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PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO

RISERVA INDENT OFFER

The Produttori del Barbaresco, is undoubtedly the most famous, and greatest co-operative winery in the world. Just one grape: Nebbiolo. Just one wine: Barbaresco. Excellence in simplicity. We are very proud to have represented them here in New Zealand for over 20 years.

One of the most anticipated releases of the year is their iconic single vineyard Barbaresco Riserva's. These are still perhaps the greatest value fine wines available anywhere in the world. The level of quality is unparalleled for the price, even within the region itself. The 2020 vintage Riserva's will be released to market in January. Here is your opportunity to secure your allocation of these legendary wines before they leave Italy.

2020 is an excellent modern expression of Barbaresco, which will appeal to many newer converts to the region. Grown and made during the covid lockdowns, the families had even more time to dedicate to their vines. These wines are richer and rounder than their traditional style, with gorgeous upfront fruit, boasting the advantage of not needing decades in the cellar to be best enjoyed.

Place your order as soon as possible, as usual we may need to allocate some of the rarest wines. Preference will be given to those who purchase across the range. There is also a very small number of Magnums available this year.

The 2020 Produttori Barbaresco Riserva's are expected to land first quarter 2025. Payment is not due until arrival.

- John Caro & Regan McCaffery



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2020 PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO INDENT OFFER

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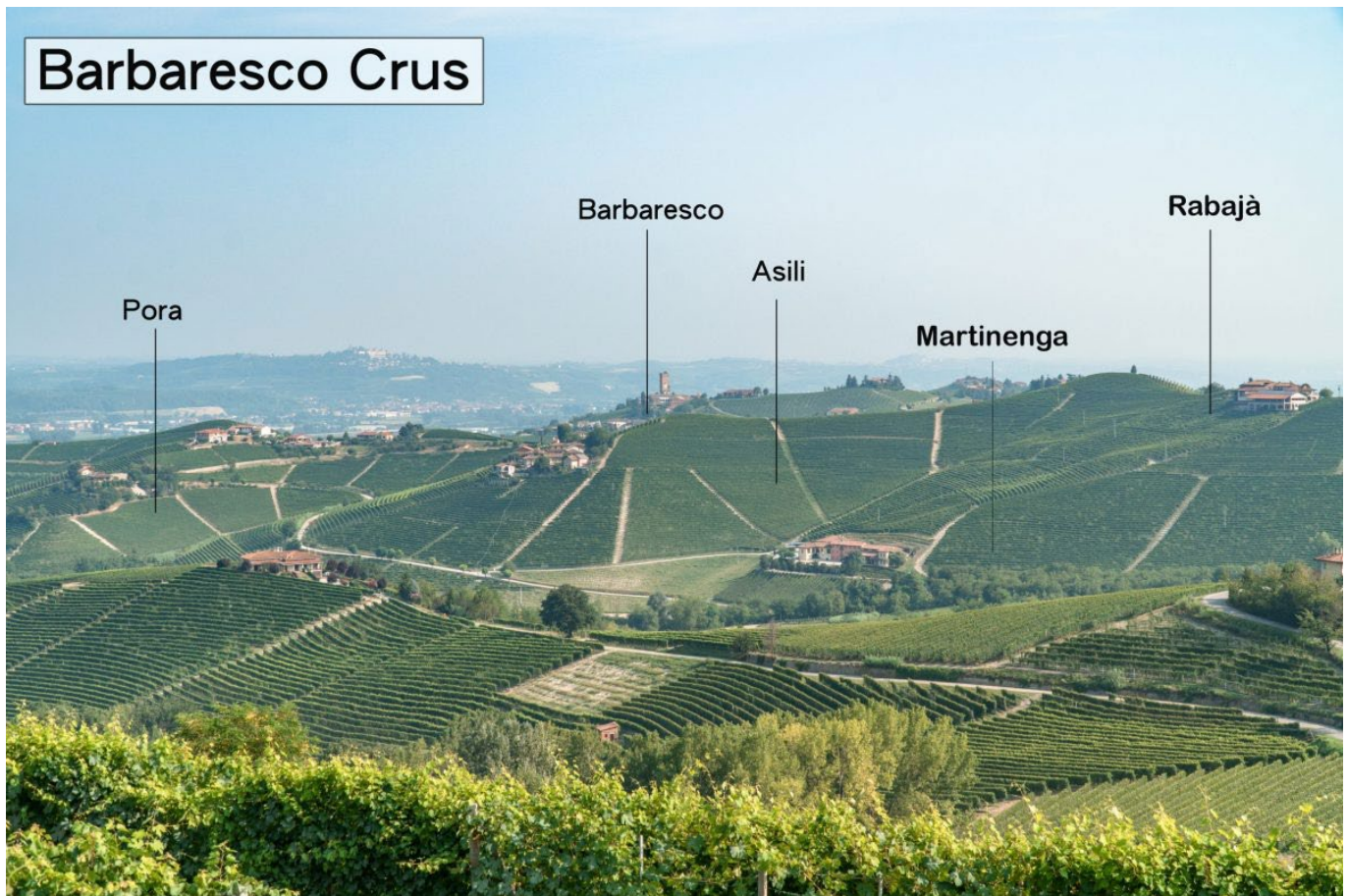
The 2020 Produttori Barbaresco Riserva's are expected to land first quarter 2025. Payment is not due until arrival.

WINE ORDER FORM	QUANTITY	PRICE* (In mixed 6+)
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Asili - SOLD OUT		\$99
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Montefico		\$99
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Montestefano - SOLD OUT		\$99
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Montestefano Magnum 1.5L		\$200
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Muncagota		\$99
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Ovello		\$99
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Ovello Magnum 1.5L		\$200
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Pajè		\$99
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Pora		\$99
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Rabaja		\$99
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Rabaja Magnum 1.5L		\$200
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Rio Sordo		\$99

2020 VINTAGE REPORT

From the year that saw the world shut down for months due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the 2020 Barbarescos are the polar opposite of the 2019s. While the firmly structured 2019s are linear, vibrant and focused, and boast great aging potential, the 2020s are more immediately appealing, with rich fruit and rounder tannins, as opposed to energy, youthful austerity and complexity. Two of the adjectives I use a lot in my notes describing the 2020s are juicy and succulent, not descriptions you normally associate with such young Barbarescos, but ones I predict I'll be using more frequently to describe Nebbiolo made in the ever hotter, drier growing conditions. Yet unlike other hot vintages, like 2017 and 2015, the newest releases are fresher and better balanced. Acidity levels were good, and while the wines are concentrated and accessible, they overall have very good balance. The 2020s shine a light on the cru bottlings. With very few exceptions, the MGA bottlings showed much better than the straight Barbarescos. In the village of Barbaresco, some of the best wines hailed from Asili and Rabajà. But as always, the producer is more important than the vintage, and 2020 is no exception.

- Kerin O Keefe



Clear skies, crystal-clear rivers and clean air: the 2020 vintage started while the world was in lockdown. Going to work in the vineyards was one of the few permissible activities at the time (lucky vignaioli!). The most genuine producers confess to having taken extraordinarily good care of their vines during the Covid pandemic like never before. No fairs, no visiting importers, no tastings. 2020 doesn't have a single, identifiable detail that characterises the vintage. Rainfall was abundant and quite spread out over the season, which was generally humid. The temperatures were high as well, certainly warm enough to consider the vintage as being hot. While it didn't come close to the record heat in 2003, it was similar to 2017. The maturity of the grapes was impressive and the tannins almost always very refined. Given its more approachable style, it is not likely to be a favourite vintage among classic Barbaresco lovers, but in my opinion, this ready-to-drink style should be seen in a positive light. In the best examples there is volume, lushness and balance. It's difficult to presume a shorter window of ageability considering the balance and the quality of the tannins. As Angelo Gaja often reminds us, in modern vintages there is increased quality and maturity of the tannins at the expense of lower acidity. All in all, 2020 was a very good vintage, particularly considering the dry 2017, the dilute 2018 and an unassuming 2019 in Barbaresco (compared to Barolo).

- Decanter, Aldo Fiordell

PRODUTTORI del BARBARESCO

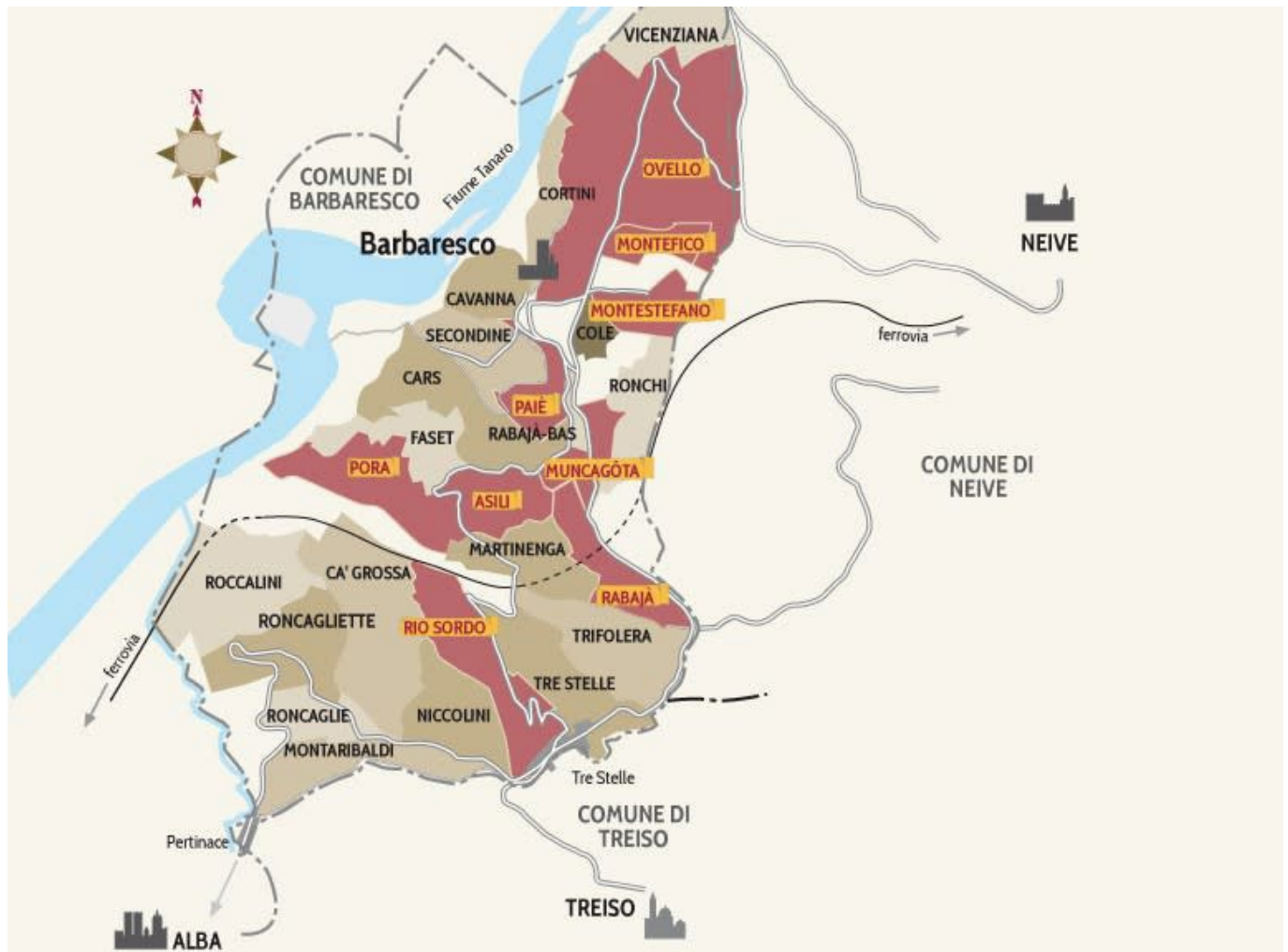


Before 1894 in Barbaresco, Nebbiolo grapes were sold off to make Barolo wine, or simply labeled "Nebbiolo di Barbaresco." In 1894, Domizio Cavazza, headmaster of the Royal Enological School of Alba and a Barbaresco resident, created the first cooperative called the "Cantine Sociali". He gathered together nine Barbaresco vineyard owners to make wine at his estate. Recognizing the difference of the Nebbiolo from Barbaresco and that of Barolo, he set out to create a Barbaresco Nebbiolo, thus Barbaresco was born. Sadly, the Cantine Sociali were closed in the 1930's.

In 1958, Don Fiorino, the priest of the village of Barbaresco, recognized that the only way the small properties could survive was by joining their efforts. He gathered together nineteen small growers and founded the Produttori del Barbaresco, managed by Celestino Vacca. The first three vintages were made in the church basement, then in the winery built across the square where the Produttori is still located today. United once again, the small growers continued the work started by Domizio Cavazza, producing only Barbaresco wine and enhancing both the reputation of the wine and the village. After having spent fifteen years working at the side of Angelo Gaja, Celestino's son Aldo Vacca has been the director of the Produttori del Barbaresco since 1991.

Produttori del Barbaresco now exclusively vinifies Nebbiolo grapes from the vineyards owned by the now 51 member-growers in within the Barbaresco DOCG appellation. In any given vintage a Barbaresco and a Nebbiolo Langhe are produced. The former, first released in the 1958 vintage, is made by assembling grapes from different fully grown vineyards. This is the flagship wine of the winery, known all over the world for the solid quality and great value that it represents. The Langhe Nebbiolo, first released in 1975, is made with a selection of grapes from younger vineyards in within the region. It is suited for earlier consumption and it is a great way to introduce one's palate to the beauty of the Nebbiolo grape and the Barbaresco terroir. They produce around 550,000 bottles (45,000 cases) per year. In a good vintage they are divided among Barbaresco (50%), single vineyard Barbarescos (30%) and Nebbiolo Langhe (20%).





In outstanding vintages, the Produttori del Barbaresco produces nine single vineyard wines, released after four years under the Riserva (Reserve) program. First released in 1967 as Riserva Special (five vineyards were produced then), these wines are produced from a selection of grapes sourced from nine historical premium sites within the Barbaresco village boundaries.

Historical vineyards, known for centuries for producing high quality grapes and now worldwide famous also thanks to the Produttori del Barbaresco legacy. Their names are Asili, Montefico, Montestefano, Muncagota, Ovello, Pajè, Pora, Rabajà, Rio Sordo. All these wines are vinified and aged with exactly the same style in order to show their different personalities at their best and purest form. A tasting of the nine "Produttori Crus" is therefore an extremely unique experience!

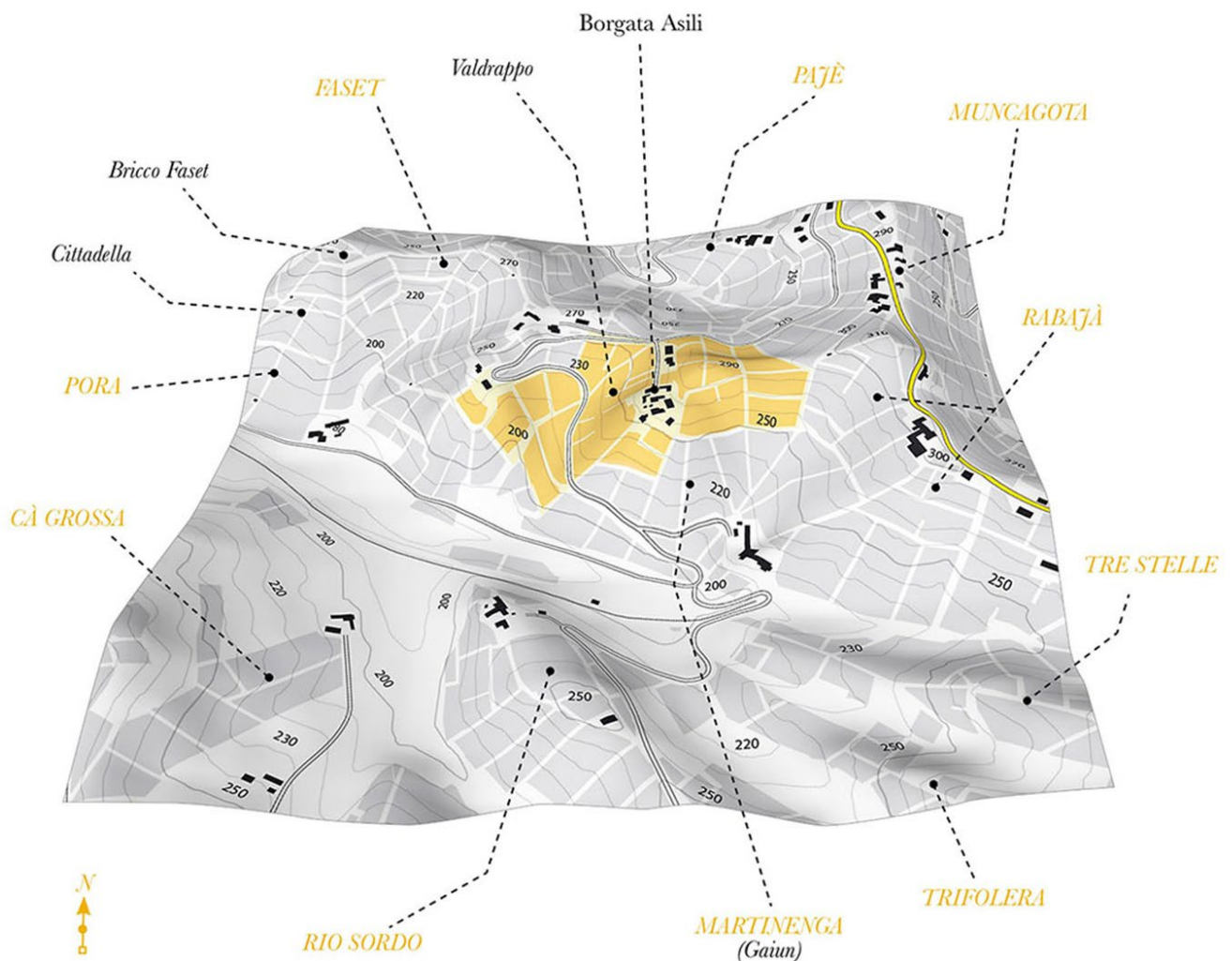
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Asili - \$99

"I always find the Asili to be most fragrant of the Produttori single-vineyard Riservas and the stunning 2020 doesn't disappoint, offering alluring aromas of dog rose, eucalyptus, new leather, forest floor and woodland berry along with a whiff of sun-warmed hay. Loaded with finesse, the elegant palate also boasts great structure, delivering juicy Morello cherry, raspberry, blood orange, star anise and a hint of truffle alongside tightly woven, fine-grained tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it bright and balanced. Drink 2026–2032."

97/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"Aldo Vacca and Luca Cravanzola presented a stellar set of wines at Produttori del Barbaresco. The 2020 Riservas offer an intriguing mix of the bold fruit of the year tempered by traditional winemaking. As usual, the Riservas saw 25-30 days on the skins. Malolactic fermentation took place in stainless steel. The wines were settled in tank and then racked into French oak casks in early 2021. Bottling took place in May 2024. The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Asili is gorgeous. It offers a beguiling mix of intense fruit and supporting structure. A wine of depth and complexity, Asili has a lot of everything. It is clearly a step or two above many of the wines in this range. Today, the 2020 comes across as a bit somber, but that may partly be a reflection of its recent bottling. There's gorgeous depth and resonance in the Asili. Drink 2025-2035"

96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



“The fifteen hectare vineyard of Asili lies in the village of Barbaresco, in the northwestern section of vines that make up the appellation. It lies in a band of vineyards that are the very heart of the best terroirs in the village of Barbaresco, abutting Martinenga to the north and with Rabajà adjacent just to its east. The vineyard lies with a beautiful southern exposure, with the vines running up the slope to an elevation of 280 meters above sea level. The terroir in Asili is made up of a mix of clay marl and the strong vein of limestone running through it, giving the wines of Asili their raciness, perfume and lift. And indeed, top examples from Asili are clearly among the most elegant and refined examples of Nebbiolo to be found anywhere in Piemonte, and it is not surprising that Neive native son, Bruno Giacosa, long sought a top parcel in this superb cru. Asili is widely regarded as one of the greatest terroirs in the entire region of Barbaresco, with the blossomed wines of this vineyard offering up all of the haunting elegance that personifies Barbaresco along with the intensity of flavor and structural integrity that only the greatest red wines of the world can deliver.

The Produttori has produced a single cru bottling of Asili since the 1970 vintage, and this is one of the two crown jewels in their portfolio. Asili probably produces the most complex and elegant of all the crus in the DOCG of Barbaresco, as the combination of the perfect exposure and the high percentage of limestone in the soils here produce a hauntingly complex and often ethereal glass of Barbaresco. It is never as deeply colored in its youth as the wines from its neighbors, Pora, Martinenga or Rabajà, but is often every bit as structured in its more medium-full format, and takes more than a decade to really blossom in a top quality vintage. At its apogee it is to my mind the most complex of all the crus in Barbaresco, with plenty of red fruit and citrus peel at the core, with layers of autumnal scents, licorice, fresh herbs, smoke and porcini feathered in over a profoundly complex base of soil. If Musigny were to find a counterpart in Barbaresco, Asili would be its kindred spirit.”

- John Gilman



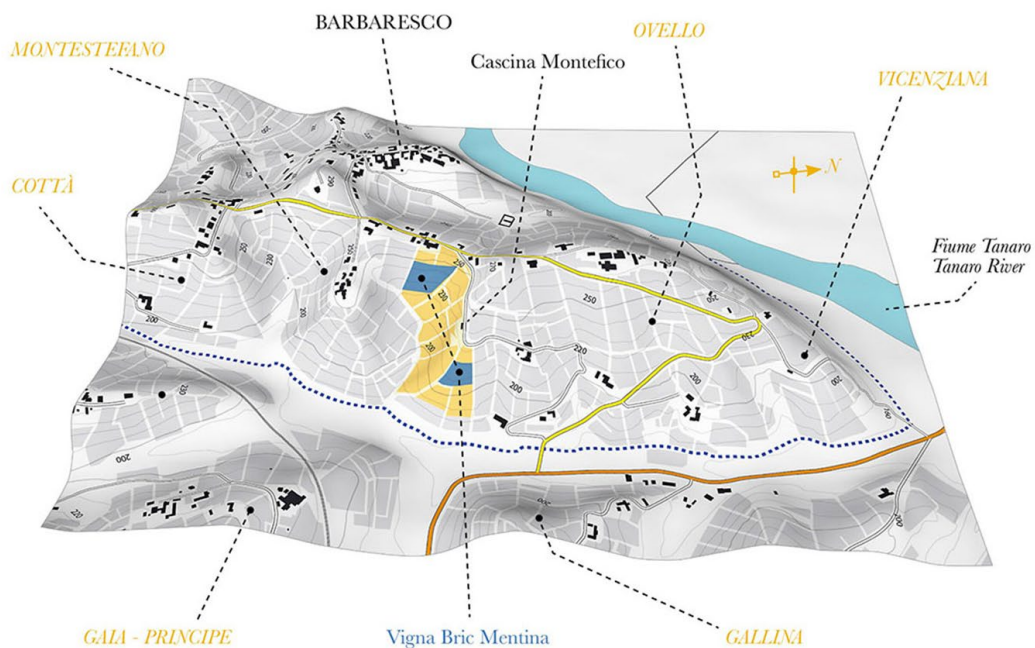
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Montefico - \$99

"The most closed of the Riservas at this stage, the 2020 Montefico has aromas and flavors recalling red berry, spice, tobacco and forest floor. It's brooding and youthfully austere, with firm tannins. Showing more aging potential than its siblings, this will also need a little more time. Drink 2027–2035."

96/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"A complex, beautifully layered wine, the 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Montefico expresses so many of the attributes that make the wines from this vintage and site so intriguing. The bouquet alone is wonderfully complex. Dried herbs, mint, pine, tobacco and cedar open first, leading to a core of chiseled dark-toned fruit. A vertical, structured Barbaresco, the Montefico is superb. Drink 2025-2035"

96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



“To my mind, the Montefico takes third place in the hierarchy of the very best crus at the Produttori, for after the Asili and the Rabajà, this has consistently been the most complete and complex of the single vineyard bottlings that I have tasted from this fine winery. As I noted above, most commentators on Piemonte wines would rank Montestefano just a bit ahead of Montefico (though Montefico’s reputation is also excellent), but I have to give the slight nod to Montefico for its superb elegance and complexity.

While Montefico also lies along the Neive border, just a few hundred kilometers to the north of Montestefano, Montefico is the quintessentially elegant Barbaresco cru, with more perfume and a tad more breed than its powerful neighbor to the south. Across the border in Neive from Montefico lies the superb cru of Gallina. As noted above, at one time this beautiful vineyard was owned in its entirety by Domizio Cavazza, founder of the oenological school at Alba and widely regarded as the “Father of Barbaresco”.

Like Montestefano, the vast majority of Montefico’s vines enjoy a direct, southerly exposure. But the exposure is a bit more southeasterly on the western end of the vineyard, and the hillside starts to swing around towards a southwesterly exposition as the vineyard nears the border with Neive. The ridge that houses Montefico is a bit less tall than Montestefano’s hill, with its peak elevation at 250 meters above sea level. The Produttori has only made a Montefico cru since 1982, when two cousins from the Rocca family decided to join up with the cooperative and brought along their fine holdings in this vineyard. Like Montestefano, Montefico tends to deliver a wine of beautiful fruit tones, which start out quite black fruity in the wine’s youth, but which can pick up some red fruity tones in certain vintages as it ages. It often delivers the finest soil transparency of any of the crus in the Produttori’s lineup (outside of Asili), and this is often synthesized with beautiful notes of truffles, porcini, tobacco and autumnal notes. It is a beautifully poised and refined Barbaresco cru, and one of the great Piemonte vineyards. Montefico can often be so superbly balanced when it is young that it gives off the impression of early drinkability, but to my mind it needs every bit as much time as Montestefano to really blossom, and is a very long-lived cru as well.”

- John Gilman



2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Montestefano - \$99

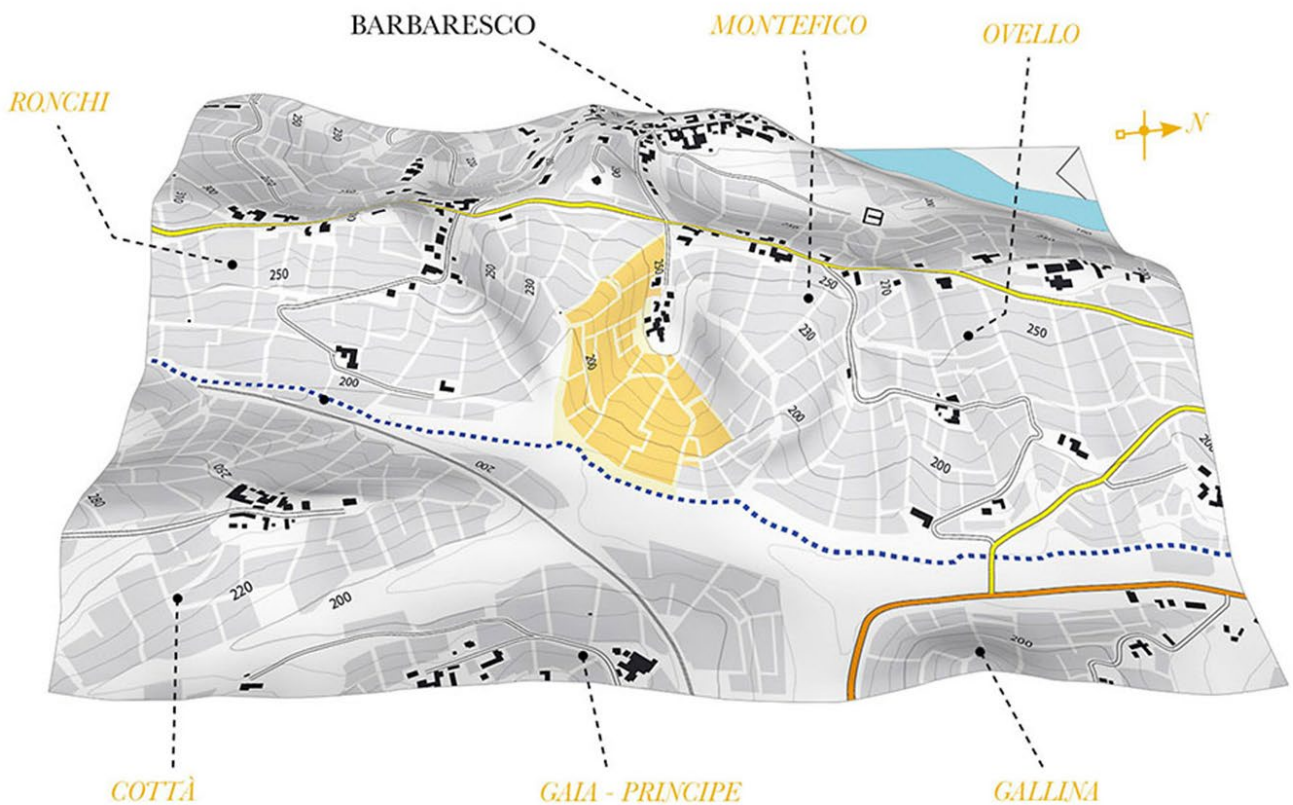
“The 2020 Produttori Montestefano Riserva is absolutely gorgeous, boasting aromas of violet, forest floor, red-skinned fruit and new leather. On the palate, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity support raspberry compote, red cherry, white pepper and star anise. This has a slightly more delicate tannic structure compared to previous vintages that’s not only a feature of the vintage but also due to the fact that a parcel of fifty-year-old vines had to be replanted, meaning the average age of the vines for the 2020 vintage is 35-40 years old. Drink 2026–2032.”

97/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Montestefano is one of the most elegant, polished wines in this range. Bright red-toned fruit, blood orange, spice, mint and cedar are beautifully lifted. The tannins are remarkably polished for a young, recently bottled Riserva. I admire its poise and elegance. This is an especially refined edition of the Montestefano. In 2020, the mix of vineyards is a bit younger than in the past, as one of the blocks of older vineyards was replanted and not used. If I could have only one of the Riservas in 2020, this would be it! Drink 2025-2035”

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Montestefano Magnum 1.5L - \$200



“The Montestefano vineyard lies at the top of a ridge along the border between the villages of Barbaresco and Neive. In many ways, the more powerful style of the wines from Montestefano are more akin to the very best Barbaresco crus in the neighboring village of Neive than they are to the generally more elegant crus to be found in Barbaresco proper, and Montestefano is often referred to as “the Barolo of Barbaresco” for its firm, tannic structure and impressively powerful personality. Along the Neive border, its most immediate neighbor to the north is the Montefico vineyard, which lies on a similar ridge with like exposures, but which produces quite differently styled wines. Historically this is a very important vineyard, as Montestefano was one of the very first crus to be bottled on its own, with the first commercial release to bear the name of Montestefano on the label being the 1961 vintage produced by Beppe Colla at Prunotto. This was also one of the first crus to be bottled on its own by the Produttori, as it joined the Pora, Mocagatta and Rabajà vineyards in the lineup of Riserva Speciale bottlings produced in 1967.

Montestefano has a beautiful southerly exposure, as it swings around from its western extremity almost all the way to the border with Neive, where the hillside turns towards the east to face the neighboring village. Montestefano is another of the vineyards of Barbaresco to possess a fairly high percentage of clay in its soils, which accounts for much of the power for which this cru is rightly renowned. The Montestefano vineyard sits at an elevation of about 270 meters above sea level, and the Produttori has been producing a Montestefano cru bottling since the 1978 vintage. In my experience the Montestefano bottling from the Produttori is one of the more opulently fruity wines at its apogee, with a beautiful core of red and black fruit, often coupled to notes of leather, shoe polish, smoke, a lovely base of soil and very often a distinctive topnote of orange zest. It is one of the slower crus to unfold in the Produttori lineup and generally demands at least a dozen years to begin to blossom in a classic vintage, and can easily last forty to fifty years in bottle.”

- John Gilman



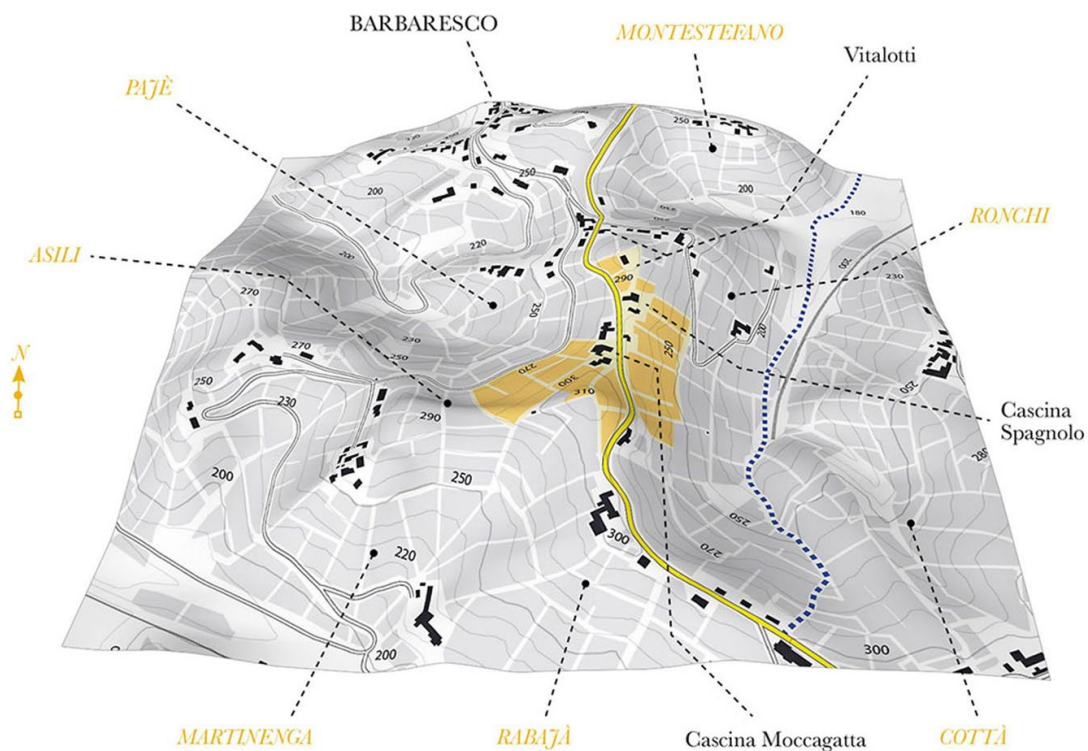
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Muncagota - \$99

“The 2020 Muncagota Riserva opens with an intense balsamic fragrance recalling camphor and eucalyptus that accent forest floor, hay and woodland berry. On the fresh, rather firm palate, taut, fine-grained tannins accompany ripe cherry, star anise white pepper and crushed mint. Drink 2026–2032.”

95/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Muncagota comes across as somewhat austere today, which is pretty atypical. Floral, mint and white pepper lend notable aromatic brilliance. Deceptively medium in body, the 2020 offers plenty of drive. Floral, savory and mineral notes extend the intense, saline finish. I am curious to taste this again with more time in bottle. Drink 2025-2035”

94/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



“Formerly this wine was labeled as Riserva Moccagatta. Muncagota is the piedmontese dialect version of the word Moccagatta, same vineyard, different spelling. Muncagota was one of the five inaugural crus bottled by the Produttori in 1967, and it has been one of the workhorse bottlings from the cooperative ever since. Muncagota is a fairly sheltered vineyard lying just to the north of Rabajà, with the hilltop at the same altitude as that vineyard and nearby Martinenga at 300 meters above sea level. The exposure here is southeasterly, which means more morning sun than the warmer afternoon sun, and consequently the vineyard is a touch cooler and the wines from Muncagota tend to be a bit more delicately styled than the finest crus in Barbaresco. As Aldo Vacca likes to say of Muncagota, “it shares the same finesse as Rabajà, but it is lighter in body.” However, Muncagota lies in a fairly warm and narrow valley, which offsets at least a bit its not having direct southerly exposure or more afternoon sun, and while it is a more delicately styled example of Barbaresco, it is by no means a weak-kneed cru. The vineyard is moderate in size, with the lion’s share (ten hectares) owned by the winery that takes its name from the vineyard, Azienda Agricola Muncagota, but the Produttori controls 2.4 hectares of vines in this lovely cru. In my experience, Muncagota can be one of the most “Burgundian” of the crus in Barbaresco when fully mature, with autumnal notes, red fruit and a smoky character on both the nose and palate.”

- John Gilman



2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Ovello - \$99

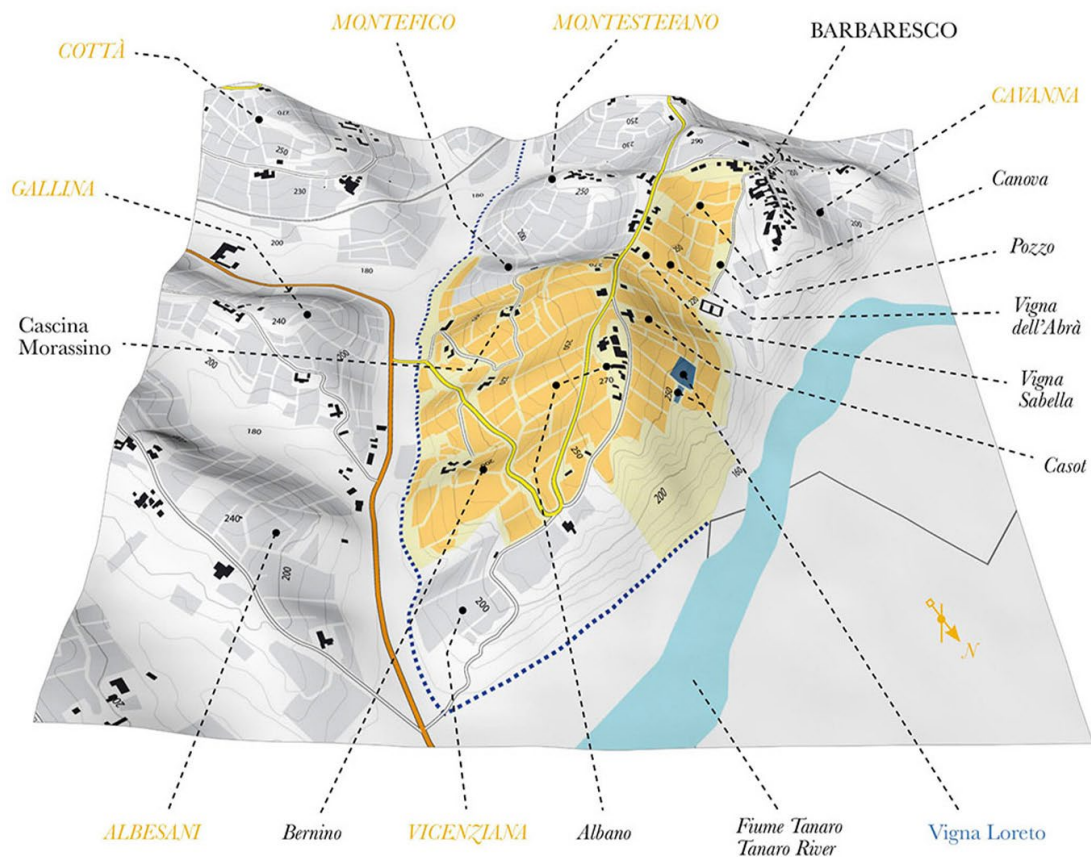
“Red berry, forest floor, new leather and spice shape the fragrant nose on the fantastic 2020 Ovello Riserva. Showing the structure derived from the cru’s predominately clayey soils, it has a backbone of firm but refined tannins that accompany juicy Marasca cherry, tangerine and spicy notes of star anise. Drink 2027–2032.”

95/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Ovello is a massive, packed wine. Graphite, crushed rocks, dried herbs and cedar open first. Ovello tends to produce a more linear style of Barbaresco, and that is very much the case here as well. However, the 2020 also possesses notable depth and layers in the mid-palate. It’s a gorgeous wine in the making. Drink 2025-2035”

95/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Ovello Magnum 1.5L - \$200



"Ovello is the most northerly of all the cru vineyards in the village of Barbaresco. It is a fairly large vineyard of 6.58 hectares, and the Produttori controls a fairly significant percentage of the total under vine in Ovello, making this one of the most widely seen single cru bottlings from the cooperative. The vineyard lies at an altitude of between 220 and 290 meters above sea level, with the vast majority of its vines facing west or southwest. There is a small east-facing section of the vineyard that drops down on the other side of the ridge towards the neighboring village of Neive, but this section is not considered to produce nebbiolo of quite the same quality as the other side of the ridge and production from this area generally will find its way into the straight Barbaresco bottling even in top vintages. The soils of Ovello have a bit more clay in the composition than many of the other crus in Barbaresco, which may account for the nice plump fruit that this vineyard often shows relatively early on in its evolution.

Ovello is one of the oldest crus in the lineup from the Produttori, having first been produced in the 1970 vintage, which was the second vintage in which the cooperative made single cru bottlings (after the inaugural releases in the 1967 vintage). It is generally one of the most forward of the nine crus made by the Produttori, and is a classic Barbaresco of ripe red and black cherry fruit at maturity, coupled with autumnal notes, scents of road tar, curry-like spice tones and often a distinctly floral topnote. Like all of the cru bottlings from the Produttori, the Ovello is an extremely ageworthy wine that will usually drink better at age twenty than it will be at age ten, despite its often quite precocious and plump fruit component that makes the wine accessible much earlier than when it peaks. Because it is one of the largest production crus in the Produttori lineup, it is often overlooked a bit by Barbaresco lovers trying to search out the more limited release bottlings from vineyards such as Asili or Montefico, but Ovello is a superb wine that is every bit as worthy of inclusion in the well-stocked Piemonte cellar as any of the other crus in the lineup."

- John Gilman



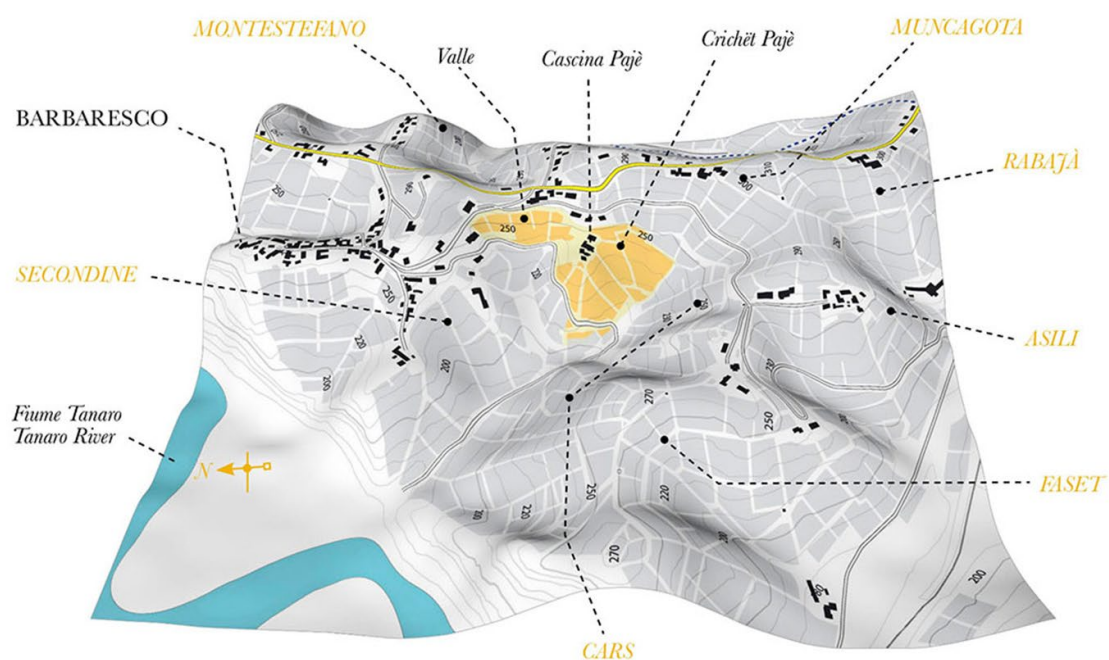
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Pajè - \$99

“The 2020 Pajè Riserva is a beautiful wine starting with its enticing scents of dog rose, violet, eucalyptus, new leather and white pepper. A bit firmer than Pora, the savory palate delivers juicy red cherry, strawberry compote, blood orange and wild herb before an almost salty finish. Fine-grained tannins provide weightless support while fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2026–2032.”

95/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Pajè is a classic wine from this site. Deeply spiced and balsamic notes meld into a core of dark, sepia-toned Nebbiolo fruit. A Barbaresco of real presence and substance, the Pajè makes itself felt. It’s one of my early dark horse favorites in this range from Produttori del Barbaresco. Drink 2025-2035”

95/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



Vigne e Nomi di tradizione / Vineyards and Traditional names: Valle.

“The cru of Pajè is one of the more recent additions to the Produttori’s lineup, as its inaugural vintage was in 1982. Pajè is one of the smallest vineyards in the village, at only 2.43 hectares, but it produces a very lovely middleweight version of Barbaresco, which many commentators often associate with Rabajà in terms of aromatic and flavor profiles, albeit at a less powerful and full-bodied level. The vineyard sits on a ridge that links Moccagatta and Secondine, both of which lie just to the north of the main ridge that houses Asili, Martinenga and Rabajà. The vineyard of Pajè forms a beautiful amphitheater of vines facing south by southwest, lying at an altitude between 260 and 220 meters above sea level. Pajè is one of the coolest microclimates amongst the crus of Barbaresco, and consequently it is generally a bit higher in acidity than many of its neighboring crus. Consequently, the wines typically start out quite structured from the Pajè vineyard, and it takes several years for the inherent elegance of this cru to emerge from behind its slightly austere adolescent phase. But the wine ages very well indeed, and at full maturity Pajè is a lovely middleweight Barbaresco of impressive aromatic and flavor complexity. The Produttori typically produces about 8,000 bottles of Pajè per year in a top vintage, making this the second most limited of the cru bottlings, with only the Montefico more limited in terms of production.”

- John Gilman



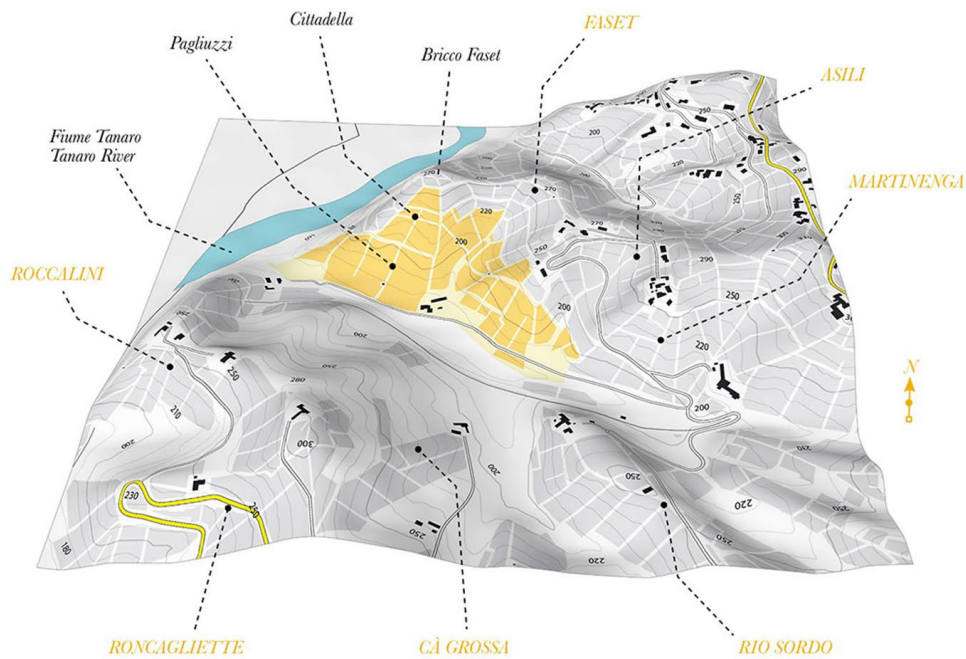
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Pora - \$99

“Always the most open and less tannic of the single-vineyard Riservas, the lovely 2020 Pora from Produttori is a generous wine, delivering aromas and flavors of crushed cranberry, succulent cherry, star anise, wild herb and hazelnut. Polished tannins offer smooth support. Drink through 2030.”

94/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Pora is aromatic, effusive and quite charming. Crushed flowers, spice, leather, tobacco and cedar lend notable inner sweetness. Medium in body and gracious, the Pora is pretty approachable today, although it will be better with a few years in bottle. This is a very beautiful, vivid Pora and a fine introduction to the Riservas. Drink 2025-2035”

93/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



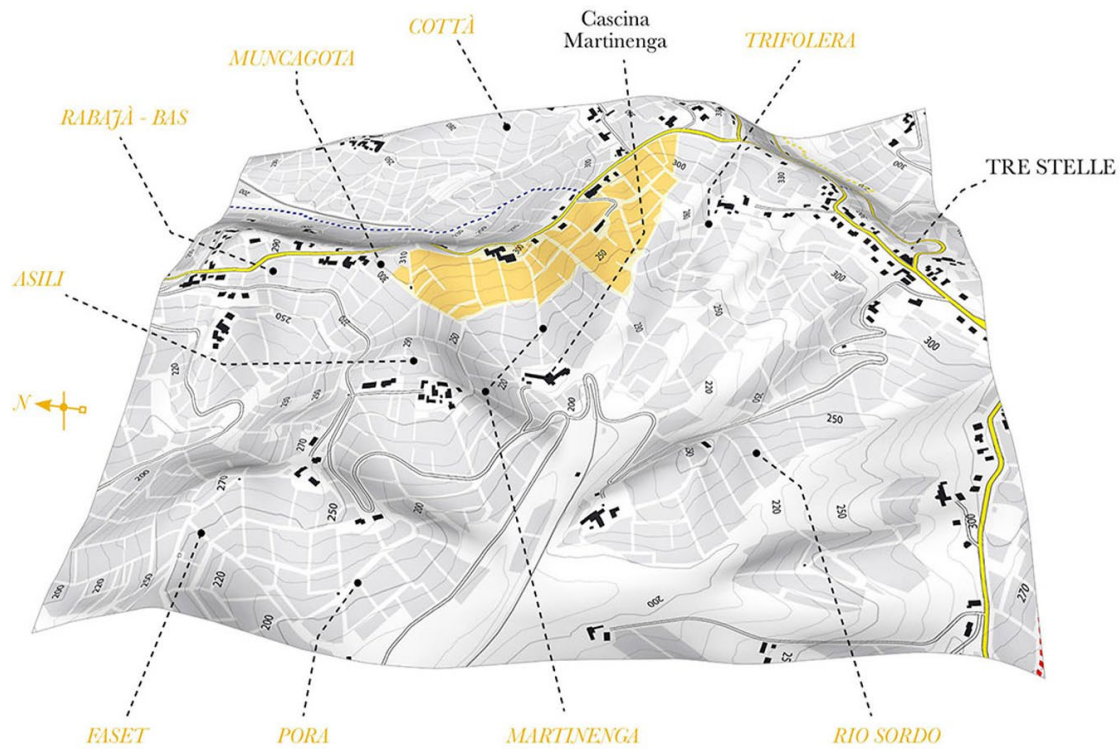
“The Pora vineyard is slightly larger than Ovello, at 7.3 hectares in size. It produces a longer-lived and more structured young wine than Ovello, and takes several more years of cellaring to blossom than its more precocious compatriot. The Pora vineyard has had a high reputation in Barbaresco for centuries, and at one time was owned in its entirety by the “Father of Barbaresco”, Professor Domizio Cavazza, who was also the founder of the original Cantine Sociali di Barbaresco in 1894. It is a beautifully situated vineyard, lying just to the west of the ridge that houses the three finest crus in all of Barbaresco, Asili, Martinenga and Rabajà, and touches Asili on its eastern border. The vineyard of Pora sits at an altitude of three hundred meters above sea level, and offers perfect exposure for nebbiolo in the upper reaches of the slope. The bottom of the hillside is generally planted these days with white grape varieties.

Pora has some of the richer soils amongst all the crus in the village of Barbaresco (a trait it shares with Asili according to Aldo Vacca), and from these generous soils emerges one of the longest-lived and most complex single vineyard bottlings in the village.

Not surprisingly, Pora was one of the first crus selected by the Produttori to be bottled on its own in 1967, and the wine has stood the test of time beautifully and was still drinking splendidly at our tasting in San Francisco in June of this year. For most of its evolution, the Pora bottling will generally be a bit more black fruity than the Ovello (which tends to slide over towards red fruit as it reaches its apogee), and it starts out life quite a bit more bound up in its structural elements than several of the other crus in the Produttori lineup. It is a deep and classic example of Barbaresco, with a great base of complex soil tones, tarry notes and with sufficient bottle age, notes of truffles and porcini are often present as well. It is a great bottle in top vintages. It is not always the most elegant example of Barbaresco, but it is always deep, intensely flavored and long-lived..”

- John Gilman





2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Rabaja - \$99

“Showing great structure and balance, the radiant Rabajà entices with intense aromas of forest berry, underbrush, new leather and dark spice. It’s full-bodied and delicious, delivering succulent Morello cherry, black raspberry and layers of dark spice. Firm tannins grip the finish. Drink 2026–2032.”

97/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Rabajà is another stellar wine in this range. Dark and explosive, the 2021 possesses notable richness to match its dark, brooding personality. Black cherry, plum, leather, cloves, menthol, licorice and gravel explode onto the palate. The 2020 will require a measure of patience, but it has a ton of potential. Drink 2025-2035”

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Rabaja Magnum 1.5L - \$200

“Rabajà was one of the earliest single cru bottlings from the Produttori, as it replaced the Martinenga in the 1970 vintage, and since that day it has set the pace as one of the greatest bottlings of Barbaresco made anywhere in the DOCG. I really have a very hard time picking a favorite between Rabajà and Asili, as both are hauntingly complex and utterly refined wines at their apogees. Rabajà sits at the highest elevation in the village of Barbaresco, with the top section of the ridge a full 310 meters above sea level. It shares a small border on its western edge with Asili, and a rather long boundary with Martinenga along its southerly stretches. Most of the exposition in the vineyard faces southwest, except for a central section which turns due south- this is the very finest section of the vineyard where the Produttori has pretty sizeable holdings.

The cru of Rabajà is widely recognized as one of the greatest terroirs to be found anywhere in the Barbaresco region. Although the vineyard shares a similarly high percentage of limestone in its soil and subsoil with its neighbor of Asili, the style of the wines emerging from these two vineyards is markedly different. In fact, in many ways, Rabajà and Martinenga share much more in common with each other than either one does with Asili. The wines of Rabajà start out life more robust than the discreet and rather tightly-wound wines of Asili, with broad shoulders, ripe, pure fruit (more black fruity than the red fruit of Asili when young) and plenty of tannin for long-term cellaring. However, despite its more powerful personality in its youth, Rabajà is a quintessentially elegant and refined example of Barbaresco when mature, with great depth, complexity, perfume and breed. The vineyard always retains its more black fruity personality throughout its long life, with the dark berry and black cherry fruit deepening and sweetening as the wines evolve with sufficient bottle age. Rabajà typically produces one of the longest-lived of the crus of Barbaresco, and along with neighboring Martinenga is the finest candidate in this village for long-term cellaring.”

- John Gilman



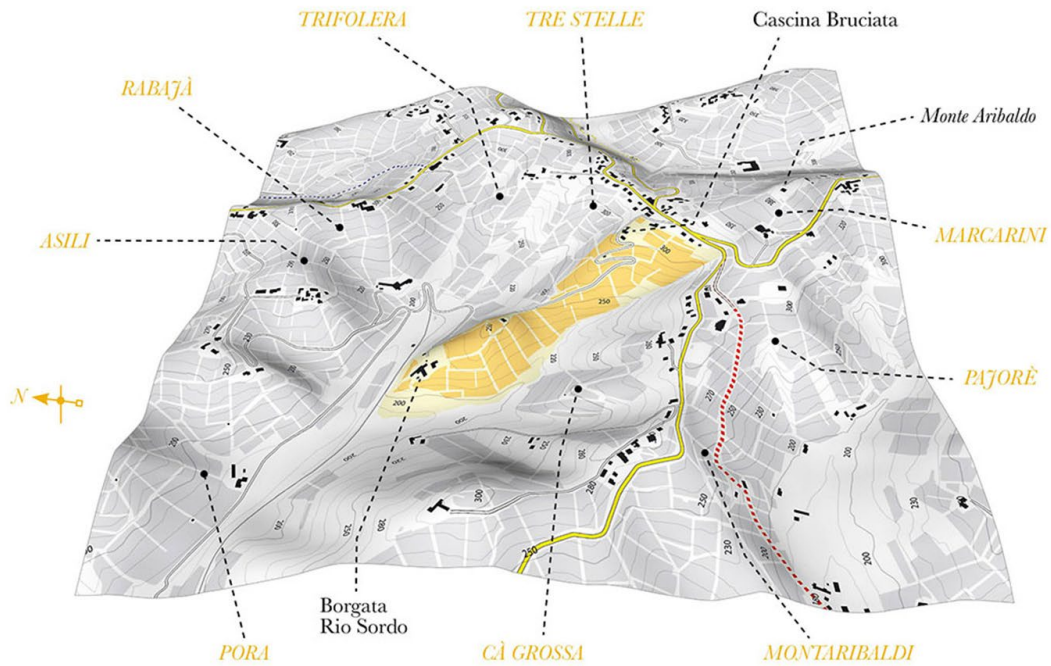
2020 Produttori Del Barbaresco Barbaresco Riserva Rio Sordo - \$99

“Aromas of pine forest, dark spice, new leather and hint of truffle form the enticing nose on the impressive 2020 Rio Sordo Riserva. On the palate, taut extremely refined tannins accompany pomegranate, strawberry, citrus and star anise. Drink 2026–2032.”

96/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Rio Sordo is pretty closed today, which is probably a very good sign for its aging prospects, as this site tends to produce wines that are more open than this. Dark cherry, plum, leather, incense and tobacco offer a decidedly somber expression of Rio Sordo. The 2020 clearly needs time. Drink 2025-2035”

94/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



“Rio Sordo is a beautifully situated vineyard that lies by itself on a solitary ridge south of the hillside that houses Asili, Martinenga and Rabajà. It is a moderately sized vineyard of 4.56 hectares with a beautiful southwesterly exposition. The ridge sits at 270 meters above sea level, and it has long had a reputation as one of the finer terroirs in the village of Barbaresco, with Angelo Gaja’s famed Sori Tildin vineyard being Rio Sordo’s immediate neighbor to the west. The Produttori first began bottling a Rio Sordo in the 1978 vintage, and have made one in each subsequent top vintage. The vineyard is at its very best at the top of the central portion of the vineyard, where the combination of perfect exposure and fine soils produce beautiful nebbiolo. As is the case with Pora and Asili, Rio Sordo is another of the vineyards in Barbaresco with quite rich soils in which the nebbiolo grape thrives.

Of all the crus bottled by the Produttori del Barbaresco, the Rio Sordo bottling is probably the most rustic (in a good sense) in terms of its aromatics and flavor profile. In many ways it occupies a position in the pantheon of Barbaresco crus that is not a whole lot dissimilar from the position of the wines of Nuits St. Georges in the Burgundy firmament. There is more of a game bird aspect to mature Rio Sordo, often coupled to autumnal notes, smoke, porcini and plenty of red fruit and herb tones. Of all of the crus, this is the one that really cries out to be served with roasted meats, preferably on a cold, damp autumnal or winter evening. It is consistently a very fine bottle of Barbaresco when fashioned by the Produttori. A complete and very captivating Barbaresco, with its “noble rusticity” and I find this one of the most underrated crus in their fine lineup.”

- John Gilman

