

## Elio Grasso

### 2016

For those who have not been following the critics and press, 2016 is being described as the 'Vintage of a Generation' for Barolo, this is not a Bordeaux En-Primeur hype, where every vintage is described as 'great', but every producer we spoke to when we were there described it as having perfect growing conditions, possibly a once in lifetime vintage.

*"In so many ways, 2016 is all about being in the right place at the right time for Barolo. An ideal growing season with all the prerequisites for a great vintage comes at a time when so many winemakers are in their primes, past the stage of experimentation and settled into their own personal styles. The result is a vintage full of truly spectacular, breathtaking wines that captures all the pedigree that Nebbiolo and Barolo are capable of."* **Antonio Galloni**

*"Barolo 2016s show the same tendency as 2010: across the board there is no mediocre wine to be found and the best producers have excelled themselves. The secret to all this splendour is the regular 2016 growing season, one without any extremes. The warm, dry September continued into October, but with much colder nights, and with temperatures dipping below 10 °C. This guaranteed a slow and steady ripening of Nebbiolo. With little or no rain, producers could literally pick their harvest date rather than being rushed into the vineyards lest the first autumn rains dilute the grapes."* **Walter Speller, JancisRobinson.com**

*"2016 is the vintage we are all waiting for, the season was one of the longest ever, from bud break to the harvest. The season started early, because of a mild winter, while spring was cold and rainy, and the maturation started to slow down. Even from the earliest moments, each cru showed their clear differences due to different terroirs. This was the signal that led me consider the 2016 a beautiful vintage ... when each MGA is showing exactly what you expect. The 2016 is a vintage that I suggest to the Barolo lovers not to miss For me, 2016 is just a perfection of the beautiful Nebbiolo balance - it's like a beautiful opera ballerina dancer: all the movements are just perfect and graceful, I think it will not be easy to match a mix of crus like this in the future, since there are at least two of them I can consider the best I did in my 30-year career."* **Luca Currado, Vietti**

***In short, 2016 offered growers the opportunity of producing top-quality wines, at least equal to the outstanding 2015s, against which, like 1989 and 1990, they will be inevitably compared in decades to come – these are must haves for your cellar!***

#### **2016 Barolo Ginestra Casa Matè**

**£375 c/s In Bond** (6 bts per case)

**£130 c/s In Bond** (3 Magnums per case)

***A south facing vineyard with vines planted 40 years ago, Ginestra's vineyards are situated between 300 and 350 meters (984 and 1,148 feet) above sea level and the calcareous soil has more clay than Gavarini, producing wines with more structure and tannic backbone.***



**The wine immediately grabs you with a powerful nose of dark fruit, lengthened by spices and mint. Still tightly wound, as this vineyard always takes a little longer to express itself, the wine clearly shows a complex and layered flavour profile.**

**The tannins are super fine and the depth of the wine draws you in. I can wait to taste this in a few years, it's a fabulous epoch-making wine.**

The Elio Grasso 2016 Barolo Ginestra Casa Maté starts off a bit shy, or closed, and I was never fully able to get the wine to open. I decanted two bottles and went back over the course of a few days to check on their progress. That said, the wine never let its guard down. It remained super tight and compact over the course of my long evaluation. Given the care and reputation of this estate, I'm betting on a very long cellar evolution for this bottle. With fruit from a three-hectare plot in Ginestra, it offers beautiful structure with integrated acidity and tannins. The mouthfeel is gorgeous, but I wish the wine would offer more on the bouquet. Red fruit and wild berry are followed by grilled herb, crushed flower and dried lilac. The aromatic playlist is subtle and hushed. An ample 20,000 bottles were produced, and I hope to encounter this wine again sometime in the future when it has evolved.

**97 Points, Monica Lerner, Wine Advocate**

The 2016 Barolo Gavarini Chiniera is a vibrant, massively tannic, austere wine, the likes of which I have never tasted here before. Vertical and explosive in the glass with tons of pure power, the 2016 Gavarini Chiniera is a gorgeous Barolo that is going to need a number of years to be at its best. Swaths of tannin wrap around a core of sweet red cherry fruit. White pepper, mint, orange peel and floral notes develop a bit later, but the 2016 remains reticent and inward, with brilliant acids and tannins that dominate today. The 2016 is a striking wine, but it is going to require considerable patience.

**96+ Points, Antonio Galloni**

## **2016 Barolo Gavarini Chiniera**

**£375 c/s In Bond** (6 bts per case)

**£130 per Magnum In Bond** (1 Magnum per case)

***A south facing vineyard with vines planted 35 years ago, located between 320 and 360 meters (1,050 and 1,181 feet) above sea level. Chiniera has calcareous and slightly sandy soils, yielding an exquisite, floral Barolo of remarkable finesse.***

***Ample, full-bodied and rich on the palate, yet it retains its explosive floral lift and brightness, two of the signatures that are the calling cards of Barolos from this Monforte site.***

**This wine always explodes out of the glass and this vintage it will subjugate you. You can't put the glass down as it keeps sending out incredible aromas. On the palate it is bright but incredibly complex, with a more red fruit character with incredible purity. But it's not just raspberry or redcurrant, but complex spicy aromas of cherry, pomegranate, blood orange, you name it!**

**I love how these two wines are made exactly the same but are very different. This one will captivate you from the get go and evolve with grace for a long time. Don't miss!**

The Elio Grasso 2016 Barolo Gavarini Chiniera is immediately expressive and bright. The wine is savory and rich with a generous bouquet of dried berries, spice, crushed flowers and even a hint of market-fresh blueberry that we don't see in the other wines. The bouquet moves toward balsam notes with mint and rosemary the longer it stays in the glass. I also get anise flower and fresh licorice root as a pretty signature on the close. With aging in large Slavonian oak casks, the tannic integration is spot-on and so is the freshness and purity of those beautiful Nebbiolo nuances. Some 20,000 bottles were released.

**98 Points, Monica Lerner, Wine Advocate**



Ample and creamy on the palate, with tremendous depth, the 2016 Barolo Ginestra Casa Matè is super impressive, even in the early going. Next to the Gavarini Chiniera, the Ginestra Casa Matè is a Barolo of textural resonance and volume. Black cherry, plum and a range of balsamic notes infuse the 2016 with tons of character. The is one of the real standouts of the year.

**97 Points, Antonio Galloni**

## 2013 Barolo Rùncot Riserva

*"I found my darling wine of the year, the Elio Grasso 2013 Barolo Riserva Rùncot, reviewed here with a perfect 100-point score.*

*It will be a while before this wine hits the market in February of next year, but I can't recommend it highly enough."*

**Monica Lerner**

### 2013 Barolo Rùncot Riserva

**£500 c/s In Bond** (3 bts per case, OWC)

**£375 per Magnum In Bond** (1 Magnum per case, OWC)



***In outstanding vintages Elio Grasso produces a Riserva from the Rùncot vineyard in the larger Gavarini cru. This is aged between forty and forty-three months in 228-liter French barriques and seamlessly combines power and grace.***

If any Italian wine from this decade can undeniably be called a reserve, it is the 2013 Barolo Riserva Rùncot. This wine was not made in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017 nor 2018. (The 2013 vintage will be released commercially in February of 2020, and this is the wine's first official review.) Gianluca Grasso holds the precious bottle I tasted from as if it were a newborn child. This vintage saw a relatively long growing season, and it offers greater fruit density, structure and acidity than the last edition that was made, the 2010. There is more vibrancy here and a true sense of energy brimming right there under the surface. The wine goes through 45 days of extended maceration post-fermentation and then a solid seven years of aging between oak and bottle. The resulting Riserva Rùncot has a stunning bouquet that is all violets and prunes, followed by a classic palate of minerals, herbs, cinnamon and delicate wafts of white truffle. This wine tells a story from nose to finish, like a flashing film reel. Fewer than 5,000 bottles were made. This is a crowning achievement for the hard-working and passionate Grasso family, led by father Elio and son Gianluca. Congratulations.

**100 Points, Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate**

*Offered subject to remaining unsold and final written confirmation.*

*Delivery will be charged at cost.*

*Wines to be shipped late 2020.*