

Cavallotto

2016

It's nice to see Cavallotto finally getting some serious recognition. This small, organic, family-run property has been making stellar wines for quite some time, but for some reason the outside world has only caught on relatively recently. The Cavallotto Barolos seem to just keep getting better and better with each passing vintage. This venerable, family-run estate in Castiglione Falletto is a great source for reasonably priced Barolos that will age several decades easily.

The wine critic and author of one of the reference books on the region (Barolo and Barbaresco, the king and queen of Italian wine), Kerin O'Keefe, has just reviewed the 2016 Barolo's for Wine Enthusiast and awarded Cavallotto's 2016 Barolo Bricco Boschis 99 Points.

To give you some idea of how good the 2016 Bricco Boschis is, she scored the 2016 Barolo Monvigliero from G.B. Burlotto the same score (99 Points) – a wine Antonio Galloni awarded 100 Points, and that sells for in excess of £1,500 / 6 IB.

"Cavallotto may very well be the greatest Barolo producer few people have ever heard of, something that continues to mystify me." **Antonio Galloni**

2016 Barolo Bricco Boschis

£264 c/s In Bond (6 bts per case)

£100 c/s In Bond (OWC per magnum)



The Cavallotto family claims sole ownership of the beautiful Bricco Boschis cru in the Castiglione Falletto district, where they have been growing Nebbiolo since 1929 and bottling their own wine since 1948. These richly structured wines place emphasis on elegance and longevity, attributable to excellent vineyards in the Bricco Boschis cru and traditional long maturation periods in large Slavonian-oak casks. The land has been organically farmed since the 1970s. Cavallotto divides Bricco Boschis into three parcels: two plots are blended to make the flagship Bricco Boschis Barolo, but the third plot, Vigna San Giuseppe, is also designated and bottled as a single cru riserva.

Aromas of woodland berry, underbrush, hazelnut and camphor form the nose along with a whiff of rose petal on this captivating, delicious wine. The full-bodied structured palate is still young and primary but already shows raspberry compote, ripe Marasca cherry, star anise, tobacco and the barest hint of game. Tightly knit noble tannins and fresh acidity provide the firm frame and impart serious aging potential. Hold for even more complexity. Drink 2026–2056.
99 Points, Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast

All of these wines from Cavallotto deliver a very floral and perfumed subtext that gives lift and delicate buoyancy to the overall bouquet. This is the Castiglione Falletto magic that shows so well in this classic vintage. The 2016 Barolo Bricco Boschis offers dried cherry, sandalwood, bramble and forest floor. The wine reveals a slightly wild and untamed character that adds to its interest and personality. Overall, this is an elegant wine with a streamlined and elegant finish. The aromas are focused and bright. I can't wait to taste the Riserva expression from this site when it is released in three years' time.

98 Points, Monica Lerner, Wine Advocate

Cavallotto 2013 Riservas

The Barolo Riserva Bricco Boschis vigna San Giuseppe is the jewel of this property, coming from a vineyard of old vines in the heart of the Bricco Boschis vineyard.

The vine material comes from old clones and is probably the source of the distinctive flavour of this wine. As usual, it is made in a style that is rich and structured, which demands some time in bottle in order to yield its best drinkability. It is an age-worthy Barolo that Piemonte lovers know to buy and cellar.

"Alessandro Ceretto's 2016 Barolos have turned out beautifully. Gracious and elegant wines, the 2016s capture the personality of the year and of each site. Ceretto describes 2016 as a year with very even weather and a regular ripening pattern. The approach remains as it has been for the last few years. Sustainable farming, spontaneous fermentations and two years in wood are the norm for wines that are now much more translucent and classic in feel than they were some years ago." **Antonio Galloni**

2013 Barolo Riserva Bricco Boschis vigna San Giuseppe

£570 c/s In Bond (6 bts per case)

£210 c/s In Bond (OWC per magnum)

£420 c/s In Bond (OWC per double magnum)



The estate's selection of the finest vineyard within the Bricco Boschis cru is San Giuseppe, the epitome of Castiglione Falletto: a powerful, majestic wine of absolute authority whose sweetness comes with time. 100% Nebbiolo grown in calcareous clay soils. The grapes are macerated on the skins in steel vats for 26 days; the wine is then aged in Slovenian oak casks of different capacity for 4 years. 1500 cases produced.

The Cavallotto 2013 Barolo Riserva Bricco Boschis Vigna San Giuseppe feels magically cool even as the wine warms in the glass. Eucalyptus, menthol and medicinal herbs rise from the bouquet, with dark fruit and savory spice in tow. When you first open the bottle, it shows a distinct mineral character with crushed aspirin, limestone and graphite. I opened a second bottle a few days before this tasting and had both bottles side by side to compare. Both showed impressive results with a pristine level of focus, sharpness and linearity. With aeration, those dark fruit nuances come to the forefront, showing dried cherry, plum and candied orange peel. A few hours later, you pick up on leather, tobacco and cedar wood. This is a fluid and ever-changing wine that is well worth adding to your cellar selection. What a beauty!

99 Points, Monica Lerner, Wine Advocate

The 2013 Barolo Riserva Bricco Boschis Vigna San Giuseppe is fabulous. The aromatics alone are thrilling. This is what Barolo is all about. Rose petal, holiday spice cake, leather, blood orange and macerated cherry abound. Silky and powerful, the 2013 shows tons of density on the palate and yet remains light on its feet for such a big wine. The wine's sensuality offers a mirage of accessibility, but the 2013 is best cellared for at least a handful of years. There is nothing like Barolo, and this is a terrific example. The 2013 saw 36-38 days on the skins followed by five years in cask, with a preference for larger and more neutral oak that allows for a more gradual pace of aging in the cellar than smaller casks.

96 Points, Antonio Galloni

2013 Barolo Riserva Vignolo

£520 c/s In Bond (6 bts per case)



The Riserva Vignolo is from a different hill in Castiglione Falletto than the Bricco Boschis site where the Cantina sits. It is a deep and powerful wine, with incredible fruit intensity. Again this is made in a traditional age-worthy style with a structure that requires some bottle aging for best results. This is another long-lasting Riserva from Cavallotto and one that will reward patience.

The 2013 Barolo Riserva Vignolo surprises for the sheer darkness and saturation of its color. Upfront and without too much bother, the wine offers immediate richness and concentration with dark berry fruit, plum and dried cherry. There is a lot of intensity here, but the wine is more horizontal and broad in character than it is vertical per se. In other words, it shows a heavy center of gravity, and its very character is focused on richness and power. This wine ages in 20- and 100-hectoliter Slavonian oak botti for up to five years before its commercial release. Production is exactly 6,666 bottles.
95 Points, Monica Lerner, Wine Advocate

A big, dense wine the 2013 Barolo Riserva Vignolo is going to need quite a bit of time to be at its best. Today, it is decidedly dark and brooding. Black cherry, smoke, licorice, iron, leather and spice add to that impression. Time in the glass brings out a super-classic profile of rose petal and tar, but the 2013 remains quite imposing. I can't remember a Vignolo with this much sheer brawn. Readers will have to be patient, but there is certainly plenty to look forward to. The 2013 saw 36-38 days on the skins followed by five years in cask, with a preference for larger and more neutral oak that allows for a more gradual pace of aging in the cellar than smaller casks.

94 Points, Antonio Galloni