

****** EXCELLENT**

**** GOOD**

NEW RELEASES OF BARBERA D'ASTI

What follows are notes on new releases of Barbera d'Asti I tasted in the city of Asti in early March. Briefly, too many of the wines are far too oaky; it's as though the producers wanted to show how important this wine has become. I love Barbera in its charming manner, with light oak, zippy acidity and trademark spice. Sadly, those qualities were missing in too many of the wines I tasted during this event.

****** EXCELLENT**

2006 MARCHESI DI GRESY "MONTE COLOMBO"

Bright ruby red with inviting aromas of marmalade, orange peel and red cherry. Medium-full with impressive concentration. Moderate tannins and oak and very good acidity. Nicely balanced throughout. Best in 5-7 years.

2007 LA GHERSA "VIGNASSA"

Deep ruby red with aromas of strawberry and red cherry. Medium-full, this is ripe, but not overly so and has a well-structured finish with very good acidity and nicely integrated oak. Best in 5-7 years.

2008 PRUNOTTO "FIULOT"

Bright, deep garnet with lovely aromas of strawberry and red cherry. Medium-full with very good concentration. Ripe and forward, but not over the top. Tart acidity and an earthy finish with very good persistence. Best in 3-5 years.

2007 CANTINA VIGNASONE

Deep ruby red with red cherry and plum aromas. Medium-full, with a generous mid-palate. Rich finish with notes of black pepper and very good acidity. Best in 5-7 years.

2007 TENUTA DEI FIORI "RUSTICARDI 1933"

Deep ruby red; aromas of sour cherry, red flowers and a hint of red licorice. Medium-full, this is very well made; very good acidity and fruit persistence with nicely integrated oak. Best in 5-7 years.

2007 TENUTA FIAMMENGA "PAION"

Bright ruby red with aromas of cedar, myrtle and thyme. Ripe and forward with a rich finish with very good persistence. Moderate oak and balanced acidity. Best in 5-7 years.

2008 MARCO CRIVELLI "COLLINA LA MORA"

Deep garnet-light ruby red with aromas of forest, red cherry and thyme. Medium-full with nice weight on the palate, good acidity and a distinct chocolatey finish. Rich, ripe and quite pleasant. Enjoy over the next 3-5 years.

BARBERA D'ASTI (continued)

***** VERY GOOD**

2008 CAUDRINA "LA SOLISTA"

Bright ruby red; lovely floral and fruit of the forest aromatics. Medium-full with very good concentration. Well made – rich and ripe. Good acidity and very light tannins. Nice notes of chocolate in the finish. Enjoy over the next 3-5 years.

2008 CANTINA SOCIALE DI MOMBERCELLI "TERRE ASTESANE"

Bright ruby red with aromas of strawberry, currant, thyme and a hint of marmalade. Medium-bodied with bright fruit and light spice notes. Very good acidity and nice freshness. Quite elegant; enjoy over the next 3-5 years.

2008 FRATELLI TRINCHERO "LA TRINCHERINA"

Deep garnet with red rose, strawberry and red cherry aromas. Medium-bodied, this is nicely balanced in all aspects and offers very good acidity and a nice freshness. Enjoy over the next 2-3 years.

2008 MONTALBERA "LA RIBELLE"

Bright ruby red with aromas of red cherry, red plum and assorted flowers. Medium-full with very good concentration. Nicely balanced throughout, this is ripe with very good acidity and fruit persistence. Best in 3-5 years.

2008 GIACOMO & FIGLIO SCAGLIOLA "VIGNA DEL MANDORLI"

Bright ruby red with aromas of red cherry, strawberry and a hint of thyme. Medium-full with very good concentration. Rich, ripe and nicely balanced; good acidity. Enjoy over the next 3-5 years.

2007 PAVIA AGOSTINO "MOLISS"

Deep, bright ruby red with aromas of red cherry, a hint of chocolate and vanilla. Medium-full with good ripeness and acidity and moderate tannins. This needs a bit of time to settle down. Best in 3-5 years.

2007 ALFONSO BOERI "MARTINETTE"

Bright ruby red with aromas of red cherry, plum and cedar. Medium-full with very good concentration. Rich with very good complexity. A bit less oak would have helped this wine achieve a higher rating. Best in 3-5 years.

2007 DARIO IVALDI "1613" (NIZZA SUPERIORE)

Nizza is a subzone of Barbera d'Asti with some of the smallest maximum yields allowed in all of Italy. Deep garnet with aromas of black plum, black cherry and mint. Medium-full with good ripeness. Nicely made with good balance of all components. Best in 5-7 years.

BARBERA D'ASTI (continued)

***** Very Good**

2007 TENUTA LA PERGOLA "VIGNE VECCHIE DELLA CAPPELLETTA"

Deep ruby red, with aroma of red cherry, cherry pit and currant. Medium-full with very good concentration, this has more tannins than most typical examples of Barbra and is thus, slightly bitter. Best in 5-7 years.

2007 CA' DEI MANDORLI "LA BELLALDA"

Deep garnet-light ruby red with aromas of red cherry and sweet red spice. Medium-full with very good concentration. Very good acidity; quite elegant. Nicely balanced. Best in 3-5 years.

2008 PESCAJA "SOLITER"

Bright ruby red with aromas of cedar, red plum and red cherry. Medium-full with very good concentration. Rich mid-palate; big extract, slightly juicy. Rich finish with moderate tannins and good acidity. Best in 3-5 years.

2008 CASCINA GALARIN "LE QUERCE"

Bright ruby red with aromas of red roses and red cherries – lovely! Medium-bodied, this is nicely balanced with good acidity and delicate spice. Elegantly styled for consumption over the next 2-3 years.

2008 LA CASACCIA "VIGNA SANT'ANNA"

Blackberry, toasted butter and marmalade aromas. Ripe and forward with balanced acidity and moderate tannins. Best in 3-5 years.

2008 L'ARMAGNIA "SOPRA BARRUTI"

Bright ruby red with chocolate and blackberry aromas. Big concentration, tightly constructed and big fruit persistence. Balanced acidity. 3-5 years.

2007 CANTINA ALICE BEL COLLE "ALIX"

Bright purple with aromas of black cherry, black plum and chocolate notes. Balanced acidity – give time – best in 3-5 years.

2007 TRINCHERO "RICO"

Deep ruby red-light purple with aromas of vanilla, black plum and myrtle. Medium-full, this has very good concentration and fruit persistence. Give time – best in 5-7 years.

2008 CANTINA SOCIALE BARBERA DEI SEI CASTELLI

Bright ruby red with inviting aromas of red cherry and strawberry. Medium-bodied with good concentration. Light tannins and good acidity. Not the biggest wine by far, but very typical for what it is and quite enjoyable. Drink over the next 2-3 years.