



Guide to Italian Wines - Tom Hyland - Autumn 2010

2007 BARBARESCO

In May, I attended the Nebbiolo Prima event in Alba, a series of tastings for journalists to preview the new releases of Nebbiolo. This year the focus was on the 2006 Barolos as well as the 2007 Barbarescos.

Later in this issue, I will write about the new bottlings of Barolo, but for now, let's deal with the Barbaresco from 2007. There has been a lot of hype about this vintage and based on the wines I tried, the excitement is legitimate. 2007 was a long growing season without excessive humidity, so the wines have lovely structure and balance with impressive concentration. The wines offer beautiful perfumes and are somewhat approachable now. Don't look for 2007 to be a longlived vintage a la 1996, 1999 or 2001, but it will offer great pleasure over the next 7-10 years.

****** EXCELLENT**

RIZZI "PAJORE"

Light garnet with aromas of sour cherry and red plum. Medium-full with very good concentration. Light notes of red spice in the finish along with very good persistence and lively acidity. Nicely structured for optimal enjoyment in 7-10 years.

***** VERY GOOD**

RIZZI "NERVO FONDETTA"

Pale garnet with aromas of sandalwood, cedar and dried cherry. Medium bodied, this is well made, though a bit shy. Nicely balanced with very good acidity and subtle wood notes. Best in 5-7 years.