

Angelo Gaja 2016

“The young 2016 Barbarescos are some of the most compelling young wines I have tasted in twenty years of visiting the region. Many of the 2016s are still in barrel, but the picture that is starting to emerge from wines I tasted in bottle and cask is of a very high quality vintage with the potential to be truly extraordinary.”

Antonio Galloni

2016 is shaping up to be ‘a once in a lifetime vintage’ in Piemonte – these are truly spectacular wines!

The ‘entry level’ Barbaresco scored 96 Points, the joint highest score it has ever achieved – matching the legendary 1989 & 1990 vintages.



2016 Barbaresco

£800 per case In Bond (6 bottles per case)

£825 per case In Bond (12 halves per case)

£850 per case In Bond (3 magnums per case)

£865 per Double Magnum (3L) In Bond (1 Double Magnum per case)

I tasted this wine over two sittings, one at the winery and one at my home office a few weeks later. Although I can't claim any extraordinary differences between the two sessions, I noticed a few minimal shifts that are essential to understanding the wine's future aging ability. The 2016 Barbaresco starts off slow at first, showing a small margin of aromatic evolution in the glass. But come back two hours later, and you can almost hear the soft sounds of the symphony playing just below the surface. The 2016 vintage is characterized by the solid intensity and firmness of its aromas, which transcend fruit and veer toward balsamic herb, licorice, tar and smoke instead. The tannins offer a moment of sweetness and softness, before you are aware of their undeniable firmness. In all, there is a certain glossiness or satiny quality to the mouthfeel that underlines the wine's carefully crafted integration. I would describe this as a classic and also a somewhat austere Barbaresco that fully deserves extra cellar time to stretch those tight muscles and grow in volume. This wine will award those who wait.

96 Points, Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate

Special Offer – buy a case of each single vineyard Barbaresco for £1,995 per case In Bond (saving £600)

2016 Barbaresco Costa Russi

£2,195 per case In Bond (6 bottles per case)

£750 per Magnum In Bond (1 Magnum per case)

£1,630 per Double Magnum 3L In Bond (1 Double Magnum per case)

The 2016 Barbaresco Costa Russi is a very botanical wine in terms of its aromas, with lovely perfumes of rose, elderflower, sambuco and anise seed, along with a touch of glycerine. It then follows up with some sweetness that feels very embracing in this wine. This is the more ephemeral, delicate and floral member of the extended Barbaresco family from Gaja, with a crunchy tannic bite, but nothing too severe. There is a really good vitality and energy to this very expressive wine. Costa Russi remains the smallest of Gaja's single-vineyard wines, and Gaia Gaja warns that there will be considerably less of it starting with the 2017 vintage. Production for this wine had always varied greatly to begin with, due in part to the fragile nature of the 80-year-old vines, but about half of those were removed and replanted. It will be a while before the new vines are old enough to go online. So, with some 10,000 bottles made in 2016 and 6,000 bottles in 2015, we can count on those numbers to be split by half over the next three to four years, for sure.

96+ Points, Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate

2016 Barbaresco Sorì Tildìn

£2,195 per case In Bond (6 bottles per case)

Here's a wonderfully spicy and opulent rendition of Nebbiolo and another very full and rich Barbaresco from Gaja. The 2016 Barbaresco Sorì Tildìn is open, more concentrated and structured. There are pretty floral notes of rose hip or wild rose in this generous wine of broad scope. We're talking about smaller fruit here, with plums, cassis, blackberry and plenty of power. Everything came to perfect maturity in this 2016 vintage, representing that rare merge of quantity and quality. This is what you get from the dense soils of the warm, south-facing Sorì Tildìn site and similar ones where the terrain can keep the moisture locked in. The 2016 growing season was also marked by sharp diurnal shifts, and rainfall was well-timed to occur when it was needed most.

97 Points, Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate

2016 Barbaresco Sorì San Lorenzo

£2,195 per case In Bond (6 bottles per case)

If the Barbaresco Costa Russi expresses itself with purity and grace, the 2016 Barbaresco Sorì San Lorenzo struts out stacked and tall. It has firmer textural support and is not as timid or as withholding as the Costa Russi. The Sorì San Lorenzo site is located closest to the warm air currents that travel down the Tanaro River valley, and this vineyard site is always the first to ripen and be harvested. You get a stronger mineral note here with iron rust, pencil shaving and potting soil intertwined with the primary fruit, showing dazzlingly intricate complexity and depth. This vineyard site suffered in the 2017 vintage from some hail damage that hit on July 19. The quality of fruit is expected to be good, Gaia Gaja tells me, but yields will be reduced next year.

98 Points, Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate