

Giuseppe Mascarello

2016

The estate of Giuseppe Mascarello e Figlio has a long and illustrious history in Piemonte, and is unequivocally one of the greatest Barolo producers. This traditionally-styled winery is now run by Mauro Mascarello, who is the fourth generation of the family to head the domaine.

Mauro Mascarello is often described as “an enlightened traditionalist” when it comes to his winemaking approach. Now assisted ably by his son Giuseppe, there are no new French oak barrels or roto-fermenters to be found in the Mascarellos’ cellars, as the wines continue to be made in the old Slavonian oak botti (very large casks) purchased by his father in the 1950s. The Barolos (there are now a handful of different vineyard-designated bottlings) are macerated for about thirty days during fermentation (down from sixty days back in the old days), raised for approximately three and a half years in old wood, and then bottled unfined and unfiltered. Unerringly they are always amongst the finest examples of their respective vintages, which blossom after six to ten years of bottle age and evolve brilliantly over the ensuing twenty-five to forty years.

From Castiglione Falletto, the Barolo Villero is a fine and elegant wine that reflects the delicate and floral nature of the loose and white soils that characterize the Villero cru. At 22 hectares, this vineyard is farmed by many different producers, and 11 unique labels carry the Villero designation in the Barolo appellation. More than power, this wine offers elegance and finesse with light mineral touches that are followed by rose hip and dried lavender.

2016 Barolo Villero @ £430 c/s In Bond

3 cases available (6 bts per case)

A touch of earth and mushroom initially on the nose but with air resplendent summer strawberry fruit start to glimmer through. Bright but quite gentle to begin with, this grows gradually in stature in the glass. Floral and velvety, this has an initial elegance that belies its eventual complexity. This feels more grounded, deeper and overall more complete than ever before, a nice structure giving direction to the typically “Villero” aromatics. A large south-west facing vineyard within the Castiglione Falletto commune where the soils can vary a lot. By and large it is clay dominant. However Mascarello have a particularly sandy parcel, giving the resulting wine a tendency towards softness and floral fruit. Aged for 36 months in large oak vats.



Nebbiolo grapes, from the Santo Stefano vineyard in Perno in Monforte d'Alba. The soil is Clayey-sandy, calcareous, composed of brown clay and grey sand of marine origin. The grapes are harvested by hand in the first two weeks in October. The wine is aged in large Slovenian oak casks for 36 months. This Barolo offers big, bold dark fruit flavours, accented by aromas of violets, menthol and sweet spices. This vineyard has been owned by the Mascarello family since 1989.

2016 Barolo Santa Stefano di Perno @ £430 c/s In Bond
5 cases available (6 bts per case)

Very different to the ethereal Monprivato. Meaty and earthier with lots of spice. A savoury, sapid hint of pine, mixed with forest berry and peppercorn characteristics. Robust, and satisfying, a typically deep structured but very complete Perno. A west-south west facing vineyard from the Monforte d'Alba commune with more clay in its soils than Monprivato that produces powerful, muscular Barolos typical of the area. Aged for 36 months large oak vats.



The Monprivato vineyard is universally recognized as one of the greatest vineyards in all of Barolo (it would be a grand cru on par with a Chambertin or a Richebourg if this were Burgundy), with the name of Mascarello always tied to the greatest expressions of Monprivato. The six hectare Monprivato vineyard is beautifully situated facing southwest, in the town of Castiglione Falletto. The Mascarellos now own all of Monprivato (having purchased small plots from a couple of neighbours in the period between 1985 and 1990), making this great site now a monopole along the lines of La Tâche.

2016 Barolo Monprivato @ £720 c/s In Bond
10 cases available (6 bts per case)

Bright, silky and fragrant wild red berry fruits. Lots of expression and a stellar balance – crisp, tight and complex but with energy and intensity. This is deep and ethereal. Packed full of fruit and spice but, with great freshness too, and more precise, crisper tannins than we can ever recall in a young Monprivato. The best young vintage we have tasted. A Castiglione Falletto vineyard that is one of the finest, most hallowed plots in the whole of Barolo. A steep south west facing vineyard with a very white limestone based soil that gives profound, mineral wines. Aged for 36 months in large oak vats.



*Offered subject to remaining unsold and final written confirmation.
Wines available Autumn 2020.
Delivery will be charged at cost.*