

GrapeTrotter

A chillout gourmet space

Alba Wines

May 13, 2009 by [baccant](#)

By Filippo Bartolotta

Some quick thoughts on the new vintage. It's getting late but I don't want to forget and so here it is.

After a few days away from Langhe and here i am again, tasting along all the 2005 Barolo and some 2003 Barolo Riserva.

In a nutshell 2005 seems to be a much more difficult vintage than the previous more generous 2004. Basically the heavy rains started on the 11th of October causing lots of rot in the vineyard and hence either a smaller quality production -*we had to thorough away 25% of the crop*, said Nadia Cogno- which is good for consumers or problem in the cellars reflected with harsher tannins and not very clean fruit extraction.

So you will be either come across to some really juicy and well structured wines, usually coming from the smaller producers who managed to secure the harvest prior the rains or some rather nice ready to drink Barolo with a sweet light body or the un

pleasant surprise of the harsh ones.

Better watch out though, but don't be afraid and bank on some of the smaller producers like the Elvio Cogno with his greatly structured Ravera 2005 Grand Cru from Novello. This is one of the greatest I have throughout the tasting with plenty of tannins which tend to melt down on your palate with sweet cherries and a distinguishing earthy and truffle nose. A wine to age.

Yet not available the wonder

ful old style Bricco Pernice which will need some time to open up, but which will deliver loads of pleasure in the future. So far I would drink their Barolo Vigna Elenena 2004 by the bucket! It is a very densely extracted wine retaining loads of sweet fresh red fruit with a violet touch and a velvet round important tannic structu

re with a licorice and rhubarb finish: *this is is really good, I don't drink much but this one goes down really well*, said Elvio Cogno with his calm smile and presence.



This man has been making Barolo from the '50s, starting with Marcarini and then making his own. He really is a piece

of leaving history of this great Appellation, for me one of the greatest wines in the world.



Of course I have more 2005 to recommend but I'll write about it after a good night sleep.

On a goodbye note these is what we have been drinking in the last couple of nights:

Barolo Bartolo Mascarello 1964

Very light and soft. Quite an erotic wine with sweet wild strawberries jam nose, tar and violets and a quinine touch with a poetic transparency and very easy to digest.

Barolo Bartolo Mascarello 1986

More structure with an austere earthy leatheriness and yet some red berry crush still there and an licorice and iron like mouth fill. Very mineral and really alive and kicking!

Barolo Brezza Sarmassa 1990

Powerful wine with immense fruit extraction, density, complexity and fruit. Composed tannic structure which can allow the wine to go on for another two decades with a clear cut lingering finish

Barolo Castello di Verduno Massara Riserva 1999

Loads of energy, juiciness and powerful invigorating drinkability. A wine with character which is showing a great classic vintage retaining great fruit and a very tertiary intriguing complexity



Barolo Aurelio Settimo 1999

Dense, packed with red and black fruit. Very closed at the beginning, then showing off all the power and length. Concentration, natural sweet tannins, great acidity and a extremely high savory drinkability.

Cheers Good Night!

filippo

This evening we had a few very good wines

Ciao