

# BARBARESCO

For many producers, the appellation's small size is a blessing: 'Of the four major Italian DOCG wines, Barbaresco has the smallest production: our wines are the rarest – another factor that adds to their mystique,' says Alberto di Gresy of Cisa Asinari Marchesi di Gresy.

He also believes that the recent 2011 vintage will further help Barbaresco's cause: 'It's one of the best vintages in memory. The wines are fuller

bodied than usual, but retain their proverbial grace and charm, so there's never been an easier time to become a Barbaresco lover.'

So in many respects, these are the best of times for Barbaresco. Wine lovers everywhere would do well to fill up their glasses, and their wine cellars, with the best that the region has to offer. There are fewer wines made anywhere in the world that will guarantee as much pleasure. **D**

*Ian D'Agata is a DWWA Regional co-Chair for Italy. His book on Barolo and Barbaresco is due out this year*

## D'Agata's top 20 Barbarescos to try



**Bruno Giacosa, Asili 2005** 19/20 (96/100)

£90 **Armit Wines**

Rich and textured, but more austere than Giacosa's Santo Stefano di Neive. Very long, with red cherry fruit, truffle and earthy tones.

**Drink** 2015-2035 **Alcohol** 13.5%

**Angelo Gaja 2004** 18.75 (95+)

£100-£120 **Fine & Rare, Great Eastern**

### Fine Wines

Balanced, graceful and long – the hallmark of Gaja's wines – this has a bit more size thanks to a warmer year. The estate makes more famous wines, but I think this Barbaresco is the best. **Drink** 2015-2025 **Aic** 14%



**Cisa Asinari Marchesi di Gresy, Martinenga Camp Gros 2008**

18.75 (95+)

£63-£70 **Boutinot, Millésima, Woodwinters**

Minerals, underbrush and cherries; classically styled with high acidity and firm tannins. Needs time.

**Drink** 2018-2030 **Aic** 14%

**Ceretto, Bricco Asili 1989** 18.5 (95)

£121 **Fine & Rare**

Vibrant and long, with lovely tobacco, red cherry and camphor notes and the tell-tale 1989 creaminess. **Drink** 2015-2020 **Aic** 14%

**Musso, Pora 2011** 18.5 (95)

£30 **The Tasting Room**

Mesmerisingly perfumed – red roses, minerals and sour red cherries – and mineral. A winner. **Drink** 2015-30 **Aic** 13.5%



**Pio Cesare, Il Bricco 2010** 18.5 (95)

£64-£75 **Fine & Rare, Mondial, Peake**

**Wines, Planet of the Grapes, Richard Dawes, Uncorked, Wine Reserve**

High acidity, steely and almost lean, but amazingly perfumed. **Drink** 2018-30 **Aic** 14%

**Produttori di Barbaresco, Pajè 2008** 18.5 (95)

£30-£39 **Astrum, Cavex, Fine & Rare, Four Walls**

**Wine Co, Millésima, Woodwinters**

Delicious rose and red cherry nuances backed up by noteworthy but polished tannins. Pajè doesn't get any better than this.

**Drink** 2020-35 **Aic** 14%

**Roagna, Asili 2008** 18.5 (95)

£90 **Armit Wines**

Sharply acidic and tannic, but with wonderfully pure red berry and Asili minerality. Still a bruiser – cellar this for another decade. **Drink** 2018-2030 **Aic** 14%



**Angelo Pastura 2011** 18.25 (94)

N/A UK [www.angelopastura.com](http://www.angelopastura.com)

Very precise red berry and flinty mineral notes, complicated by red roses. Little-known, small but promising producer. **Drink** 2015-2025 **Aic** 13.5%

**Cascina Bruciata, Rio Sordo**

2006 18.25 (94)

N/A UK [www.cascinabruciata.it](http://www.cascinabruciata.it)

High acidity and noteworthy tannins provide support to Rio Sordo's typically soft, rich, ripe red cherry and marzipan characters.

**Drink** 2015-2026 **Aic** 14%

**Luigi Giordano, Montestefano 2011** 18.25 (94)

N/A UK [www.luigiordano.it](http://www.luigiordano.it)

A high acid spine lifts pretty red cherry and orange peel notes. Very Montestefano – assertive tannins. **Drink** 2016-2025 **Aic** 13.5%



**Sottimano, Pajore 2006**

18.25 (94)

£48 **Lea & Sandeman**

Linear, very pure aromas and flavours of gunflint and red cherry. Lovely balance and real Pajore breed and power. **Drink** 2018-2030 **Aic** 14%

**Nada Fiorenzo, Rombone 1998**

18 (93)

£40-£46.86 **A&B Vintners, Fine & Rare**

Rich and suave, with Rombone's typical balsamic edge and darker fruit notes. Still youthful, and a major success for a vintage of mostly lean wines. **Drink** 2015-2024 **Aic** 13.5%

**Castello di Neive, Santo Stefano 2007**

17.75 (92)

£38 **Fortyfive10**

Typical Castello di Neive – lovely balance to the red cherry, violet and marzipan aromas and flavours. **Drink** 2015-2025 **Aic** 14%



**Castello di Verduno, Rabaja**

2008 17.75 (92)

£26 **Lay & Wheeler**

Very floral and clean red berries on the nose and palate. Slightly austere with a very saline finish.

**Drink** 2018-2028 **Aic** 13.5%

**Albino Rocca 2002** 17.5 (91)

N/A UK [www.albinorocca.com](http://www.albinorocca.com)

Soft red fruit and sweet spice nuances – ready to drink. A major success in a poor vintage. **Drink** 2015 **Aic** 13%

**Ca' del Baio, Asili 2011** 17.5 (91)

£25-£34 **Eurowines, Fine & Rare**

Underbrush and coffee complement dark red cherry notes. A bit more herbal than usual. **Drink** 2020-2035 **Aic** 14%

**Marco e Vittorio Adriano, Sanavaide 2010**

17.5 (91)

N/A UK [www.adrianovini.it](http://www.adrianovini.it)

Great example of San Rocco Seno d'Elvio's lighter frame and irresistible early appeal. 'Sanavaide' is the name in dialect of San Rocco Seno d'Elvio. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Aic** 13.5%

**Cecilia Monte 2010** 17.25 (90+)

N/A UK +39 0173 67454

Very ripe aromas and flavours of dark cherry, cocoa and balsamic spices. Monte is the wife of Maurizio Garola of Ciau del Tornavento, one

of Piedmont's best restaurants.

**Drink** 2017-2024 **Aic** 13%



**Moccagatta 2010** 17.25 (90+)

£28 **Gerrard Seel**

Intense violets and dark berries. Vibrant and fragrant, from a mix of Barbaresco and Treiso grapes.

**Drink** 2018-2025 **Aic** 13.5%

For full UK stockist details, see p115