathery on the palate which obstructs the fruit. Lots of chewy tannins. Not entirely pure. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024
15

CASTELLIZZANO

- Pertinace, Castellizzano 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby with narrow bricky rim. Minty cherry and ripe dark-fruit nose with a hint of Moroccan leather. Rich and supple dark-fruit palate with dusty tannins and completely accessible. A little dry on the finish. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- Occellini, Castellizzano 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Lustrous ruby with orange tinges. Full nose of ripe fruit and generous fruit on the palate with lots of drying tannins. A little simple, if long. Ready now, if quite tannic. (WS)15% Drink 2018-2024
15

GIACONE

- Alberta, Giacone 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Lifted and a little candied at the same time. Sweet, ripe fruit palate with lots of concentration. Satisfying rather than complex. A good mouthful of fruit and tannins. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
16

MARCARINI

- Pertinace, Marcarini 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges.

Savoury and a tiny bit medicinal. Sweet fruit that is a little suppressed on the palate, and I cannot detect a lot of complexity here (yet). Just ripeness and lots of chewy tannins. Ready now. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024

15.5

- Rivetto, Marcarini 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Quite a numb, locked nose with only a hint of iron and brooding palate. Same closed fruit on the palate but well balanced with fine acidity and chewy tannins. Plenty of stuffing but needs more time. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2028

16.5

MERUZZANO

- Orlando Abrigo, Meruzzano 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with narrow bricky rim. Cherry and hints of damson and exotic spice on the nose. Exotic spice on the palate too. Rich and mouth-filling fruit matched with attractive, grainy tannins. Unusual, exotic spice finish. Ready now. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2028

16

MONTERSINO

- Albino Rocca, Montersino 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Fine spice and cherry nose and full, supple, ripe cherry palate with firm but polished tannins. Very long and youthful and much more to come. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2030

17+

- San Biagio, Montersino 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with bricky rim. Ethereal eucalyptus and cherry nose with a hint of fruit cake. Supple fruit on the palate while the acidity makes itself really known on the finish. Finely chiselled tannins, but would need a little more depth to completely convince. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2026

16

- Massimo Rattalino, Quarantadue42 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Palish ruby with orange tinges. Subtle, lifted nose with hints of camphor. Elegant palate weight with supple, ripe dark fruit that is not hugely complex. Embracing kind of wine. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024

16

- Vigin, Montersino 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mature-looking mid ruby with narrow orange rim. Dark cherry and fruit cake nose. Very ripe and a little stewed on the palate - harvested too late? The highish acidity helps to give it shape. Completely ready now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2023

15

NERVO

- Rizzi, Nervo 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Slow, savoury sour-cherry nose. Generous, ripe fruit on the palate with a layer of ripe chewy tannins. Long and brooding and can be approached now, but there is more to come. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028

16.5

- Pertinace, Nervo 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. Seductive nose of minty oak

and dark fruit. Dark fruit that is already a little developed (premox?) and open-knit with more than a hint of tar. A thick layer of drying tannins on the finish. Seems completely ready. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024
15.5

PAJORE`

- Rizzi, Pajore` 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with bright orange tinges. Lifted spicy cherry nose. Compactly built tannins framing ripe fruit with quite a bit of depth on the finish. Can be approached now but needs time to really shine. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2030
17.5
- Sottimano, Pajore` 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with narrow bricky rim. Ripe, dark cherry that is a little ethereal but certainly complex. Full, ripe-fruit palate that is not yet as complex as the nose has it, but certainly generous and mouth-filling. Long and tactile finish with bags of grainy tannins matching the rich fruit. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028
17+
- Bel Colle, Pajore` 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Lustrous ruby. Ripe strawberry and cherry fruit on the nose. Juicy and succulent on the palate with wonderful chew and bite of tannins on the finish. Classy stuff. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2030
17+

ROMBONE

- Ada Nada, Rombone Elisa 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with narrow bricky rim. Very ripe and mellow on the nose and just a tiny bit candied. Lots of ripe fruit on the palate. Long if a tiny bit one-dimensional. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024
15.5
- Luigi Oddero, Rombone 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Subtle yet concentrated spice nose with brooding fruit underneath. Ripe fruit finely stitched together by firm, but polished tannins. Long and multi-layered finish. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
16.5

VALEIRANO

- Ada Nada, Valeirano 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Concentrated ruby with narrow bricky rim. A little stinky and reductive on the nose. Ripe strawberry fruit on the palate with a good dose of acidity that keeps it supple. Grainy tannins and bags of ripe fruit on the finish. Can already be approached. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2026
16

VALLEGRANDE

- Ca' del Baio, Vallegrande 2015 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with bright bricky rim. Minerally fruit with hints of cardamom pod and rusty nail. Ripe, generous and open-knit fruit on the palate. Already accessible but will gain in depth with a little more age. (WS)15% Drink 2018-2026

16

- Fratelli Grasso, Vallegrande 2015 Barbaresco Treiso. Tasted blind. Dark ruby with narrow orange rim. A seductive mix of dark fruit and soft, spicy oak. Super-accessible and a little commercial, with chewy tannins on the finish. Sure to make lots of friends. (WS)15% Drink 2018-2026

16

MANZOLA

- Luigino Grimaldi, Manzola 2015 Barbaresco Treiso. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with bricky rim. Dark and already a little developed on the nose with hints of shoe polish. Massive ripe fruit on the palate with hints of fruit cake confirming the development on the palate. Accessible and concentrated, if a little simple. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024

15.5

RISERVA 2013 BARBARESCO

PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO

- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Pora Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*.
16,666 bottles produced.
Vigorous and expressive strawberry and cherry nose. Firm cherry fruit with grainy, long tannins and wonderful fresh acidity. Tightly woven tannic structure wrapping-up succulent fruit. Lots to chew on. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2030
17++
- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Rio Sordo Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*.
13,333 bottles produced. This is bottle number 1,257.
Earthy and deep fruit nose. Takes its time to open up and displays great depth of ripe cherry fruit and clayey tannins. Less immediate than the Pora, more of a sleeping beauty. (WS)14% Drink 2022-2032
17++
- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Pajè Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*.
10,000 bottles produced. This is bottle number 1,061.
Perfumed cherry fruit on the nose and succulent, ripe, sweet fruit with bags of coating tannins and succulent acidity. It all melts together beautifully on the minerally finish. (WS)14% Drink 2022-2034
17++
- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Asili Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*.
13,333 bottles produced. This is bottle number 1,453.
Brooding, complex nose with minerally hints and opens up to become even more complex. Slow and deep and concentrated on the palate. Still very youthful but perfectly balanced and with refreshing acidity and gorgeous chewy tannins, flexing its muscles on the finish. (WS)14% Drink 2022-2032
18
- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Ovello Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*.
17,160 bottles produced. This is bottle number 2,346.
Spice and hints of iron on the nose. A fantastic dose of succulent red fruit over a rich layer of fine, sandy tannins. A perfect triangle of tannins, vibrant acidity and fruit. Beautiful and super-animating. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2032

17++

- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Muncagota Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*. 13,333 bottles produced. This is bottle number 1,183.

Dark, spicy fruit on the nose. Still a little monolithic and embryonic with splendid juicy acidity and coating tannins that melt into the juicy fruit on the finish. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2032

17++

- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Montefico Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*. 13,333 bottles produced. This is bottle number 1,859.

Slow and brooding on the nose and with quite a bit of power underneath. The merest suggestion of damson. Richness of fruit combined with bags of fine, powdery tannins and supple acidity. Very long and deep. Long-distance runner. (WS)14% Drink 2022-2034

17++

- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Montestefano Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*. 17,104 bottles produced. This is bottle number 1,180.

Serious, deep nose of ripe fruit that is still a little subdued. Intense and ripe yet multi-layered and with acidity that becomes a little vibrant on the finish. Clayey tannins that complement rather than take the lead, but still firm and noble. Full spread on the finish. Length can only be measured in light years and yet nothing ostentatious. (WS)14% Drink 2022-2034

17.5

- Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco, Rabajà Riserva 2013 Barbaresco *Barbaresco*. 17,040 bottles produced. This is bottle number 2,800.

Rich yet lively and lifted and pure on the nose. Succulent, precise strawberry and cherry fruit growing in complexity and pulled further along by juicy acidity. Polished tannins on a long, vibrating finish. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2032

18

COMMUNE OF ALBA

- Manera, Riserva 2013 BarbarescoAlba. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. Vigorous spice, oak and cherry fruit on the nose. Mouth-filling, ripe fruit and plenty of acidity to give it lift. Generous finish with ripe, supple tannins. A little charmer with quite a bit of oak that might penalise it in the future. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026

16

COMMUNE OF BARBARESCO

- Massimo Rattalino, Quarantacinque45 Riserva 2013 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with bricky rim. A little inexpressive on the nose, and already seems a little developed. Ripe and brooding on the palate and very slow to open up. Could go anywhere, but I cannot shake off the impression that it is developing fast. (WS)13.5% Drink 2018-2025

15.5

ASILI

- Ca' del Baio, Asili Riserva 2013 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Concentrated deep ruby with bright orange tinges. Leafy, youthful cherry nose. Fine, youthful and subtle palate with lots of coating tannins. Tactile, long and juicy, and still not entirely open. (WS).14% Drink

2020-2032

17+

MARTINENGA

- Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy, Camp Gros Martinenga Riserva 2013 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Lifted, perfumed and complex nose with hints of cardamom pod. Generous fruit that is elegant at the same time and with beautiful coating tannins. Great balance and style, but contained. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2032
17.5+

RIO SORDO

- Cascina Bruciata, Rio Sordo Riserva 2013 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with narrow bricky rim. Ethereal nose of dark fruit with a hint of oatmeal. Intense yet locked on the palate. Fine, perfumed cherry finish with layers and layers of ripe tannins. Impressive but still needs time. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2030
17+

OVELLO

- Cantina del Pino, Ovello Riserva 2013 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Leafy herbal cherry nose that is not yet fully open. Very slow to unfurl on the palate too and with a layer of fine, coating tannins. Lots to chew on the long finish. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2034
17+

RONCAGLIE

- Socrè, Roncaglie Riserva 2013 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Deep ruby with orange tinges. Creamy candy-floss (cotton candy) and cherry nose. Sweet and soft and not reminiscent at all of Nebbiolo. Artificial. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2020
14

COMMUNE OF NEIVE

- Francone, Riserva 2013 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with narrow orange rim. Lots of depth on the nose and hints of dried fruit. Dried fruit and marasca cherry on the palate. Plush and mouth-filling and with plenty of acidity and bags of grainy tannins. Can be approached now, but will hold. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026
16

ALBESANI

- Castello di Neive, Albesani Santo Stefano Riserva 2013 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with bricky rim. Intense, lifted nose of ripe fruit and a hint of tar. Succulent and supple and elegant and with gripping but fine tannins and lively acidity creeping up on the finish. Very long and tactile and still embryonic. (WS)14.5% Drink 2022-2034
17.5

SAN GIULIANO

- Pelissero, Ciabot Riserva 2013 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. Unusual nose of exotic spice. Lots of ripe fruit shot through by acidity. Ripe tannins framing the generous fruit finish. Supple and approachable but will hold. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2030
16+

BASARIN

- Marco e Vittorio Adriano, Basarin Riserva 2013 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Dark ruby. Deep sour-cherry nose. Firm but polished tannins frame the juicy cherry fruit while becoming more powerful on the finish but never dominate. Powerful and at the same time elegant and really long. Very pretty wine and more to come. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2034
17++
- Punset, Basarin Riserva 2013 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Deep ruby with narrow bricky rim. Leafy, chalky nose while the fruit is still hiding. Juicy, chalky fruit that is refreshing but not entirely focused. (WS) Drink 2018-2026
16

CURRÀ

- Roberto Sarotto, Currà Riserva 2013 BarbarescoNeive. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. Lifted, peppery nose with a hint of shoe polish. Sweet and very ripe fruit palate that is a little caramelised. Very dense and sweet and with hints of panna cotta on the finish. Tannic too, I should add. (WS)15.5% Drink 2018-2024
14

COMMUNE OF TREISO

CASOT

- Giuseppe Nada, Casot Riserva 2013 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Ethereal nose of red fruit. Supple palate with rather light fruit compared with other wines of this generous vintage, if lingering. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2024
15.5

MERUZZANO

- Cantina del Nebbiolo, Meruzzano Riserva 2013 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Rich cherry nose, and supple cherry fruit on the palate. Not super-

long but elegant. Drink now. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024

16

- Orlando Abrigo, Vigna Rongalio Meruzzano Riserva 2013 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. Concentrated spicy nose with a hint of shoe polish and savoury fruit on the palate. Supple and long if not enormously complex, but well built. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2026

16

RIZZI

- Rizzi, Boito Riserva 2013 BarbarescoTreiso. Tasted blind. Lustrous ruby with orange tinges. A little stalky and reductive on the nose. Very slow to unfurl on the palate but the rich concentration is obvious. Lots of fruit and ripe chewy tannins on the finish. Very long and intense. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2032

17

VINTAGE 2014

COMMUNE OF ALBA

- Manuel Marinacci 2014 Barbaresco Alba. *Fermented by indigenous yeast in concrete with total skin contact time of one month. Aged for three years in large cask. 'I tasted it and thought, that goes well, so I left it longer in cask.'* Unfiltered.

A little dusty and closed inherently noble nose. Still compact and tight on the palate with fine, compact cherry and bags of coating tannins, really embryonic and perfectly integrated fresh acidity. Too young really to do it justice right now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2028

17

COMMUNE OF BARBARESCO

RONCAGLIE

- Socrè, Roncaglio 2014 BarbarescoBarbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Classic Nebbiolo nose with cherry and iron. A little medicinal on the palate. (WS)14% Drink 2018-2024

15.5

COMMUNE OF NEIVE

- Cigliuti, Vie Erte 2014 Barbaresco Neive. *Sandy soils, and planted in 1997, 26 months in cask ('we do it much longer than the disciplinary demands'). Only large oak cask.*

Lustrous ruby! Gorgeous cool raspberry nose and fine raspberry and cherry palate. Firm tannins, yet elegant, long and ageworthy. (WS)14.5% Drink 2018-2028

17

- Cigliuti, Serraboella 2014 Barbaresco Neive. *Calcareous clay and 60-year-old vines. 30% in tonneaux of first to sixth use, remainder in botte grande.*

Lustrous mid ruby. A little marked by dusty oak, and the fine fruit is still a little backward. Fine oatmeal notes too. Gorgeous succulence and firm, serious and long tannins. Long, compact and impressive. (WS)14.5% Drink 2020-2034

17.5+

SAN CRISTOFORO

- Sassi San Cristoforo, San Cristoforo 2014 Barbaresco Treiso. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. A nose that is a little candied. Succulent raspberry and cherry fruit with lively acidity on the finish. Just a tad too sweet, but definitely lively. (WS) Drink 2018-2026
17

VINTAGE 2012

COMMUNE OF NEIVE

- Piero Busso, Albesani Viti Vecchie Riserva 2012 Barbaresco Neive. Aged for 36 months in large oak casks and 36 months in bottle. Will be released in September.
Really refined as well as concentrated on the nose. Plenty of concentration on the palate but much slower to release it all. A big layer of coating tannins underneath. Gorgeous succulent acidity ties it altogether. Fantastic tactile finish. Already gorgeous but deserves much more time. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2024-2036
18

VINTAGE 2011

COMMUNE OF BARBARESCO

- Bera, Rabajà Riserva 2011 Barbaresco Barbaresco. 30 days on the skins and aged for three years in large oak casks.
Potentially huge with concentrated but genuine Nebbiolo nose that is multi-faceted. Succulent and concentrated ripe fruit but not heavy at all. Bags of sandy tannins. Great effort for the vintage. (WS) 14% Drink 2020-2034
17

COMMUNE OF NEIVE

- Bera, Basarin Riserva 2011 Barbaresco Neive. 30 days on the skins, three years aged in large oak cask, three years in stainless steel and released only 2 months ago.
More intense and lifted nose of earthy fruit than the Rabajà of the same vintage. With aeration grows in complexity, like this is a more important cru than Rabajà but lots also depends on the position of the plots. Very pure and still a little closed and with waves of fine, sandy tannins. Powerful yet poised. (WS) 14% Drink 2022-2034
17.5

VINTAGE 2009

COMMUNE OF NEIVE

- Bera, Basarin Riserva 2009 Barbaresco *Neive*. *Same recipe as for the Basarin 2011*. Concentrated, ripe yet with real depth and undeniably Nebbiolo. Supple and long with bags of crunchy tannins. Perhaps a tad less complex than the 2011, but no hot-vintage markers and still plenty of potential. It must be the 60-year-old vines. (WS)14% Drink 2020-2032
17++

VINTAGE 2008

- Vite Colte, Spezie Riserva 2008 Barbaresco Tasted blind. Lustrous ruby. Subdued but concentrated on the nose, and plenty of generous and very ripe fruit on the palate. Subtle it ain't. (WS) Drink 2018-2024
15