

Focus on Barolo and Barbaresco – Part 2

Domenico Clerico, Monforte d'Alba



2002 Domenico Clerico Barolo: Very good medium red. Redcurrant, tobacco, smoke and nuts on the low-toned nose. Soft and gentle, with decent density and sweetness. Appears to have just enough material to buffer its firm tannins and juicy acids. **86-88 points**

2001 Domenico Clerico Barolo Ciabot Mentin Ginestra: Good medium red. Exotic, exhilarating aromas of sappy red berry liqueur and woodsmoke. Wonderfully sweet on entry, then superripe and liqueur-like in the middle palate, with an utterly suave texture over firm supporting spine. Finishes impressively long and sweet, with serious but noble tannins. There's nothing especially austere or forbidding about this extremely rich Barolo. **94 points**

2001 Domenico Clerico Barolo Pajana: Good dark red. Superripe, slightly reduced aromas of raspberry and mocha (this usually shows blacker fruits on the nose at this stage). Suave on entry, then musky, mellow and rich; less directly fruity than the Ginestra but simultaneously opulent and stylish. Finishes with big, rich, chewy tannins that coat the front teeth. Both this and the Ginestra seem much more than a year younger than the same two bottlings from the 2000 vintage. **92(+?) points**

2000 Domenico Clerico Barolo Ciabot Mentin Ginestra: Medium red. Redcurrant, marzipan, minerals, mocha and coconutty oak on the nose. Plump, sweet and concentrated, with enticing red fruit and tar flavors. Dense and fine-grained but without quite the definition of the best years. Finishes with strong, tooth-coating tannins and a lingering note of dried flowers. **91 points**

2000 Domenico Clerico Barolo Pajana: Deep red. Nutty oak and marzipan on the nose. Lush, sweet and forward, in the style of the vintage. Shows distinct signs of surmaturite, with rather low acidity. Notes of tobacco, chocolate and underbrush. Finishes with substantial but slightly drying tannins. **89? Points**

2000 Domenico Clerico Barolo Percristina: The most complex today on the nose of Clerico's three 2000 Barolos, with notes of smoky red fruits and nuts. Sweet, smooth and seamless, with a glycerol texture that really captures the richness of the vintage. Highly concentrated wine but without the sheer verve and grip of the '99. Finishes with big, rich tannins and impressive length. **92 points**

Giovanni Corino, La Morra

2001 Giovanni Corino Barolo: Medium red. Musky aromas of plum, cedar, espresso, chicory and nutty oak. Sweet, lush and easygoing, with lowish acidity and moderate depth. Very ripe wine, but the tannins turn a bit dry. **87 points**

2001 Giovanni Corino Barolo Roncaglia: Good medium red. Cherry, coffee liqueur and exotic oak spices on the nose. Sweet, rich and lush on entry, then quite dry in the middle and very tannic. Conveys an impression of crushed grape skins. **88? Points**

2001 Giovanni Corino Barolo Vigneto Arborina: Bright red-ruby. Aromatically expressive nose combines cherry, blood orange and mint; atypically open for this bottling. Then vinous and classy on the palate, with sappy red fruit flavors lifted by mint and flowers. Juicy, shapely and very intense. Finishes with firm but sweet tannins and terrific persistence. **92 points**





2001 Giovanni Corino Barolo Vigna Giachini: Good red-ruby. Sweet raspberry, mocha, tobacco and minerals on the very ripe nose. Fatter, richer and more pliant than the Arborina, but with no loss of inner-mouth perfume. Rich, sweet, broad and open-knit, and somehow light on its feet. Finishes with big, lush, tooth coating tannins. **93 points**

2001 Giovanni Corino Barolo Vigneto Rocche: Bright full red. Plum, mocha and nutty oak on the nose, with a hint of herbs; a bit stunted after the Arborina and Giachini. Then almost shockingly broad, sweet and pliant in the mouth; comes across as quite youthful despite its near-syrupy sweetness of fruit. Finishes with big, sweet tannins and lingering suggestions of plum and nuts. **92(+?) points**

2001 Giovanni Corino Barolo Vecchie Vigne: Bright red-ruby. Knockout nose melds sweet cherry, raspberry, minerals and spicy oak; liqueur-like but with great lift. Then lush, broad and superripe; as creamy as this wine is, its raspberry and strawberry fruit flavors show a distinctly primary quality. Wonderfully fleshy wine that seems a bit less oaky than the strong '99 bottling, which is all to the good. Finishes with sweet, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length. **94 points**

2000 Giovanni Corino Barolo: Medium red. Mellow, woody aromas of redcurrant, marzipan and dried flowers. Soft, plummy, sweet and approachable; nicely plump if not especially complex. Just a tad heavy, with some alcohol showing. The initially sweet tannins showed a dry edge with aeration. **87 points**

2000 Giovanni Corino Barolo Vigneto Arborina: Moderately saturated medium red. Very ripe, wild aromas of currant, mocha and game. Very ripe and smooth, but with good lift in the mouth. Sweet flavors of plum and spices. Fairly round, large-scaled wine, finishing with dusty tannins and solid backbone. **90 points**

2000 Giovanni Corino Barolo Vigna Giachini: Medium red. Aromas of plum, tobacco, spices, tar and nutty oak. Sweet, mellow and plummy; suave and ripe, with a subtle penetrating quality. Quite plush for this bottling chez Corino. Finishes with dusty tannins that arrive late. **89 points**

2000 Giovanni Corino Barolo Roncaglia: Medium red, with brick tones. Ripe but a bit dull on the nose, hinting at plum, marzipan and nutty oak. Quite ripe and sweet but with limited definition and verve despite a suggestion of minerality. The tannins are still a bit clenched. These 2000s are all very ripe, but seem a bit lacking in verve and distinction, particularly when compared to the 2001s. **88 points**

2000 Giovanni Corino Barolo Vigneto Rocche: Medium red. Aromas of marzipan, dried flowers, mocha and menthol. Moderately sweet and smooth on the palate, with more inner-mouth aromatic complexity than most of these 2000s. Finishes with good length and slightly edgy tannins. This has a mineral brightness but still seems a bit flatter than usual for this bottling from this producer. **88 points**

2000 Giovanni Corino Barolo Vecchie Vigne: Good deep red. Spicy oak lifts the strawberry and raspberry aromas; complicating notes of flowers and mocha. Sweet, lush and dense, offering excellent concentration and very good energy in the mouth. Very rich Barolo but not at all heavy. Finishes long and pliant, with suave tannins and lingering notes of minerals and spices. Corino reportedly is steadily reducing his use of new barriques, and this is all to the good. **92 points**

Luigi Einaudi, Dogliani

2001 Luigi Einaudi Barolo: Medium red. Aromas of cherry, menthol, licorice and leather. Sweet but clenched following the July bottling; a rather muscular, classically styled Barolo with notes of dried flowers and minerals. Juicy, gripping wine with lovely fresh fruit and a fairly tough structure. **88(+?) points**

2001 Luigi Einaudi Barolo Costa Grimaldi: Good medium red. Lively aromas of red fruits, dried rose, menthol and minerals. Sweeter and more pliant than the normal, with ripe, almost Burgundian red fruit and mineral flavors. Finishes with finer tannins than the regular bottling and lovely persistence. This estate uses vertical fermentation tanks (not rotofermenters) in which the top of the tank can be drained to break up the cap, or the juice can be sprinkled over the cap to keep it wet. Total maceration time is typically 12 to 13 days, including a 2-day pre-fermentation cold soak. **91 points**



2001 Luigi Einaudi Barolo Cannubi: Sappy red berry perfume complicated by flowers and minerals; complex and Burgundian. Then firmly built and less showy today than the Costa Grimaldi, with less obvious sweetness. Finishes with serious but very broad tannins and slowly mounting flavor. Seemed to close up in the glass. A classic, rather elegantly styled wine that will require longer aging than the Costa Grimaldi. **91+ points**



2000 Luigi Einaudi Barolo: Good full red. Red fruits and menthol on the nose; offers less aromatic lift than the estate's 2001s. Very ripe and plump, with slightly raisiny berry and nut flavors. Today the wine's tannins cut off the fruit on the back end. This is likely to develop quickly. **87 points**

2000 Luigi Einaudi Barolo Costa Grimaldi: Medium red. Reticent aromas of raspberry, cherry and menthol. Sweet and minty, with rather forward fruit flavors and limited complexity. Offers broader tannins than the normal but still finishes a tad dry. **89 points**

2000 Luigi Einaudi Barolo Cannubi: Deep, bright red. Aromas of red fruits and flowers, with an intriguing balsamic element. More vibrant and energetic than the Costa Grimaldi, showing the best inner-mouth perfume of the trio of 2000s. Dense and juicy, with a rather sophisticated fine-grained texture. The tannins are finer as well, and hit the palate later. **90 points**

Silvio Grasso, La Morra

2001 Silvio Grasso Barolo L'Adnre: Moderately saturated medium red. Compelling, exotic nose combines raspberry liqueur, blood orange, pink peppercorn, nutmeg and sandalwood. Juicy and penetrating, with superb freshness and lift. The red berry and spice flavors are complemented by an exotic suggestion of tropical fruits. Finishes juicy, minerally and very long, with the firm tannins coming very late. Very sexy wine. There was just a single 20-hectoliter Slavonian oval of this juice. **92 points**

2001 Silvio Grasso Barolo Vigna Plicotti: Bright, deep red. Raspberry, cherry and sandalwood on the nose; a bit less pungent than the Andre. Lush, fat and full, if less showy and sweet than the Andre. This may not yet be expressing itself, but the texture is pure silk. Finishes with firm, building tannins and a juicy quality. **90(+?) points**

2001 Silvio Grasso Barolo Giachini: Bright red-ruby. Sexy, penetrating, rather pinot-like aromas of cherry, raspberry, mace and nutmeg. Then sweet, broad and firmly built, with cool red fruit and mineral flavors nicely framed by firm acids. In the past, the Corino Giachini bottling has struck me as Musigny-like; in 2001, this example from Grasso offers some of the same Burgundian tang and minerality. Very youthful Barolo, finishing with substantial but fine tannins that call for five or six years of aging. **92(+?) points**

2001 Silvio Grasso Barolo Bricco Luciani: Bright red-ruby. More dark fruits than red on the nose, with musky notes of chicory and espresso. Sweet, broad and full, with thorough ripeness if a bit less lift than the Giachini. Less noble but very ripe, with powerful fruit and a liqueur-like sweetness on the back. Finishes with terrific breadth and major tannins. This, too, needs a good five or six years of patience. **90(+?) points**

2001 Silvio Grasso Barolo Ciabot Manzoni: Good deep red-ruby. Musky espresso, menthol and dried flowers on the nose; more classically Barolo and less Burgundian. At once broad and juicy, with concentrated dark berry and menthol flavors conveying intensity without any undue weight. Lovely rising finish features big, chewy tannins. **91(+?) points**



2000 Silvio Grasso Barolo Pi Vigne: Medium red. Mellow, inviting aromas of redcurrant, marzipan, truffle and underbrush. Sweet, lush and ripe, with generous, broad strawberry and raspberry fruit flavors. This attractive wine offers good snap and verve, and finishes with very fine tannins. **90 points**

2000 Silvio Grasso Barolo Giachini: Moderately saturated medium red. Complex, mellow nose combines cherry, minerals, mocha, earth, woodsmoke and plum pudding; reminded me of mature Burgundy Sweet but firm; distinctly more withdrawn and less lush than the Pi Vigne. Today the wine's aromatic complexity does not quite carry through on the palate. Finishes with slightly dusty tannins that are a bit less pliant than those of the Pi Vigne. **89 points**

2000 Silvio Grasso Barolo Vigna Plicotti: Medium red. Aroma of cherry syrup, underbrush and nutty oak; comes across as more evolved than the Giachini. Then lush and fat on the palate, but with only modest verve and clarity. Finishes with dusty, slightly drying tannins. Offers good texture but comes across as a bit dull. **88 points**

SILVIO GRASSO



2000 Silvio Grasso Barolo Ciabot Manzoni: Good medium red. Expressive aromas of strawberry, raspberry, minerals and smoky, spicy oak, with a note of iodine. Sweet, mellow and lush, with strawberry fruit complemented by spicy oak. A fine-grained midweight with good life in the mouth. Finishes with ripe tannins and excellent length. **91 points**

2000 Silvio Grasso Barolo Bricco Luciani: Medium red. Strawberry, flowers, woodsmoke and nutty oak on the nose. Juicy but tight; distinctly tougher and more backward than the Ciabot Manzoni, and showing less texture today. Here the wine's wood tannins are more apparent on the tight finish. **89(+?) points**

2000 Silvio Grasso Barolo L'Adnré: Moderately saturated medium red. Ethereal aromas of strawberry, dried rose and spices. Fine-grained, smooth and lively, with a fresh strawberry flavor and noteworthy inner-mouth energy and lift. **90 points**

Giovanni Manzone, Monforte d'Alba

2002 Giovanni Manzone Barolo Le Gramolere: Medium red. Decadent aromas of raspberry, leather, game and flowers. Smooth and moderately sweet in the mouth, but with modest definition and thrust. Hints of leather, earth and game. Finishes with slightly dry-edged tannins. **85-87 points**

2001 Giovanni Manzone Barolo Le Gramolere: Full red. Expressive aromas of raspberry, rose petal, brown spices, nuts and cedary oak. Sweet, spicy and fresh, with lush fruit lifted by pungent cinnamon and mace. The firmly tannic finish hints at leather and meat, but this wine comes across as distinctly less rustic than the 2000 example. **88 points**

2001 Giovanni Manzone Barolo Bricat Gramolere: Good deep red. Reticent aromas of dark berries and nutty oak. Full, sweet and fairly primary, with red berry, floral and mineral flavors along with a faint mintiness. My enthusiasm was somewhat tempered by a slight greenness on the back end, but this wine may simply be in a somewhat stunted stage today. **88(+?)? points**

2001 Giovanni Manzone Barolo Santo Stefano: Good medium red. Spicy raspberry, flowers and mint on the somewhat high-toned, pinot-like nose; the cleanest of these three 2001s. Sweet, suave and pure, with very ripe but lively flavors of red fruits, flowers and spices. Finishes juicy and long, with lovely retention of fruit and firm tannins that avoid dryness.

90 points

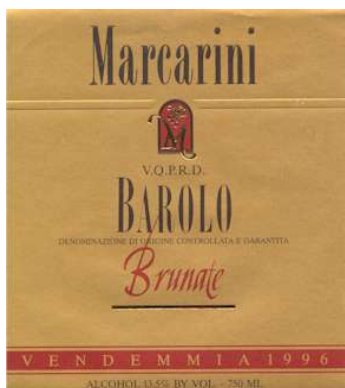
2000 Giovanni Manzone Barolo Le Gramolere: Medium red. Rather rustic aromas of raspberry, tobacco, smoked meat and leather. Soft, sweet and approachable, with a floral note lifting the fruit. Finishes with sweet tannins and good length, but the rustic leathery note runs through the wine from start to finish. **86 points**

2000 Giovanni Manzone Barolo Bricat Gramolere: Good medium red. Superripe aromas of roasted red berries and nuts. Rich, lush and sweet, with strawberry fruit flavor lifted by flowers and marzipan. Appealing in a rather decadent way. Finishes persistent and ripely tannic. This strikes me as rustic in a positive way, not to mention quite accessible already. **89 points**

2000 Giovanni Manzone Barolo Santo Stefano: Moderately saturated medium red. Slightly subdued nose hints at pepper and leather. Sweet, spicy red berry flavors turn a bit dry on the end. Not as sweet today as the Bricat, but has good breadth and palate presence. **88 points**

1999 Giovanni Manzone Barolo Gramolere Riserva: Medium red. Highly spicy aromas of redcurrant and cocoa powder. Rich, plump and spicy, with slightly wild but sweet flavors of marzipan, leather and underbrush. The leathery note carries through on the finish, which features some drying tannins. **89 points**

Marcarini, La Morra



2003 Marcarini Dolcetto d'Alba Fontanazza: Good red-ruby. Inky aromas of black cherry and licorice. Sweet, fat and rich but on the heavy side for this bottling. Finishes firmly tannic, chewy and a bit dry. "A great vintage, but not for wines to drink every day," notes director Manuel Marchetti. **86 points**

2003 Marcarini Dolcetto d'Alba Boschi di Berri: Deep red-ruby color. More complex, exuberant aromas of kirsch, licorice and violet. Dense but juicy, with a liveliness in the mouth that transcends this very hot vintage. Finishes very fresh, juicy and long. A strong argument for the superiority of old vines and deep roots. These vines are at least 100 years old, notes Marchetti, and may be as old as 150. As vines die, they are replaced by running branches under the soil from adjacent (ungrafted) vines. **89(+?) points**

2000 Marcarini Barolo La Serra: Good medium red. Aromas of mocha, licorice, tar, minerals and brown spices. On the lean side and a bit tight today, but with very good flavor intensity. Not currently displaying the fleshy side of the vintage. Finishes with slightly tough tannins. Marchetti prefers the 1998 La Serra, as do I. **88(+?) points**

2000 Marcarini Barolo Brunate: Deeper aromas of mocha, camphor and minerals, with a whiff of dried flowers. Considerably richer and deeper than La Serra, with a more layered texture. Finishes long and rich, with chewy, complex, very suave tannins. **90(+?) points**

2001 Marcarini Barolo La Serra: Good full red. Expressive aromas of brown spices, mocha, truffle and porcini. Suave, deep and flavorful, with lovely sweetness leavened by firm minerality. Here the fruit seems distinctly fresher than that of the 2000. Finishes suave and quite long, with late-arriving tannins that coat the gums. A perfect example of a case where the tannins of 2001 are simply more complex than those of the hotter, drier 2000 growing season. **92 points**

2001 Marcarini Barolo Brunate: Good full red. Cherry, rose petal, menthol, brown spices, licorice and a note of beeswax on the nose ("always balsamic, like entering a church," says Marchetti). Then much tighter on the palate and dominated by its structure today, with hints of dark fruits, mint and licorice. Not nearly as lush or sweet today as La Serra. The very firm tannins reach the front teeth. This young 2001 is already closing down in the bottle. **91(+?) points**

M. Marengo, La Morra

2001 Mario Marengo Barolo Bricco delle Viole: Bright ruby-red. Aromas of red cherry, mocha, cedar and mace, with an exotic floral element (as well as a suggestion of dill pickle that quickly dissipated). Sweet, sappy and primary, with flavors of red berries, flowers and spices. Finishes with firm tannic spine and lingering flowers and spices. Still a baby. **88(+?) points**

2001 Mario Marengo Barolo Brunate: Bright, dark red. Musky aromas of raspberry, nutmeg, mace, chocolate and dried flowers. Sweeter and denser than the Bricco Viole but quite backward. A full, chewy, rather powerful wine with very good inner-mouth energy. Finishes long and powerful, with substantial tannic clout and lingering sweetness. This will require at least a few years to soften. **90(+?) points**



2000 Mario Marengo Barolo Brunate: Good medium-deep red. Aromas of plum, redcurrant and smoke; a bit diffuse. Sweet, supple and low-toned on the palate, with woody and earthy notes and soft acids. Finishes with slightly dry but light tannins. **86 points**

Mauro Molino, La Morra

2001 Mauro Molino Barolo: Good full red. Subdued but pure aromas of plum, menthol, underbrush and nutty oak. Fresh and firm but a bit streamlined, showing only modest stuffing today. This is less easygoing than the 2000 but needs time. **88(+?) points**

2001 Mauro Molino Barolo Gallinotto: Deep red-ruby. Cool aromas of redcurrant, sandalwood, mint and cola. Then very ripe and aromatic in the mouth, with complex flavors of sweet red berries, minerals and brown spices. Has the

concentration of material to buffer its firm acids. Finishes with dusty, chocolatey tannins that are a bit youthfully tough. **89(+?) points**

2001 Mauro Molino Barolo Vigna Gancia: Deep ruby-red. Captivating aromas of baked strawberry, cedar, minerals, mint and licorice. Quite suave on entry, then creamy-sweet but vibrant in the middle, with a blackberry flavor that manages to be both liqueur-like and cool. This possesses terrific spine. The dusty, building tannins make themselves felt quite late. **91(+?) points**



2001 Mauro Molino Barolo Vigna Conca: Good deep red with ruby highlights. Aromas of strawberry, raspberry, clove, nutmeg, mint and cedar. Juicy and sweet but tightly wound, with a more dominant tannic structure today than the Gancia. This offers ethereal fruit and spice notes and a long, slightly resinous finish, but here the tannins come earlier and coat the front teeth. **91(+?) points**

2000 Mauro Molino Barolo: Moderately saturated medium red. Subtle, woody nose hints at red berries, game and cinnamon. A sweet, nicely aromatic midweight with moderate nuance and thrust. Finishes with dusty, firm tannins and good length. **87 points**

2000 Mauro Molino Barolo Vigna Gancia: Good medium red. Nicely perfumed aromas of redcurrant, flowers and underbrush. Juicy and vibrant, with sweetness and spice added by the oak. In a rather friendly style, but the wood tannins give the finish a slight dryness. **88 points**

2000 Mauro Molino Barolo Vigna Conca: Medium red. Aromas of redcurrant, tobacco and smoky, nutty oak, with a mineral nuance. Richer and sweeter than this estate's other 2000 Barolos, with more flesh and a finer-grained texture. Finishes with broad, suave tannins and subtle persistence. Still, this is rather shy today, and not yet showing itself. **90(+?) points**

Paitin di Pasquero-Elia, Neive

2002 Paitin Barbaresco Sorì Paitin: Medium red. Aromas of plum, redcurrant, raspberry, tobacco and spicy oak; young and pristine. Sweet and pliant, with firm supporting acidity giving brightness to the wine's fruit. Finishes with moderate length and slightly tough tannins. **86-89 points**

2001 Paitin Barbaresco Sorì Paitin: Medium red. Pure, aromatic nose combines cherry, redcurrant, plum and minerals. Sweet but reserved, with good definition of flavor and spicy lift. Finishes juicy, firmly tannic and persistent. Serious, nicely balanced Barbaresco. **90(+?) points**



2001 Paitin Barbaresco Sorì Paitin Vigna Vecchia: Bright, deep red. Sexy aromas of plum, game and smoky oak. A bit sweeter and more concentrated than the normale but more backward, with notes of tar and mint. The normale shows more juicy berry flavor today, while this is more dominated by its structure and finishes with substantial oak tannins. It's hard to believe this won't be better in the long run. **90(+?) points**

Armando Parusso, Monforte d'Alba

2000 Armando Parusso Barolo Piccole Vigne: Medium red. High-toned, very ripe aromas of nutty red fruits, brown spices and marzipan. Sweet, fleshy and ripe, with a rather soft texture and lowish acidity. Very forward wine, with a faint green aspect throughout. Finishes with light, slightly dry tannins. **87 points**



2000 Armando Parusso Barolo Mariondino: Full red. Higher-pitched aromas of red cherry and spices. Juicy and tightly wound, showing more lift but less early sweetness than the Piccole Vigne. This seems much less evolved, but also a bit minty and herbal. Tannins are more apparent and less thoroughly buffered. **87(+?) points**

2000 Armando Parusso Barolo Bussia Vigna Fiurin: Bright, deep red. Sweet aromas of strawberry, underbrush and nutty oak; rather Burgundian. Lush, fleshy and seamless; full and rich. Nicely concentrated if fairly soft wine with just

enough acidity for balance. Finishes seamless and long, with nutty oak and sweet, building tannins. In the style of the vintage's better examples. **90 points**



2000 Armando Parusso Barolo Bussia Vigna Munie: Full red, a bit less bright than the Vigna Fiurin. Musky aromas of strawberry, maraschino cherry, mocha and nuts; less aromatic and more oaky than the Fiurin. Sweet and nicely concentrated, with musky, slightly medicinal notes of coffee, mocha and chicory. Not as primary as the Fiurin and showing somewhat harder tannins today. **88(+?) points**

2000 Armando Parusso Barolo Bussia Rocche: Good deep medium red. Complex aromas of plum, dried flowers and sexy, spicy oak, with suggestions of exotic fruits. Sweet, dense and seamless, but a bit youthfully backward and medicinal, with firm but nicely integrated acidity for the year. Not yet showing its personality. Finishes firmly tannic and persistent, with a slightly minty quality. **89(+?)? points**

2001 Armando Parusso Barolo: Medium red. Subtly complex aromas of redcurrant, musky strawberry, nutmeg and underbrush, with a suggestion of red berry liqueur. Ripe, dense, woody and complex, with a floral perfume. A note of menthol gives grip to the flavors. Broad but not overly sweet. Should make an excellent normale in a rather forward style. **88-90 points**

2001 Armando Parusso Barolo Mariondino: Dark red. Roasted red cherry, milk chocolate and smoky oak on the musky nose. Fat, broad and rich, but less fruit-driven, sweet and open than the normale Hints of truffle and mint. A firmly structured wine that finishes with serious, slightly drying tannins. **88-91 points**

2001 Armando Parusso Barolo Bussia Rocche: Good full red. Perfumed aromas of maraschino cherry, raspberry, rose petal and earth. Juicy, pure and high-pitched; tightly wound and very firmly structured. The red berry, floral and spicy flavors build impressively toward the back. Long, rising, aromatic finish features dusty, ripe tannins; hints of spice and mint; and lovely verve and grip. Offers outstanding potential. My early look at this producer's 2001s suggests that the fruit ripened much more successfully in this vintage than in 2000. **91-93 points**

E. Pira & Figli, Barolo

2001 Enrico Pira & Figli Barolo Cannubi: Bright red-ruby. Musky, complex nose combines mocha, menthol, espresso and brown spices, with sexy oak tones. Quite lush and suave on the palate, with raspberry, brown spice and gamey flavors conveying an enticing, subtle sweetness. Very silky Barolo, finishing firmly tannic and impressively long. **92 points**

2001 Enrico Pira & Figli Barolo Via Nuova: Medium red. Subdued but pure aromas of raspberry, cherry, nutmeg, flowers and mint. Fresh, sharply delineated and firmly built; distinctly tighter and more backward today than the showier Cannubi. This will need a good six or seven years of patience. **90(+?) points**

2000 Enrico Pira & Figli Barolo Via Nuova: Good full red. Musky aromas of nuts and truffle, with a suggestion of roasted fruits. Then leanish and on the dry side, with a faint green edge suggesting uneven ripening. With modest flesh, this finishes somewhat dry. A disappointing showing: this was much fatter and sweeter in barrel two years ago. **86 points**

2000 Enrico Pira & Figli Barolo Cannubi: Good medium red. Highly aromatic nose for the vintage: redcurrant, dried rose, leather, mocha. Then lively and perfumed, with subtle flavors of red berries, minerals and brown spices. Finishes firmly tannic, juicy and vibrant. Very good classic Barolo, with its oakiness under control. **91 points**



Luigi Pira, Serralunga d'Alba

2001 Luigi Pira Barolo Margheria: Good deep red. Superripe aromas of raspberry and nutty oak. Sweet, lush and rich, with the nutty character carrying through on the palate. Large-scaled, full, silky Barolo with considerable early appeal. Finishes with ripe, sweet tannins and very good length. **89 points**

2001 Luigi Pira Barolo Marenca: Full red. Complex, mellow nose combines raspberry, cherry, woodsmoke and flowers. Then less fat, sweet and expressive in the mouth than the Margheria, with more obvious oakiness dominating the wine's fruit. Rather unforgiving today, with the tannins currently a bit dry. **87(+?) points**



2001 Luigi Pira Barolo Vigna Rionda: Good full red. Raspberry, menthol, mocha and nutty oak on the nose, with subtle nuances of smoke and earth. Suave and penetrating, with sneaky flavor intensity; strong red fruit character complicated by an enticing woody element. Very concentrated, fresh wine with lovely sweetness. Finishes very long and juicy, with ripe, building tannins. In the same quality league as the excellent '99 Vigna Rionda from this estate. **92 points**

2000 Luigi Pira Barolo Margheria: Medium red. Nuanced nose combines raspberry, strawberry, mocha, underbrush and nutty oak. Sweet and supple in the mouth, with strawberry and earth flavors. Has fat but could use more definition and lift. Finishes with substantial broad, dusty tannins. **87 points**

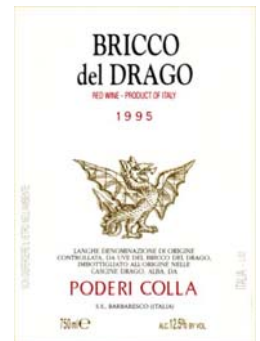
2000 Luigi Pira Barolo Marenca: Medium red. Sweet, open-knit aromas of mocha and roasted nuts. Sweet and densely packed, with quickly developing flavors of mocha, minerals and spices. This has more mid-palate density to support its dusty but even tannins. **88 points**

2000 Luigi Pira Barolo Vigna Rionda: Medium red. Superripe aromas of plum, spices, marzipan and nuts. Full, sweet and plummy, with good depth of flavor. Like the Margheria and the Marenca, not particularly primary, but this is classic Barolo. The dusty tannins reach the front teeth. **91 points**

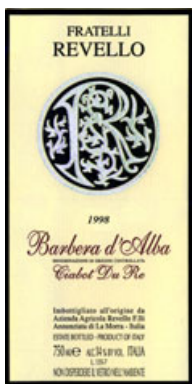
Poderi Colla, Alba

2001 Poderi Colla Barbaresco Tenuta Roncaglia: Good full red. Musky, high-toned, slightly funky aromas of raspberry, flowers and peppermint. Sweet and supple, with moderately complex, somewhat medicinal red cherry flavor. Finishes with tooth coating tannins that turned increasingly dry as the wine opened in the glass. **87(+?)? points**

2000 Poderi Colla Barolo Dardi Le Rose Bussia: Medium red. Red cherry, raspberry, menthol and red licorice on the nose. Fuller and sweeter than the 2001 Barbaresco, with flavors of red cherry and licorice. Has more mid-palate stuffing to support its building but broad tannins, which arrive later and come across as riper. This and the 2001 Barbaresco were aged in large casks and were bottled at the same time, in July of 2003. (Empson U.S.A. Alexandria VA **88 points**)



Fratelli Revello, La Morra



2001 Revello Barolo: Good full red. Aromas of cherry syrup and menthol. Sweet on the front end, with flavors similar to the aromas. Then finishes with rather tough, drying tannins. **87 points**

2001 Revello Barolo Vigna Gattera: Deep red. Complex, scented nose combines strawberry, cherry, marzipan, flowers, spices, black pepper and nutty oak. Suave, dense and sweet, with the wine's glyceric texture leavened by a peppery quality. Nicely balanced and long, finishing with fine, building tannins. **90 points**

2001 Revello Barolo Giachini: Red-ruby. Strawberry liqueur and nutty oak aromas, with hints of pepper and licorice. Suave, minerally and tight; distinctly less fleshy today than the Gattera but with more thrust and energy. Then subtly sweet and long on the back end, with very fine tannins. Solidly structured Barolo that seems more youthfully unevolved than the Gattera. **90(+?) points**

2001 Revello Barolo Conca: Red-ruby. Raspberry, plum, cedar, mocha and menthol on the nose. Sweet and perfumed but tight and dominated by its structure. In a rather clenched style that I would not have identified as coming from La Morra. Not yet expressive (today the 2000 version is more satisfying) but boasts excellent vinosity and grip. Finishes firmly tannic and persistent, with finishing notes of marzipan, spice and flowers. **90(+?) points**

2001 Revello Barolo Rocche dell'Annunziata: Full ruby-red. Deep, vinous aromas of dark fruits, licorice, menthol, white truffle and underbrush; less reserved than the Conca but still quite primary. Lush on entry, then big, sweet and rich, with liqueur-like ripeness and great mouthfilling texture. But this is also quite youthful and laid-back, and possesses superb backbone. Finishes with terrific length and noble, horizontal tannins that spread out to saturate the palate. These 2001s promise to be the best set of Barolos to date from this producer. **92(+?) points**



2000 Revello Barolo: Medium red. Aromatic nose of raspberry, sandalwood, smoke, cedar and menthol. On the lean side, and slightly minty. Not particularly tannic, but owing to the wine's modest flesh and sweetness the finish comes across as a bit dry. **86 points**

2000 Revello Barolo Vigna Gattera: Good deep red. Fruitier aromas of raspberry and spiced meats. Juicy, bright red berry flavors complicated by minty and saline nuances. More primary and a bit denser than the regular Barolo. Here the tannins are also a tad dry, but hit the palate later. **89 points**

2000 Revello Barolo Giachini: Medium red. Complex nose melds smoke, flint, minerals, dried flowers and menthol. Lush and sweet, but with a light touch. Lively flavors of strawberry and minerals. Finishes with fine-grained tannins and lingering sweetness and minerality. This needs three or four years of additional cellaring. **90(+?) points**

2000 Revello Barolo Conca: Good deep red. Ripe aromas of strawberry syrup and baking spices, with a subtle floral overlay. The fullest, broadest and sweetest of this set of 2000s, with very ripe flavors of strawberry syrup and nutmeg. This is 14.8% alcohol, vs. 14.5% for the estate's other 2000 Barolos, yet the wine does not come off as heavy. Finishes with big, chewy tannins and excellent length. **91 points**

2000 Revello Barolo Rocche dell'Annunziata: Good dark red. Subtly complex aromas of currant, mocha, menthol and nutmeg. Very ripe for this bottling but without quite the floral perfume and lift of the 2001. Dominated today by a sappy spiciness. A bit subdued in the middle palate, and yet this is rather approachable today. Finishes with slightly dusty tannins. (Marc de Grazia; numerous importers, including Michael Skurnik Wines, Syosset, NY; Vin Divino, Chicago, IL; and Estate Wines Ltd., San Rafael, CA) **90(+?)? points**

Luciano Sandrone, Barolo

2002 Luciano Sandrone Barolo Le Vigne: Medium red. High-pitched, perfumed aromas of blackberry, raspberry, licorice and baking spices. Fairly rich and suave, but less fleshy and deep than usual for a Barolo from this superlative producer. Could use a bit more generosity. Finishes with a firm acid/tannin backbone. Sandrone reportedly made barely one-third of a normal crop from these vines in 2002. **87-89 points**

2001 Luciano Sandrone Barolo Le Vigne: Deep red-ruby. Very closed, extremely primary nose hints at black fruits. Impressively rich, dense and large-scaled, with great sweetness and pliancy in the middle palate. Offers outstanding palate presence without coming off as heavy. Finishes with huge, horizontal, rather muscular tannins and an austere suggestion of menthol. With time in the glass, this classy wine turned increasingly clenched on the back end. I would not be surprised to see this wine go into a shell for several years. But it may well merit a score in the mid-90s when it emerges. **92+ points**



2001 Luciano Sandrone Barolo Cannubi Boschis: Deep ruby-red. Deep, pure aromas of red and black fruits, licorice and smoky oak. Supersweet and wonderfully deep, with extremely primary dark fruit and camphor flavors. Offers compelling breadth and palate coverage, not to mention impeccable balance. Seamless and complex. Perhaps best today on the slow-building, palate-staining finish, which features extremely fine tannins. One of my early favorites from this outstanding vintage. This has fruit of steel. **97 points**

2000 Luciano Sandrone Barolo Le Vigne: Medium red. Perfumed, expansive nose offers subtle red fruits, licorice, menthol and spices. Lush, sweet, full and mellow, with a dominant flavor of strawberry. Rich and seamless in the style of the vintage's best examples, without loss of definition or freshness. Finishes suave and sweet, with very fine tannins and lovely persistence. **92 points**



2000 Luciano Sandrone Barolo Cannubi Boschis: Saturated deep red. Less expressive on the nose than Le Vigne, hinting at blackberry, flowers and smoky oak. Suave on entry, then quite closed in the middle palate; less obviously lush and sweet than Le Vigne but more gripping. Then very strong on the back end, building impressively and demonstrating a serious tannic structure that transcends the vintage. Built to age. (Marc de Grazia; numerous importers, including Michael Skurnik Wines, Syosset, NY; Vin Divino, Chicago, IL; and Estate Wines Ltd., San Rafael, CA) **93(+?) points**

Sottimano, Neive

2002 Sottimano Barbaresco Fausoni Vigna del salto: Deep red. Musky red berries and espresso on the nose. Supple and broad, with plum, chocolate and smoke flavor framed by edgy acidity. Finishes with moderately ripe, dusty tannins that turned a bit dry with aeration. **86 points**

2002 Sottimano Barbaresco Pajore Vigneta Lunetta: Medium red. Vibrant aromas of redcurrant, tobacco and flowers. Sweet, juicy and on the lean side, but with a better balance of acids to fruit than the Fausoni. Tannins are a bit tough but avoid dryness. **87 points**



2002 Sottimano Barbaresco Curra Mause: Good bright, full red. Dusty redcurrant, plum and spices on the nose. Supple but with modest stuffing, offering hints of mint and herbs. With limited mid-palate material, the finish shows some drying tannins. **85 points**

2002 Sottimano Barbaresco Cotta Brichet: Good bright, full ruby-red. Complex nose combines dark berries, plum, game, earth, mocha and menthol. The richest, densest and fleshiest of these 2002s, with good breadth and sweetness in the middle palate. In a distinctly modern style, with chocolatey new oak showing. Finishes with building dusty tannins that avoid dryness. Very good for the year. Sottimano is one of the few Barbaresco producers who will offer a full line-up of cru bottlings from the 2002 vintage. **89 points**

2001 Sottimano Barbaresco Pajore Vigneta Lunetta: Full, bright red. Explosive, deep aromas of redcurrant, raspberry, smoke, tar, game and leather. Supple and creamy but firm, with solid underlying mineral spine and a tarry nuance. Finishes with substantial tooth-dusting tannins. **91 points**

2001 Sottimano Barbaresco Fausoni Vigna del salto: Medium red. Aromas of redcurrant and nutty oak, with enticing floral lift. Sweet, fat and concentrated; as creamy as the Pajore but also deeper and more vibrant, with a more layered texture. Red berry flavors are nicely complemented and lifted by spicy oak. Finishes with substantial tooth-coating tannins. **92 points**

2001 Sottimano Barbaresco Curra Mause: Full, bright red. Aromatic nose of cherry and rose petal. Lush, full and low-toned, but light on its feet thanks to lively baking spices and firm underlying minerality. Very long on the finish, with the tooth-coating tannins currently showing a slight dryness. **90(+?)? points**

2001 Sottimano Barbaresco Cotta Brichet: Good, bright red. Raspberry, coffee and smoky, nutty oak on the nose. Plummy and glycerol-rich, with sweet, somewhat wild flavors of plum, minerals and oak. Quite velvety in texture, with just enough mid-palate verve. Finishes with substantial oak tannins. **91 points**