

Paolo Scavino 2017

These represent outstanding value for money, given the quality of the wines and corresponding scores – they deserve a special place in your cellar.

The Scavino estate is one of Piedmont's finest with holdings in Barolo's greatest Crus: Bric del Fiasc and Monvigliero. Enrico Scavino is one of the pioneers responsible for the great reputation Piedmont has today. Since the 1980s he has been crafting benchmark modern Barolo. Through high fermentation temperatures, short maceration and finishing in a mixture of French oak barriques and the larger traditional 'Botti' casks, Enrico makes svelte wines whose polish and sophistication enhance rather than shroud their character and typicity.

Since the two daughters, Elisa & Enrica, became involved they have been reducing the oak and using more traditional vinification techniques, and the wines have only gotten better.

Elisa Scavino began some interesting and exciting trials in 2016 with open top, tronconic wooden fermentation vats. The guinea pig was Ravera, half produced in this new but traditional way and half with the more typically Scavino roto-fermenters. The results are extremely promising, yielding a wine of great vitality and translucency.

Critics have started to notice, Scavino 2017's are some of the finest from the region.

2017 Barolo Ravera

£270 c/s In Bond – 10 cases available (6 bottles per case)

Located in Monforte d'Alba, this very steep slope faces south and southeast and has combination soils of calcareous marls and clay layered with veins of sand, the vines here generate concentrated flavours and remarkable depth.

The 2017 Barolo Ravera is dazzling. Deep, potent and virile, the 2017 has a lot to say, but it won't be ready to drink anytime soon. Black cherry, graphite, licorice, smoke, game, lavender and licorice convey a real impression of gravitas that is reinforced by the wine's overall feel. This powerhouse Barolo is magnificent today in a sort of old-school meets new-school style.

96 Points, Antonio Galloni

2017 Barolo Prapò

£270 c/s In Bond – 5 cases available (6 bottles per case)

This is a classic Barolo with firm but fine tannins and expressive bouquets. Prapò's southeast exposure helps keep the vines fresh as does the average altitude of 340 meters, where day and night temperature changes create complexity and depth.

The 2017 Barolo Prapò is yet another stellar wine in this range. Dark and brooding in the glass, the Prapò expresses all of the natural weight of this Serralunga cru, but with more overt fruit and a bit less tannic heft than is often the case. That should make the 2017 a real pleasure to drink, with just a handful of years in the cellar. Succulent black cherry, licorice, menthol, gravel and cured meats build into the heady finish.

95+ Points, Antonio Galloni

2017 Barolo Bric dël Fiasc

£360 c/s In Bond – 10 cases available (6 bottles per case)

£130 per magnum In Bond – 3 magnums available (individual cases of 1 magnum)

This is the darling of the house of Scavino, and the wine that made them famous when they first vinified it separately in 1978. The vineyard with an average altitude of 260 meters above sea level has the most complex soil of the firms' crus, with a mix of whitish-grey limestone and yellow sandstone. The oldest vines hail from 1938 and produce very few grapes.

The 2017 Barolo Bric del Fiasc is another gorgeous wine in the line up from the Scavino family. Readers will find a Barolo that is more nuanced and less bombastic than in the past. Bric del Fiasc has plenty of power on its own, so this style works so well. Dried rose petal, mint, spice, kirsch and iron all blossom with a bit of coaxing. I can't wait to see how it ages.

95+ Points, Antonio Galloni

2017 Barolo Carobric

@ £270 c/s In Bond – 5 cases available (6 bottles per case)

@ £100 per magnum In Bond – 3 magnums available (individual cases of 1 magnum)

Eighty percent of this Barolo comes from the celebrated Rocche di Castiglione cru in Castiglione Falletto, where vines are situated 350 meters above sea level and have southeast exposures. The soil is predominately Arenal di Diano d'Alba, or alternating layers of sandstone and sandy, clay marls. The rest of the grapes come from Cannubi and Bric del Fiasc.

The 2017 Barolo Carobric is one of the standouts in this range, as it often is. It has an extra dimension of depth and volume that works so well here. Sweet red cherry, cedar, sweet pipe tobacco, anise and brambly notes build as this striking, expressive Barolo shows off its considerable charm. What a pretty wine it is.

95 Points, Antonio Galloni

2017 Barolo Monvigliero

@ £270 c/s In Bond – 10 cases available (6 bottles per case)

@ £100 per magnum In Bond – 3 magnums available (individual cases of 1 magnum)

From the Grand Cru of the village of Verduno, known for its soils of limestone mixed with veins of chalk. This and the southeast exposure and altitude of 310 meters create wines of extreme elegance. This vineyard lies in a very special microclimate: warm during the day and cool at night thanks to the fresh air currents from the Tanaro river.

The 2017 Barolo Monvigliero is classy and polished right out of the gate. Sweet dark cherry, rose petal, mint and cinnamon are some of the nuances that open in the glass. Even with all of its immediacy, the 2017 has plenty of tannin. I would prefer to cellar it for at least a few years. The 2017 is undoubtedly an attractive wine, but its best days lie ahead.

94 Points, Antonio Galloni

2017 Barolo Bricco Ambrogio

@ £225 c/s In Bond – 5 cases available (6 bottles per case)

@ £85 per magnum In Bond – 3 magnums available (individual cases of 1 magnum)

Located in Roddi, this is one of the Langhe's little known crus. Realizing it had great potential, Enrico Scavino acquired a parcel in 2001, and just a year later this was his only cru not destroyed by hail during the notorious 2002 vintage. Bricco Ambrogio is the most charming of the Scavino Barolos, with intense perfumes.

The 2017 Barolo Bricco Ambrogio is laced with succulent black cherry, mocha, licorice, dark spice and lavender. The Bricco Ambrogio is usually a bit juicier, while the 2017 is decidedly on the lighter side.

90 Points, Antonio Galloni

Offered subject to remaining unsold and final written confirmation.

Delivery will be charged at cost.

Wines to be shipped spring 2022.