

G.D. Vajra

2016

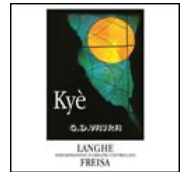
Aldo Vajra's wines are characterised by pristine flavours and clearly defined perfumes. These characters are attributable to the position of his vineyards at about 400 metres above sea level in the village of Vergne in the commune of Barolo. G.D. Vajra was established in 1972 and named after Aldo's father, Giuseppe Domenico Vajra. Aldo has been gradually increasing the area under vine to 60 hectares, of which 10 are Nebbiolo for Barolo, located in such strategic spots as Bricco delle Viole, Fossati, La Volta and Coste di Vergne. A traditionalist, Aldo adheres to old-style winemaking methods, though blends these with new techniques, such as temperature-controlled fermentation, to produce such superbly elegant wines.

"The Vajra family has turned out a magnificent set of Barolos at both their own winery and at Baudana. Harvest wrapped up on October 22, very late by present day standards, and ideal for wines that emphasize purity of fruit. As always, the Barolos are all about finesse and nuance, very much like an artists' pencil etchings, where all the lines are totally delineated. Most importantly, the Vajra's have developed a personal style that melds classicism with a level of approachability that makes these wines so alluring, even upon release." **Antonio Galloni**

**Please note that the 2016 Barolo Ravera & Bricco delle Viole cannot be purchased on their own, they must be supported on a 1:1 basis with either 2016 Langhe Freisa Kyè, Barolo Albe or Coste di Rose.*

2016 Langhe Freisa Kyè

£115 c/s In Bond (6 bts per case)



In 2004, Freisa was discovered to be the closest relative to Nebbiolo, thus explaining the deep bond this variety has with Piemonte and its people. With a noble profile and similar characteristics to the Nebbiolo, Vajra have been bottling a dry Freisa ever since 1989. Kyè means "who is it?" and represents the surprise for this indigenous and forgotten grape. Once again, Vajra has taken this typically rustic native grape to a level previously unmatched.

I have a thing for the Freisa grape and am very excited to be in front of this sample. The 2016 Langhe Freisa Kyè is named after a colloquial phrasing of the question "who is it?" (or "chi è?" in Italian), underlining some of the mystery and allure surrounding this native grape. Freisa is a local favorite, but it is relatively unknown outside of Piedmont. This expression from the fine team at G.D. Vajra opens to a nicely saturated color with dark ruby or garnet highlights. The bouquet offers black cherry, dark fruit and accents of spice or white pepper. Primary fruit is the protagonist and so is that pretty freshness. Fruit comes from vineyards planted closest to the winery at the lower part of Bricco delle Viole. The wine is fermented in stainless steel (to lock in those fresh berry aromas) and is aged in large Slavonian oak casks for 26 months. A mere 6,000 bottles were released in May 2020.

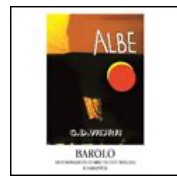
92 Points, Monica Lerner, Wine Advocate

2016 Barolo Albe

£150 c/s In Bond (6 bts per case)

If you were to consider the entire portfolio of wines made in the Barolo appellation, this wine always stands in its own little corner. Albe is a brand on its own, and it represents one of the most versatile, accessible and well-priced Baroli to emerge from the appellation. The G.D. Vajra 2016 Barolo Albe sets off on the right foot, offering forthcoming intensity with forest fruit, wild cherry, crushed stone and blue flowers. Winemaking is straightforward in stainless steel, and the wine finishes in Slavonian oak casks. Some 40,000 bottles are hitting the market now.

94 Points, Monica Larner, Wine Advocate

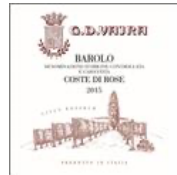


2016 Barolo Coste di Rose

£270 c/s In Bond (6 bts per case)

The 2016 Barolo Coste di Rose is plump, juicy and forward - all qualities that make it one of the more approachable wines in the Vajra range. Plump dark cherry, plum, licorice, spice and menthol all flesh out in a racy, juicy Barolo that will drink well right out of the gate. Plush fruit and silky tannins add to the wine's voluptuous feel and early accessibility. This is very good, but it is not particularly complex.

94 Points, Antonio Galloni



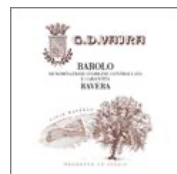
** Please balance your order with wines above*

2016 Barolo Ravera

£325 c/s In Bond (6 bts per case)

The 2016 Barolo Ravera is tough as nails today, but it has striking inner sweetness and remarkable persistence. Even so, readers will have to exercise a great deal of patience, as the 2016 is not likely to offer much in the way of pleasure for a number of years. Bright red cherry, mint, white pepper, blood orange and dried flowers give the 2016 brilliant top notes to match its finely sculpted feel. Veins of acidity and tannin add razor-sharp precision throughout. I can't wait to taste this in another few years' time.

96 Points, Antonio Galloni



2016 Barolo Bricco delle Viole

£395 c/s In Bond (6 bts per case)

£145 per Magnum In Bond (1 Magnum per case, OWC)

From the Bricco delle Viole cru, or the vineyard most strongly associated with this historic estate, this is a versatile or "evergreen" wine that always delivers consistent results. The G.D. Vajra 2016 Barolo Bricco delle Viole sees fruit from a seven-hectare vineyard with high exposures positioned at 400 to 480 meters above sea level. This site shows characteristic Tortonian-era soils classified as Sant'Agata marl with fossils. These soils have an enormous capacity to regulate the ripening process, resulting in the longer growing seasons relished by the Nebbiolo grape. In a word, the profile here is classic. You get delicate fruit tones and wild rose with camphor ash, licorice and tar. The wine is beautifully harmonious and ethereal. Some 15,000 bottles are hitting the market now.

98 Points, Monica Larner, Wine Advocate



Offered subject to remaining unsold and final written confirmation.

Delivery will be charged at cost.

Wines to be shipped late 2020.