

Guide to Italian Wines - Tom Hyland - Autumn 2011

2008 BARBARESCO

This past spring, I attended the annual Nebbiolo Prima tastings in Alba, Piemonte. This tasting, reserved for a few dozen journalists around the world, is an anteprima series of tastings of new wines produced from Nebbiolo, namely Roero Rosso, Barbaresco and Barolo.

In this issue, I will report on the new release of Barbaresco and Barolo. I will get to Barolo later in this issue, but first let me talk about the new releases of Barbaresco from the 2008 vintage.

This was a wonderful growing season with ideal temperatures that resulted in beautiful ripeness and well as acidity. The wines have beautiful aromatics and are structured for mid-term to long aging. Although I do not think these wines are quite as rich as those from 1999 or 2001, this is a classic vintage, with the best wines having an aging potential of 15-20 years and perhaps even longer.

***** OUTSTANDING

RIZZI "PAJORE" (Treiso)

Lovely pale garnet color with attractive aromas of strawberry, red cherry and carnation. Medium-full with very good concentration. Generous mid-palate; notes of red spice on the palate and in the finish. Excellent persistence, lively acidity and sleek tannins. Wonderful finesse, elegance and expression of terroir. Best in 12-15 years.

**** EXCELLENT

RIZZI "NERVO FONDETTA" (Treiso)

Youthful garnet with aromas of sandalwood, dried red cherry, red roses and a hint of thyme. Medium-full, this has a generous mid-palate, excellent persistence, round tannins and good acidity. Best in 12-15 years.



**The Tanaro River bordering vineyards
below the town of Barbaresco**

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