



CARO'S
— EST. 1995 —
WINE MERCHANTS



Barbaresco, Gattinara, Barolo, and Chianti Classico.

A number of our top Italian producers tend to have a later release schedule than the others. This is a collection of absolutely superb wines from Piedmont and Tuscany, the two greatest regions in Italy. These are leaving Italy soon, so this is your chance to secure these icons before they land.

This includes late release bottlings from some of the world's greatest wine estates like:
Cantina del Pino, Conterno-Nervi, Flli Cigliuti, Fratelli Alessandria, Fontodi, and Luciano Sandrone.

The 2020 and 2021 vintages in Piedmont are part of a stunning trilogy of exceptional wines from that region. We also have some legendary 2021 Chianti Classicos, described as the single greatest vintage there in 25 years. These were all wines produced under the testing circumstances of COVID-19, described by many producers as a unique period in which they could devote all their time to the vineyard, explaining higher-quality wines.

Despite the high quality of the vintages that are coming, thankfully it looks like price rises have slowed down... The NZD is holding up for now, so the value in these wines is still exceptional. As the Burgundy bubble bursts, the top Italian wines are incredibly in demand right now, so once again we have had to fight for allocations. Place your order as soon as possible, as some of the rarest wines are extremely limited.

*These wines are expected to land late 2024 / early 2025
Payment is not due until arrival.*

- John Caro & Regan McCaffery



PIEDMONT & TUSCANY LATE RELEASES 2024

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WINE ORDER FORM	QUANTITY	PRICE* (In mixed 6+)
2020 Cantina Del Pino Barbaresco		\$70.00
2020 Cantina del Pino Barbaresco Gallina		\$95.00
2020 Cantina del Pino Barbaresco Albesani		\$95.00
2020 Cantina del Pino Barbaresco Ovello		\$95.00
2023 Cigliuti Langhe Nebbiolo		\$55.00
2021 Cigliuti Barbaresco Bricco di Neive Vie Erte		\$100.00
2021 Cigliuti Barbaresco Serraboella		\$140.00
2020 Fratelli Alessandria Barolo del Comune di Verduno		\$90.00
2020 Fratelli Alessandria Barolo San Lorenzo di Verduno		\$130.00
2020 Fratelli Alessandria Barolo Gramolere		\$130.00
2020 Fratelli Alessandria Barolo Monvigliero		\$160.00
2021 Conterno Nervi Gattinara		\$155.00
2020 Conterno Nervi Gattinara Valferana		\$260.00
2020 Conterno Nervi Gattinara Molsino (SOLD OUT)		\$260.00
2022 Sandrone Nebbiolo d'Alba 'Valmaggione'		\$60.00
2020 Sandrone Barolo 'Le Vigne'		\$165.00
2020 Sandrone Barolo 'Aleste' (SOLD OUT)		\$195.00
2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico		\$75.00
2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Terrazze San Leolino'		\$155.00
2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Vigna del Sorbo'		\$155.00
2021 Fontodi Colle della Toscana Centrale 'Flaccianello della Pieve'		\$235.00

2021 BARBARESCO VINTAGE REPORTS

I was deeply impressed with the wines I tasted on my most recent trip to Barbaresco. 2021 appears to be that rare year in which conditions were close to ideal for all the main red grapes. Best of all, so many wines remain reasonably priced within the context of today's market, something that is increasingly evident as wines from other regions become quite pricey. The 2021s have gorgeous aromatics, beautiful, vibrant fruit and often exceptional balance. The wines I have tasted so far suggest an outstanding to potentially profound vintage in the making. The 2021s are marvellously complete wines that offer a captivating mix of energy, structure, depth and plenty of site character. Consumers would do well to stock up on the best bottles.

- Vinous, Antonio Galloni

The 2021 vintage is one that will likely go down as something very memorable in Barbaresco. The colour of the wines is incredible in 2021, with most producers unable to remember a year in which their wines were so deep in hue. Barbaresco is more interesting than ever today. The wines are very drinkable, seamlessly tannic and just plain easier to drink than many Barolos, not to mention Cabernet Sauvignon wines. But the best Barbarescos are easily the equal if not superior to the best of Barolo, and this is the place to come for elegant, refined, nuanced Nebbiolo wines like no others.

- Ian d'Agata

In 2021, Barbaresco enjoyed another mild winter with plenty of rain and some snow, which turned out to be essential over the course of the rest of a vintage where rainfall was at its lowest level in recent years, finishing hot and fast with heat continuing into September. Wines from 2021 are incredibly exciting and the vintage looks like one of the greats. These wines continue to offer ridiculous value, so be sure to seek them out.

- Kerin O Keefe



2020 BAROLO VINTAGE REPORTS

The 2020s are immediately appealing, with rich, succulent fruit and rounder tannins as opposed to the youthful austerity and bracing tannins and usually associated with a just released Barolo. The 2020 Barolos are notable for their intense fragrance, boasting floral and spice aromas. They also are defined by smooth, almost glossy tannins that make them accessible right out of the gate. Most are also more lightly colored than usual, but don't let that fool you, they still boast underlying structure and concentration as well as elegance. While they don't show the same longevity as the extraordinary 2019s and the outstanding 2016s, the best will age well up until the fifteen-year mark from the vintage or in some cases a little beyond but most should be enjoyed up until 2030 and 2032.

- Kerin O'Keefe

My impression of the 2020 Barolos is extremely favourable and most, if not all, can already be approached. If squaring the circle is possible, then the 2020s just might have good ageing capacity as well as being enjoyable in their youth. From my tastings a picture of elegant, fresh and ready-to-drink wines has emerged. This vintage has both something of 2014's cool-climate character and 2018's easy-to-drink style, with the crucial difference that 2020 generally has more depth and complexity than 2014 and the best wines are generally endowed with greater ageing potential than those of 2018. It hasn't got the stuffing of 2019, but it is transparent and it has incredible balance.

- JancisRobinson.com, Walter Speller

Grace, elegance and understatement are some of the qualities readers will find in the 2020 Barolos. The best wines are undeniably striking. Overall, 2020 is a vintage of mid-weight Barolos. These are wines to admire for their balance and seductive appeal more than their power or structure. The best 2020 Barolos offer exquisite balance, tons of class and plenty of up-front appeal. In the previous generation, a forward vintage often meant soft, fruity wines. In 2020, however, those qualities come through in mid-weight wines endowed with gorgeous translucence and plenty of classicism.

- Vinous, Antonio Galloni



CANTINA DEL PINO



BARBARESCO

DENOMINAZIONE DI ORIGINE CONTROLLATA E GARANTITA

"Italian wine lost one of its most graceful and gentle figures. Renato Vacca of Cantina del Pino passed away in March 2020 at the young age of 51. He was battling cancer and is survived by his wife Franca Miretti and his daughter Anna. With a house and winery overlooking the Ovello cru with the church tower of Barbaresco beautifully framed by vines, the Vacca family started off as growers with the Produttori del Barbaresco cooperative, managed today by Renato's cousin Aldo Vacca. In 1997, Renato decided to leave Produttori del Barbaresco to bottle his own fruit and start his own label. Cantina del Pino is named after a giant pine tree planted symbolically at the top of Ovello. The pine on the label is still black in mourning, instead of the traditional red. His wines are fragile and soulful, much like the man himself. Cantina del Pino releases its Barbaresco wines one year later than its peers."

- Robert Parkers Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

2020 Cantina Del Pino Barbaresco - \$70.00

"This wine holds its story close as if it's waiting for just the right moment to reveal its secrets. Subtle aromas of wild fruits, dried herbs and the intriguing aroma of cola nut mingle with hints of licorice. On the palate, it's a satisfying chewiness that gives the wine a richness to hold the dark-cherry notes and black-tea flavors. The fresh acidity adds a lively touch, promising that this wine has the stamina to age beautifully over time. Drink now-2045"

93/100 Wine Enthusiast

'Renato didn't want to make an entry level wine, but a very good classic Barbaresco also because in volume this is our most important wine. A blend of Gallina, Staderi and Ovello.' "Linear and lovely, the 2020 Cantina del Pino has pretty aromas of red forest berry, eucalyptus, dog rose leather and brown exotic spice. The luminous, lightly-hued and already accessible palate has an ethereal elegance and features wild strawberry, cranberry, white pepper and black tea alongside taut, fine-grained tannins. A bitter orange note signals the finish. Drink through 2029"

92/100 Kerin O'Keefe



2020 Cantina del Pino Barbaresco Gallina - \$95.00

Neive. 20+ year-old vines. "Showing extreme elegance, the stunning 2020 Barbaresco Gallina from Cantina del Pino boasts lovely aromas of blue flower, woodland berry, dark spice and camphor. On the lithe, savory palate, extremely refined tannins accompany juicy red cherry, spiced cranberry, ground clove and espresso before a saline close. Drink through 2032. It's a great expression of the vineyard site and the vintage. Drink 2026–2035.

95/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"Dynamic, elegant and truthful. This wine bears its soul to all that are willing to sit with it. A wine that is so good it is hard to define. Aromas of raspberry, cranberry and rose that tantalize each nerve ending. Savory and herbal aromas that sneak behind the vibrant fruit. An exhilarating wine that makes you want more, a wine that you know you will have to finish but do not want to. Elegant to the end, pure at each step, the wine is a joy. Drink now – 2045"

95/100 Wine Enthusiast

2020 Cantina del Pino Barbaresco Albesani - \$95.00

"From one of the top sites in the Barbaresco denomination and located in the village of Neive, the 2020 Cantina del Pino Albesani features heady aromas of exotic brown spice, violet, wild berry Alpine hay and crushed mint. It's elegantly structured, full-bodied and delicious, with succulent red cherry, cranberry, blood orange, licorice and truffle before a coffee bean close. Taut, fine-grained tannins offer seamless support. Drink 2026–2032."

95/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"Like a beautiful piece of art that reveals new depths with each encounter this wine opens with aromas of warm, macerating strawberries with freshly cut mint and thyme. Notes of roses add a touch of refined beauty to the composition. Initially, the wine seems delicate and understated, but as it breathes, its true depth and complexity shine through as mixed wild berry preserves harmonize with savory notes of dried leaves and fresh porcini, while a chalky, salty minerality adds an intriguing dimension to the wine. The tannins are as elegant as a perfectly tailored suit, perfectly balanced by vibrant acidity that keeps the wine engaging and dynamic. Drink from 2025 onward"

94/100 Wine Enthusiast



2020 Cantina del Pino Barbaresco Ovello - \$95.00

Ovello is one of the most famous sites in the entire Barbaresco wine growing region. The elegance and intensity of this wine is conferred by the perfectly situated location of the vine: on the hills above the Tanaro River with S/SW exposure and a limestone and sandy soil. Equally delicious young or aged.

There is a lot of emotion coming back to this wine, the estate's benchmark. It has always been an expression of Barbaresco nostalgia and romanticism, even when its creator was alive and well, working in these vines located directly under his family house. Spicy and elegant, the 2020 Ovello from Cantina del Pino opens with heady scents of ground clove, nutmeg, dog rose, camphor and wild berry. All about finesse, the graceful, full-bodied palate offers juicy pomegranate, red cherry, star anise and bitter orange alongside taut, polished tannins. Such a beautiful wine. Drink 2025–2030.'

94/100 Kerin O'Keefe

Barbaresco. Just mid ruby. Fragrant raspberry fruit with hints of liquorice. Still a little backward on the palate but with fresh acidity and gorgeous, finely chiselled, long tannins. Great length and focus on the finish. Drink 2025-2034

17.5/20 Jancis Robinson, Walter Speller

F.LLI CIGLIUTI



"If there is an estate in Barbaresco that deserves more attention, it is without question Cigliuti. They remain one of the under the radar gems in Barbaresco and Piedmont more broadly. Cigliuti is a terrific example of an estate that offers superb quality in artisan wine, at prices that remain quite reasonable"

– Vinous, Antonio Galloni

The Cigliuti family have been in the business for four generations, though it was not until 1964 that Renato Cigliuti, began bottling the wine to sell under their own name, around the time as other pioneers like Giacosa. Most of the vineyard and the winery is on the Serraboella hill, looking over Neive from the east, and it is the Barbaresco Serraboella which is the flagship wine of the estate. In fact, Cigliuti is almost singlehandedly responsible for the fame of this vineyard. This hill, composed of calcareous marl and tufa soils, gives classic wines which combine the textural finesse of clay and the length and longevity of wines from limestone. Of their 8 hectares, 6 are used for vines and 2 for their continuing hazelnut business. The estate is now together with his daughters Claudia and Silvia. The Cigliutis are all organic and practise "lutte raisonnee", using only copper sulphate in the vineyards. Work in the cellar is kept to a bare minimum and the wines are left to follow their own natural course. No select yeasts are used, only native. Fermentation is done in stainless steel at controlled temperatures and maturation takes place in Slovenian and French large barrels and barriques. The Barbera is a particularly beautiful wine, one of the best modern style examples of this grape you can find. The Barbaresco is aged in both large old oak (60%) and new barriques (40%).

2023 Cigliuti Langhe Nebbiolo - \$55.00

"I was totally blown away by the wines I tasted at Cigliuti this year. Cigliuti is not a new name, yet the wines remain surprisingly under the radar: The 2022 Langhe Nebbiolo is one of the best Nebbiolos I have tasted in this vintage so far. From young vines in Serraboella, planted 2017 on mostly chalky soils. Spontaneous fermentation in steel tank. Five months in a tank and tonneaux, depending on the vintage. The warm, dry vintage added a bit of mid-palate richness, but there are no angular contours here, suggesting these vines handled the heat well. White pepper, flowers, mint and orange peel add striking brightness to complement the red Nebbiolo fruit. The 2022 is positively stellar. Drink 2023-2032"

92/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2022 Vintage)

2021 Cigliuti Barbaresco Bricco di Neive Vie Erte - \$100.00

"From a 1.5ha vineyard planted in 1997 on the sandy soils of Bricco di Neive at 350m. The 2020 Barbaresco Bricco di Neive Vie Erte is classy, elegant and polished, with the harmony that is such a signature of the best wines in this vintage. Bright red-toned fruit, blood orange, mint, spice and white pepper lend brilliance. There's plenty of the linear focus that is typical here, but no hard edges or awkward contours. The Vie Erte is the more classic of the Cigliuti Barbarescos. It's a real stunner. Drink 2025-2040"

95/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2020 Vintage)

"From 24-year-old vines on sandy soils, the bright red 2020 Barbaresco Bricco Di Neive Vie Erte is spicy and open right out of the gate with notes of fresh cherries, cinnamon, incense, and a touch of saddle leather. Offering fantastic energy on the palate, it's an approachable red with fine, sweet tannins, lovely, fresh acidity, and a great finish. It balances its components out with a lot of ripe purity and finesse. Drink 2024-2036."

94/100 Jeb Dunnuck (2020 Vintage)



2021 Cigliuti Barbaresco Serraboella - \$140.00

"The Cigliuti family were the first to put Serraboella on the label, in 1967. 65-year-old vines, limestone soils at 350m. 26 months in botte and tonneaux. The 2020 Barbaresco Serraboella is another stellar wine in this range from Cigliuti. It offers a stunning mix of succulent dark fruit, rose petal, lavender, mocha and spice. The 2020 spent 26 months in oak, 70% cask and 30% tonneaux, the smaller barrels adding soft contours. Just bottled, the 2020 shows tons of potential. Blood orange, crushed red berry fruit, mint, spice, rose petal and a kick of sweet French oak linger. Drink 2025-2040

96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2020 Vintage)

"A savory nose evokes a pine forest at summer's end, where wild herbs and drying red currant contrast the warmed earth tones and root spices that waft out of the glass. Vibrant flavors of cherry, cola nut and an enticing medley of sweet and savory spices waltz across the palate, as if choreographed by an unseen hand. This Nebbiolo, an elegant yet stately figure, commands attention with its mere presence. Fine tannins and classic acidity promise a drinking window that starts now and could last decades, a timeless dance that will leave you enchanted. Cellar Selection.

96/100 Wine Enthusiast (2020 Vintage)

FRATELLI ALESSANDRIA



**fratelli
alessandria**
DAL 1830

In 1870, when the Alessandria family first established their farm, calling it Fratelli Alessandria, Verduno was the center of Barolo winemaking — it was here where families first crafted dry Nebbiolo wines in the style we know today, and also bottled wines individually instead of shipping in cask. Because of this, the village was internationally recognized as the face of Barolo and sought out by collectors across the European continent. Today Verduno is experiencing a renaissance, and it is the “brothers” Alessandria who are guiding the wines of Verduno back to the heights they once held. It is of course a family affair — the brothers Gian Battista and Alessandro, and Alessandro's son, Vittore, are the stewards of this generations-old estate. What Verduno gives is exactly what we crave in Barolo: complexity without heaviness, structure with finesse.

“Fratelli Alessandria is one of Piedmont’s under-the-radar jewels. The Alessandrias make compelling, classically-built wines from estate vineyards in Verduno and Monforte d’Alba. Best of all, the wines remain very reasonably priced by today’s standards. Readers who enjoy structured, age-worthy Barolos won’t want to be without these wines.”

- Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2020 Fratelli Alessandria Barolo del Comune di Verduno - \$90.00

“The wine strikes a harmonious blend of lifted red fruits and deep macerated black cherries, marrying high tones with rich bass notes. A savory embrace circles the fruit, maintaining balance, while fine tannins lay the groundwork for graceful aging. This is a wine poised for evolution, its intricate layers promising to unfold beautifully over time. *Cellar Selection* Drink 2025 - 2045.”

94/100 Wine Enthusiast

“Aromas recalling forest floor, dog rose, culinary spice and citrus form the alluring nose. Linear and elegant, the savory palate features juicy pomegranate, sour cherry, star anise and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2027–2032.”

93/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“Verduno. Grapes came from Rive Rocca, Rocche dell’Ormo, Boscato, Pisapola and Campasso. Cask sample, will be bottled in January 2024. Lustrous mid ruby. A little bit of oak over ripe raspberry fruit with minerally notes of wet earth. The merest suggestion of eucalyptus. With aeration the oak note becomes more balsamic. Elegant, supple and concentrated raspberry fruit with a layer of chewy tannins. Tactile, long and fresh. Drink 2024-2032”

17++/20 Jancis Robinson, Walter Speller



2020 Fratelli Alessandria Barolo San Lorenzo di Verduno - \$130.00

"Showing depth and elegance the site is known for, the 2020 San Lorenzo di Verduno has multi-faceted scents of ripe red berry, underbrush, dog rose, leather and eucalyptus. Full-bodied and loaded with finesse, the delicious palate delivers ripe Morello cherry, wild raspberry, star anise and ground clove set against a backbone of refined tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2028–2035."

95/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"Pouring a jeweled ruby color, the 2020 Barolo San Lorenzo Di Verduno is a bit more reserved on opening, with notes of fresh red cherries, then takes a darker mineral tone aromatically, with a hint of black truffle, fresh crushed flowers, and fresh earth. The palate reveals more depth and richness while being light on its feet, with sweet tannins, more sapidity, a mouthwatering mineral tone, and a delicate glycerol richness. It has an approachable feel and is going to have a wide drinking window over the next 10-15 years."

94/100 Jeb Dunnuck

"Lifted aromas of high-toned red fruits, with fresh cherries, raspberries, and cranberries leading the charge mingle notes of clove, anise and cinnamon. Hints of thyme and rosemary, along with a touch of black tea, provide an intriguing shift to the nose as it opens. On the palate, the wine displays a balance between savory and fruit with a slightly herbal edge that adds to its allure. Fine tannins provide structure and support. Drink now - 2040."

94/100 Wine Enthusiast



2020 Fratelli Alessandria Barolo Gramolere - \$130.00

"Picture yourself savoring a glass of this exquisite wine, as a harmonious blend of macerated cherries and savory roasted mushrooms dance on your palate. The umami-rich flavors intertwine with dried flowers and shaved rosewood, creating a sophisticated and alluring bouquet. This wine is a true embodiment of elegance, with a presence that effortlessly captivates your senses. *Cellar Selection* Drink Now - 2040."

95/100 Wine Enthusiast

"Aromas of underbrush, dog rose, forest berry and new leather form the nose on the full-bodied 2020 Gramolere from Fratelli Alessandria along with a whiff of toasted nut. On the palate, taut, fine-grained tannins accompany juicy Bing cherry, strawberry compote, licorice and nutmeg before closing on a hint of hazelnut. Tightly woven, velvety tannins provide support. Drink 2028–2035.

94/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"Monforte d'Alba. One hectare of Gramolere came from Alessandria's mother, née Manzone, and with vines aged up to 50 years. Until 2000 it had been managed by her brother Giovanni Manzone; 2000 was the same year in which they acquired an additional hectare of Gramolere. First vintage 2001. Just mid ruby. Stylistically very different from Verduno. Similar balsamic character and a tiny bit richer on the nose with a distinct mineral core. Compact fruit that is still closed and with a layer of sandy tannins that follow the fruit seamlessly. Elegant, fresh and long, it will reveal itself fully in the next couple of years. Drink 2026-2038

17++/20 Jancis Robinson, Walter Speller



2020 Fratelli Alessandria Barolo Monvigliero - \$160

“On pouring, the 2020 Barolo Monvigliero appears paler in the glass compared to the others tasted in this vertical of Monvigliero, but it opens to become spicy, bright, and complete, with notes of strawberries, spice, fresh flowers, cinnamon, and dusty earth. A great wine with the most distinct sense of place, it offers a tightrope of fine tannins, a snappy spine of acidity, and a long finish, with a fresh, balanced, and age-worthy feel as well as savory, mouthwatering tension and mineral undercurrents. Drink it over the next 20 years.”

96/100 Jeb Dunnuck

“Crushed wild strawberries, raspberries, and elegant floral notes captivate the senses. Tart red cherries and cranberries dance on the palate, accompanied by a delicate herbaceous touch. This pretty Barolo showcases the beauty of Nebbiolo with its vibrant acidity and refined tannins. A transformative wine with a balance so perfect, it would score 10s in the Olympics. Drink now – 2045”

96/100 Wine Enthusiast

“First produced in 1978, the vines on this 1.4ha plot are now over 50 years old. You’ll find aromas recalling ripe dark-skinned fruit, violet, forest floor and brown exotic spice on the alluring 2020 Monvigliero from Fratelli Alessandria. Full-bodied and elegantly structured, the succulent, enveloping palate features ripe Morello cherry, crushed raspberry, baking spice and licorice before a saline mineral close. A backbone of velvety tannins provides support. It’s already almost at the start of its ideal drinking window where it will maintain for another decade or so. Drink 2026–2035.

95/100 Kerin O’Keefe

CONTERNO-NERVI



Situated around 120km north of Barbaresco, Conterno-Nervi is a historic, benchmark Gattinara producer possessing some of the most prized Nebbiolo vineyard holdings in all of the appellation. Seizing the opportunity to acquire such an historic estate, it was purchased in 2018 by the legendary Roberto Conterno from Barolo. Roberto's aim, along with his sons, is to apply the same fastidious attention to detail and quality to the wines of Nervi as he does to those of the mythical Giacomo Conterno estate in Montforte d'Alba. The prices here are likely headed to the stratosphere... The winery was founded in 1906 by Italo Nervi and is the oldest Cantina in Gattinara, though many of the vineyards had already been in the family dating back as far as 1679. The estate comprises 28.5 hectares of vineyards including their top crus of Molsino and Valferana. The soil in Gattinara is composed largely of volcanic gravel rich in minerals – remnants of an extinct super volcano which collapsed 280 million years ago. These are historic crus in Gattinara – mentions of Molsino in town records date as far back as 1471, and those of Valferana date back to 1231!

2021 Conterno Nervi Gattinara - \$155.00

"I fully expected that Roberto Conterno would elevate quality at Nervi upon his acquisition of the winery in 2018. What I did not expect was that the change would happen so fast and that the makeover would be so extreme. A historic estate, Nervi had fallen on rough times in which quality was all over the place. Before his acquisition, Conterno had started consulting on an informal basis for the former owners, so he had a running start. Even so, the investments here have been considerable and include a new winery and a state-of-the-art bottling line. It was not that long ago that Conterno answered all phone calls himself at the family winery in Monforte. Since then, he has elevated the wines at two estates through passion, conviction and relentless drive. Just as impressively, though, Conterno has built a strong team to execute on his vision. The importance of that can't possibly be overstated. The Gattinara contains the best fruit from the Garavoglie and Casacce sites, as well as some wine declassified from Molsino and Valferana."

Vinous, Antonio Galloni

94/100 - 2020

94/100 - 2019

95/100 - 2018

"I have visited Nervi several times over the years, but it was the visit just after Roberto Conterno acquired the estate that sticks in my mind most because even then, the vision for what would follow was evident. Since then, Conterno and his team have made a series of stellar wines. There are three Gattinaras in the range. The straight Gattinara is the most approachable of the wines and is therefore released a year earlier, although aging for all three wines is three years in wood. The two vineyard designates – Molsino and Valferrana – offer different shades of complexity, finesse and intensity, depending on the year. The Molsino is the first of the two single vineyards to ripen and can be a bigger wine, while the Valferrana ripens later because of its somewhat more sheltered position. All three are memorable. Readers often ask if the Nervi wines are of comparable quality to the famous Barolos. I don't think of wine as a competition. Some vintages may favor one appellation over another, the most striking example being 2018, when the Nervi wines were quite a bit more complex than the Conterno Barolos. Aside from those cases, the wines from the two estates can absolutely stand side by side. In fact, that is how I taste them every year."

– Vinous, Antonio Galloni



2020 Conterno Nervi Gattinara Valferana - \$260.00

"As all Nebbiolo lovers know well, this mighty Piedmont grape is especially sensitive to place. That's the main takeaway with the Vigna Valferana. This is a west-facing vineyard at 300 to 350 meters in altitude that is characterized by volcanic soils and slightly cooler conditions, resulting in an etched and very focused expression of Nebbiolo (as opposed to Molsino that tends to be open-knit and more concentrated). The 2020 Gattinara Valferrana is beautifully lifted and floral. Gorgeous red-toned fruit, white pepper, chalk and orange peel all rush from the glass in this striking, finely-cut Gattinara. Sweet floral notes and a burst of red fruit punctuate the finish. In 2020, the Valferrana is all finesse. It should be even more expressive in another few years' time. Drink 2028-2050"

96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2020 Conterno Nervi Gattinara Molsino - \$260.00 (SOLD OUT)

"All three are bottled at the same time, but the crus see an extra year in bottle prior to being released. From vines planted in 1992 in a cozy and protected position at 400 meters in elevation. The 2020 Gattinara Molsino is a dark, brooding Gattinara. Black cherry, plum, licorice, crushed rocks, lavender and spice all race across the palate. A wine of somber intensity, the 2020 is built for the long haul. Deep and beguiling, firm tannins enshroud the long, building finish. The ambition is pretty clear. Molsino will soon be the Monfortino of Alto Piemonte. Drink 2028-2050"

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

SANDRONE



"To say Luciano Sandrone was a titan of Barolo is a massive understatement. Sandrone defined an entire generation of Barolo growers. With all due respect to his contemporaries, Sandrone did several things none of them did. First, he created an estate from nothing, with no inherited land, but rather with a vineyard he and his wife Mariuccia purchased. Sandrone almost immediately found remarkable balance, crafting Barolos that were decidedly modern in style and appealed to wine lovers reared on the classics. The 1989 and especially 1990 Cannubi Boschis were among his first iconic wines. Last and maybe most importantly, Sandrone was the only grower of his generation to create a winery and was able to climb the ranks and become part of Piedmont's elite, that small group of historic, family-run estates whose wines are highly sought after in the secondary market."

-Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2022 Sandrone Nebbiolo d'Alba 'Valmaggiore' - \$60.00

"The 2021 Nebbiolo d'Alba Valmaggiore is a serious, serious wine that needs time in the cellar to be at its best. It shows the lighter style of Nebbiolo from Roero, but with all the elements dialed up. I especially admire its mid-palate depth and overall resonance. Succulent red cherry, white pepper, cedar, mint and orange peel all take shape in this super-expressive Barolo in all but name. Drink 2024-2035"

94/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2021 vintage)

"The Luciano Sandrone 2021 Nebbiolo d'Alba Valmaggiore shows fun aromas with something that reminds me of honey granola or protein bar with a full load of dried blueberries and raspberry piled on top. The wine offers good primary fruit, substantial weight and lots of other interesting tones to flesh it out. Those range from spice to wet earth. I love the rich approach to the palate, which remains important, but it's also elegantly balanced in this wine. 28,000 bottles were released. Drink 2024-2033"

93/100 Parkers Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner (2021 Vintage)

2020 Sandrone Barolo 'Le Vigne' - \$165.00

"The compelling Sandrone 2020 Le Vigne opens with delicate but alluring scents of violet, rose, wild berry and aromatic herb. Reflecting the nose, the savory, elegant palate delivers juicy Morello cherry, strawberry compote, star anise and cake spice alongside a backbone of taut, velvety tannins. Drink 2026–2032."

96/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"The blackberry, spice and tar aromas are enticing and follow through to a full yet tight body that shows density and depth. The tannins are extremely well integrated and feel melted into the wine. Slightly bitter orange and mineral character at the end. Complex and curated. Drink after 2027."

96/100 James Suckling

"The Luciano Sandrone 2020 Barolo Le Vigne is open-knit in texture with sun-drenched aromas. You get ripe fruit with black cherry, blackcurrant, forest floor and wild mushroom. With time in the glass, the wine reveals floral definition, grilled tarragon herb and a heavier note of wheat biscuit. Starting with the 2019 vintage, Le Vigne also includes Le Coste di Monforte fruit along with fruit from Baudana in Serralunga d'Alba, Villero in Castiglione Falletto, Vignane in Barolo and Merli in Novello. Production is 20,000 bottles. Drink 2026-2048"

95/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer



2020 Sandrone Barolo 'Aleste' - \$195.00 (SOLD OUT)

"Aleste is a contraction of the names Alessia and Stefano, grandchildren of the late Luciano Sandrone. Cherry and hibiscus aromas with hints of tar and dried flowers such as roses. Full-bodied and layered, with lots of juicy and rich fruit showing the warmth of the vintage, yet it's framed with creamy and chewy tannins that give it form and intensity. A very serious and structured 2020. Drink after 2030."

97/100 James Suckling

"The Luciano Sandrone 2020 Barolo Aleste (with 10,000 bottles released) is layered with sweet earth and drunken cherry. It shows seamless integration and a crescendo of intensity that starts with ripe fruit and dovetails into oak elements, licorice, spice and balanced acidity. This wine is very beautiful in terms of mouthfeel, with length and complexity. Aleste is made with fruit from Cannubi Boschis in the village of Barolo. This is the full monty. Drink 2026-2048"

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

"Enticing scents of woodland berry, camphor and exotic brown spice mingle with a whiff of dog rose on the lovely 2020 Aleste from Sandrone. Structured and loaded with finesse, the savory palate features ripe red cherry, blood orange, star anise and a mineral note recalling rusty nail. It's firm but elegant, with fine-grained tannins while fresh acidity keeps it impeccably balanced. Drink 2027–2032"

96/100 Kerin O'Keefe

FONTODI



"Two thousand twenty-one is the single greatest young vintage I have ever tasted in Chianti Classico. Period. Full stop. The 2021s are majestic wines endowed with striking aromatics, layered fruit and all the energy that is such a signature of the appellation.

Quality is consistently high across the region, while many wines hit breathtaking peaks of excellence. Last year, I wrote, "The 2021s, in particular, are some of the most exciting young wines I have tasted in more than 25 years of visiting the region." The top bottlings, those being released this year, more than confirm that initial impression. This is a historic vintage, and one to buy deep. Proprietor Giovanni Manetti and his son Bernardo presented a stunning set of 2021s on my most recent visit. The wines embody the essence of site but in the more refined, nuanced style that is such a signature here today. Picking a bit earlier while also reducing French oak imprint has made a huge difference. I can't recommend these new releases highly enough. As for Giovanni Manetti, he continues to lead the way in Chianti Classico by making brilliant wines while also uniting producers around a vision for the region in his role as two-term President of the Consorzio del Chianti Classico. These are exceptionally rare qualities in any individual, but to see them in one person is impressive."

-Vinous, Antonio Galloni

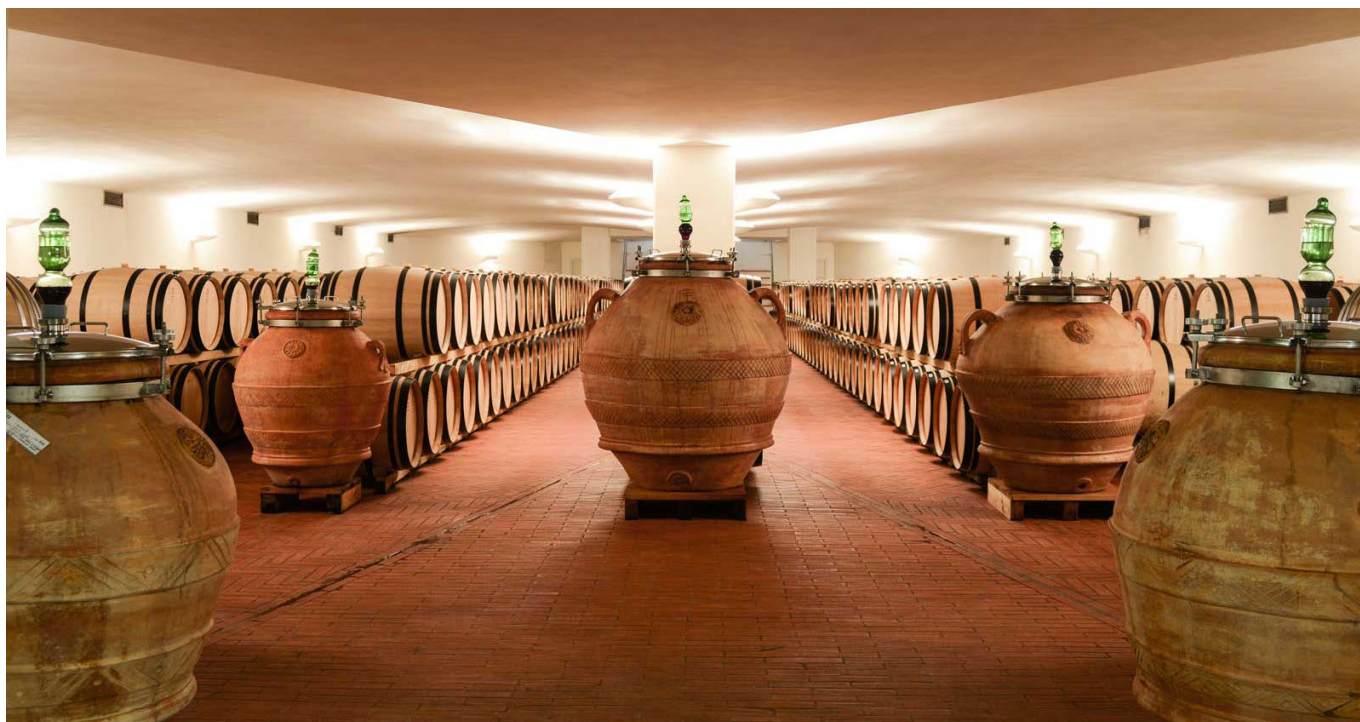
2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico - \$75.00

"Chianti Classico Annata remains one of the most compelling values in Old World wines with a sense of place. The 2021 Chianti Classico is classic wine from the estate, done in the more restrained style that has become the norm here of late. There's plenty of Panzano richness, but more energy and less heaviness than what was common just a few years ago. Giovanni Manetti and his team have given the Chianti Classico gorgeous refinement. Spice, flowers, mocha and blue fruits linger; all wrapped together by ultra-finessed tannins. The 2021 spent 20-22 months in barrel—65% cask and 35% neutral French oak barriques. Drink 2026-2041"

94/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"Emblematic of the exceptional quality offered at Chianti Classico's annata level, Fontodi's 2021 over-delivers yet again, exuding the wild, tousled, arid Tuscan countryside on a backdrop of dark, layered fruit. Hints of coffee and liquorice ripple through concentrated black cherry and blackberry. With ripe, gravelly tannins, this shows the power of the vintage without being forceful and maintains charismatic energy throughout. It's worth waiting a few more months before tucking in, but properly cellared, this will easily keep delivering for a decade. Drink 2025-2035"

94/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris



2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Terrazze San Leolino' - \$155.00

"The 2021 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Terrazze San Leolino is another highlight in this range from Fontodi. It's a huge step up from the 2020. It comes from a site in Panzano, not too far from "Vigna del Sorbo". However; this small parcel near the country chapel of San Leonino is characterised by calcareous Alberese, which produces fresh wines with a less dark character. Red cherry, iron, spice, leather, licorice, crushed rocks and herbs make a strong first impression. Bright acids, the result of elevation and a year with wide diurnal swings, yielded a Gran Selezione of stunning elegance, complexity and finesse. The 2021 spent 14-15 months in barrique (25% new) followed by 7-8 months in cask. The San Leolino is one of the newer wines in the Fontodi range. The 2021 suggests it could be one of the new flagships here. Drink 2028-2046"

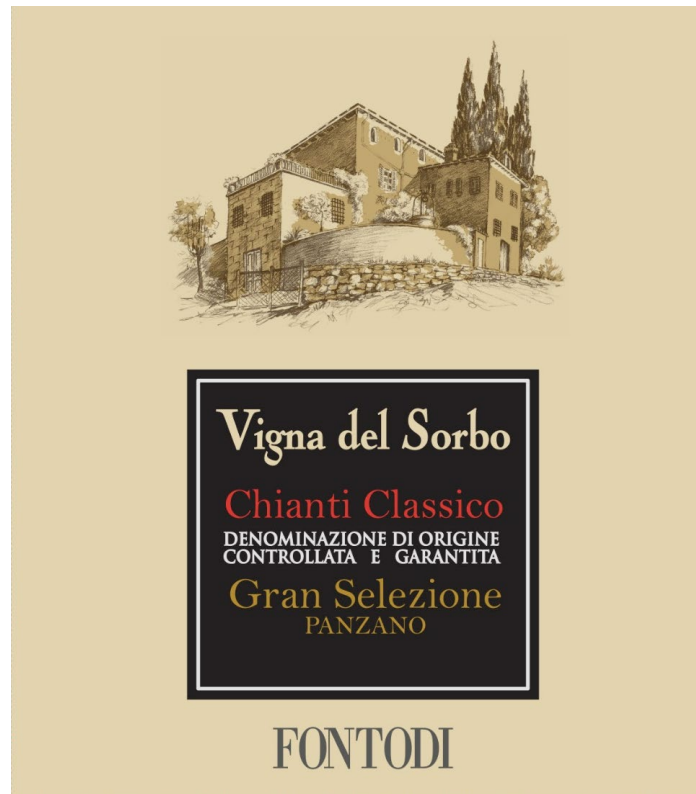
98/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"Now showing the Panzano UGA on the front label, the Fontodi 2021 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Panzano Terrazze San Leonino (made with certified organic fruit) is a delightful wine and a relatively new addition to a portfolio that excels in a classic vintage such as 2021. Taking full advantage of new regulations that give identity to appellation subzones (or UGAs), the wine exudes the depth, richness and sunshine that Panzano fruit is known for. The bouquet is stitched together with generous black fruit, pencil shaving and light spice, but the wine ultimately stands apart for its threefold balance of fruit versus acidity versus oak spice. Drink 2025-2046"

96+/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"San Leolino is a five-hectare terraced vineyard between 450 and 500 metres with a southeast to southwest exposition. A small portion of the vines are 50 years old, while the remaining were planted 20 years ago with a regional clone and a selection from Fontodi's Flaccianello site. With an intense focus on floral and mineral aspects, this is a compelling synthesis of lavender, dried rose, sunbaked stone and iron, sinewy rather than brawny in muscles, but formidable nonetheless. Concentrated, crunchy dark fruit is stitched with emphatically chalky tannins, framed by stylish wood notes. Vertical and direct. Drink 2026-2040

96/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris



2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Vigna del Sorbo' - \$155.00

"My favorite of the bunch is the 2021 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Panzano Vigna del Sorbo, which has a very slight edge over the Flaccianello della Pieve, in my view. Now boasting the proud Panzano UGA on the front label, the Vigna del Sorbo is a little more delicate, even subdued, compared to its new brother, the more exuberant Terrazze San Leonino. Vigna del Sorbo is a little more tuned in on itself, aromatically speaking, but reveals just enough complexity and sheer beauty to believe in the promise of its future aging potential. Even now, tasted so young, the wine's pedigree is evident. It excels in terms of complexity and depth. The tannins are velvety soft, and soft mineral aromas add focus. This certified expression of Sangiovese comes from a single parcel within the sun-drenched Conca d'Oro basin of vines that distinguishes Panzano. The Vigna del Sorbo stands out as one of my favorite wines from this region made in 2021. Drink 2025-2050"

98+/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"The 2021 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigna del Sorbo is an absolute stunner. Deep, layered and explosive, the 2021 captures all of the magic of this year in spades. Black cherry, lavender, mocha, spice and licorice all soar out of the glass. A wine of statuesque beauty elegance, the 2021 is utterly mesmerizing. I would be in no rush to drink this. The 2021 spent 14-15 months in barrique (25% new) and then 7-8 months in cask. Drink 2028-2046"

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"The Sorbo vineyard sits just below the winery on schistous Galestro soil between 400 and 450 metres and boasts 50- to 60-year-old vines. Owner Giovanni Manetti says it is the same team that has harvested this plot for years. The 2021 spent 15 months in barriques followed by nine in large casks, and unfurls leisurely from a smoky incense overlay through dusty, sunbaked earth to black cherry. Virile and sturdy, the palate packs in dense fruit, glimpses of clove and cedar, and pops with blackcurrant purity. A clayey, terracotta-like texture accompanies generous chewy tannins. Plenty here for a long rest in the cellar. Drink 2027-2042"

97/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris



2021 Fontodi Colle della Toscana Centrale 'Flaccianello della Pieve' - \$235.00

Flaccianello della Pieve' is one of the original Super-Tuscans, and stands as a beacon for the highest quality of Sangiovese from Panzano in Chianti. Giovanni Manetti is a fierce proponent of the integrity of the grape, and since its first vintage in 1981, his most famed wine has been made entirely of Sangiovese. The original source of fruit was a single-vineyard of the same name until the 2001 vintage, when the decision was made to create a blend of the estate's best fruit from the Conca d'Oro.

The 2021 Flaccianello della Pieve is another exceptional wine from Fontodi this year: Ripe, silky tannins wrap around a core of dark fruit as the 2021 makes its presence felt from the first taste. Sumptuous, racy and dense, this is just magnificent. As has been the case for some time, Flaccianello is a blend of mostly three parcels throughout the estate but closer to town. Planted on sites with very dense, heavy rocks. Drink 2028-2046"

98/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"The Fontodi 2021 Flaccianello della Pieve opens to a medium-dark inky appearance and solid aromas of black fruit and pressed blackberry. The Flaccianello is a touch more accessible at this early stage compared to the Vigna del Sorbo, but both wines are undoubtedly built to withstand ample cellar aging. Flaccianello is the more powerful of the two, and the Vigna del Sorbo is more delicate in comparison. These dueling character traits are especially evident in this classic 2021 vintage. This wine also boasts a more generous mouthfeel supported by softly integrated tannins. Drink 2025-2050"

98/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner