



G.D.VAJRA



PRESS
REPORT

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Highlights



WINE & SPIRITS TOP 100 WINERIES OF 2020
G.D. VAJRA



LEARN MORE, DRINK BETTER

#48 TOP 100 WINES OF 2019
G.D. VAJRA 2015 Barolo Albe

#36 TOP 100 WINES OF 2016
G.D. VAJRA 2011 Barolo Bricco delle Viole

#16 TOP 100 WINES OF 2013
G.D. VAJRA 2008 Barolo Barolo Albe

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Lettie Teague in her "Rosé's Marvelous, Multi Tasking Italian Cousin" on Rosabella Rosato 2018 on May. 24th 2019 [link](#)



2017 Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C. in the 25 Essential Wines of 2018 List of Punch Drink Magazine, Dec 18th 2018, [link](#)

Bloomberg

- Elin McCoy in her selection of The 20 Best Wines for Under \$20 on 2017 Dolcetto d'Alba on January 25th 2019 [link](#)

The New York Times

Crystal Meers in the Sunday Styles - Arena Section on Rosabella Rosato and Dolcetto d'Alba on Aug. 22nd 2018 [link](#)

drinks business

Aldo Vaira in the Top 5 Italian Master Wine Makers

Steven Spurrier

"[...] the single vineyard Bricco delle Viole is, for me, the Lafite of Barolo."



Thomas Rydberg on 2015 Barolo Bricco delle Viole resulting #1 in a tasting with 102 Barolos on February 21st 2020 [link](#)

also featured on....

The
Guardian



The
Telegraph

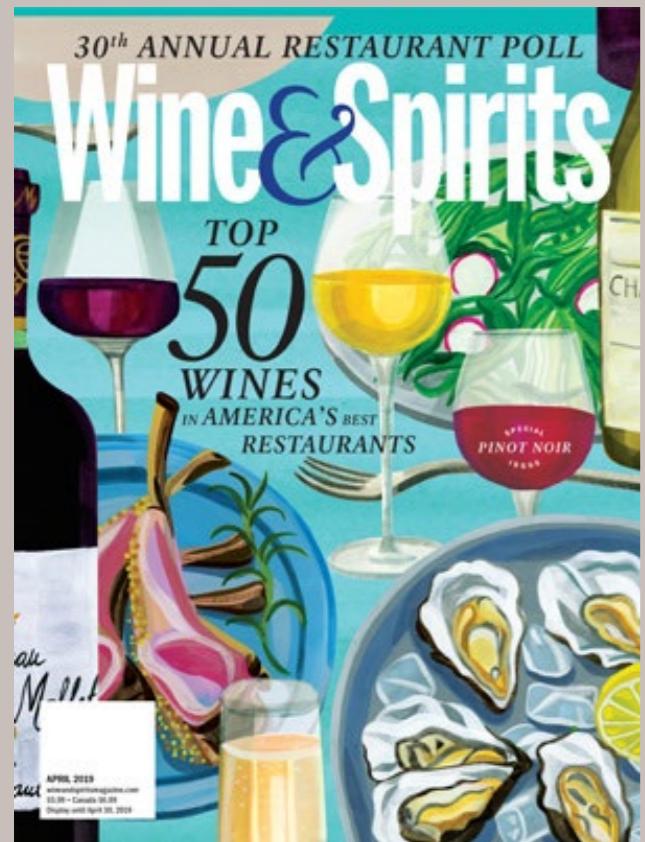
THE SUNDAY TIMES

LA STAMPA

Forbes

Highlights

Wine & Spirits top 100 wineries 2020



#1 Most Popular Wines by the Glass - 2016 Barbera d'Alba
Wine&Spirits 30th Annual Restaurant Poll

#1 Most Popular Italian Wines
- Barbera d'Alba Superiore and Langhe Nebbiolo

#14 The Most Popular Wines in America's Top Restaurants
Wine&Spirits Restaurant Top 50

Highlights

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE



2018 Piemonte DOC Barbera Freisa.
Monica Larner, Wine Advocate, Jun 2021

Here's an exciting discovery from G.D. Vajra. The 2018 Piemonte Barbera Freisa is an excellent wine and a worthy value proposition. Both the grapes used in the blend, Barbera (55%) and Freisa (45%), are celebrated locally for their versatility and their ease when paired with the local foods. From tagliarin with a light meat sauce to Bra pork sausage that is put on the grill in one giant coil, this wine has you covered. The wine's 15.5% alcohol content and its generous fruit keep the palate food-ready. The back label explains that estate patriarch Carlo (Carlin) Vajra produced a mysterious blend of the two grapes in 1970. That legacy lives on in this inaugural release of 3,000 bottles. This wine delivers black fruit with a hint of extra ripeness or blackberry preserves on the finish.



2019 Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C.
Monica Larner, Top 100 Wine Discoveries 2020

Although this wine has been produced since 2014, it is a new discovery to me—and a terrific one at that. I'll start off with the beautiful graphics on the label that were inspired by the winemaking protocols penned in 1606 by Gian Battista Croce, a jeweler for the House of Savoia who dabbled in wine. The G.D. Vajra 2019 Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C. is a pure expression of Nebbiolo, with about one-fifth whole-cluster fermentation. Following suggestions to serve the wine slightly chilled, I tasted my sample at 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and I would recommend the same to you. This wine offers an innovative and playful look at the normally austere, long-term Nebbiolo grape. In fact, this Langhe Nebbiolo borrows from Beaujolais. You'll love the vibrant, tonic and lively fruit that pops from the glass with focused intensity. The palate is lean and crisp. I am absolutely smitten.

ON THE WINERY

“Vajra is one of Piedmont’s best kept secrets. Here readers will enter a world of sublime hand-crafted, artisan wines of the very highest level.”

The Wine Advocate, A. Galloni, #185, Oct. 2009



SEPTEMBER 2020

Slow Wine
“Bottiglia” award 2021

JULY 2020

The Wine Advocate
Barolo, Barbaresco & More – Lockdown Wines by Monica Larner

“This is a terrific offering from G.D Vajra, with innovative and clever wines ranging from the classic Barolo Bricco delle Viole to the informal Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C. With a catchy rap song singing its praises (google “Il Primo - Nebbiolo ft. LFT and Toro”), G.D. Vajra is one of the most exciting estates to watch today. Congratulations on these gorgeous wines.”

NOVEMBER 2019

The New York Times
36 Hours in Barolo, Italy, by Ingrid K. Williams

“Whatever your depth of knowledge, one of the warmest welcomes in the area awaits at G.D. Vajra, a family-run winery in the hills above Barolo town. Tours of the cantina are led by Milena, the engaging matriarch, and her amiable daughter, Francesca, who intersperse explanations of terroir and winemaking techniques with family lore. Visits conclude with a tasting of Vajra’s celebrated wines, from a silky nebbiolo and balanced Barbera d’Alba to an elegant single-vineyard Barolo with hints of violet.”

SEPTEMBER 2019

Slow Wine
“Chiocciola” award 2020

SEPTEMBER 2019

Gambero Rosso
“Tre Bicchieri” award 2020

SEPTEMBER 2019

Guida Vitae AIS
“4 Vite” award 2020

JUNE/JULY 2015

The Somm Journal
Steven Spurrier – The Great Wines of Piedmont,

“The morning visit was to G.D. Vajra just outside Barolo, one of my very favourite producers, established in 1972 by Aldo Vajra. [...] Luigi Baudana vineyards combine robustness and elegance, while the single vineyard Bricco delle Viole is, for me, the Lafite of Barolo.”

ON THE WINES

FEBRUARY 2021

2017 Barolo: Here We Go Again...

"The Vajra family produced a **bevy of stellar wines** from both their estates, G.D. Vajra in Barolo and Baudana in Serralunga. **The 2017s are deep, fleshy and impeccably balanced.** All of the 2017s were fermented in steel, where they spent 50-60 days on the skins, including submerged cap maceration at the end."

FEBRUARY 2020

2016 Barolo: Right Place, Right Time

"The Vaira 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.** At Baudana, the wines are naturally more muscular, but that is Serralunga, after all. Most importantly, **the Vairas have developed a personal style that melds classicism with a level of approachability that makes these wines so alluring, even upon release.**"

FEBRUARY 2018

2014 Barolo: Surprise, Surprise...

"It's hard to believe, but **the Vajra family keeps raising the bar.** The 2014 Barolos are strong across the board, especially within the context of the vintage, but the flagship Bricco delle Viole is a truly special, moving wine."

FEBRUARY 2017

2013 Barolo: Sublime Finesse & Elegance

"By now I have run out of superlatives for Vajra. Suffice it to say **these are some of the finest, artisan wines being made in Piedmont today.** At a time when prices for so many wines are skyrocketing out of control, Vajra's prices are a breath of fresh air. The Barolos are made in contemporary traditional style, with longish fermentations and aging in cask. Vajra fans will note the appearance of a new Barolo, a selection within Bricco delle Viole. My only regret is not having bought these wines more heavily in the past."

DECEMBER 2015

Affordable Piedmont – Dolcetto, Barbera & Langhe Nebbiolo

"The Vajra family does so many things well."

JANUARY 2014

2010 Barolo: Flying High Again

"The Vajra family has done a magnificent job with their 2010 Barolos. [...] Actually, all of the 2012s and 2013s are impressive here, and easily confirm **Vajra's position in the top echelon of Barolo producers today.** I can't say enough about the Vajra family and all they have accomplished, especially over the last decade. [...] In a world that is increasingly about noise and hype, the Vajras work out of a very functional, simple winery just outside Barolo, driven by the values of family, faith and the strong work ethic that is at the heart of the Piedmontese culture."

“This is a terrific offering from G.D Vajra, with innovative and clever wines ranging from the classic Barolo Bricco delle Viole to the informal Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C. ”

The Wine Advocate, Barolo, Barbaresco and more - Lockdown Wines, Jul. 2020



BAROLO BRICCO DELLE VIOLE



95 2017 - Monica Larner, Wine Advocate, Jun 2021

The G.D. Vajra 2017 Barolo Bricco delle Viole is packed with medium dark cherry fruit and plum. The wine also shows a savory side, with spice, hazelnut cream, licorice and lightly fragrant potting soil. This vintage sits solid on the palate, wrapping thickly over the senses, thanks to its creamy, fruit-driven consistency and well-managed tannins. These vines are high in elevation, ranging from 400 to 480 meters in altitude. Those higher elevations are key to interpreting a vintage that saw heat such as this.

96 2017 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Jun 2021

Aromas of underbrush, pine forest, woodland berries and cedar form the enticing nose. Full-bodied and savory, the structured palate delivers ripe Morello cherry, raspberry compote, star anise and cinnamon before closing on pipe tobacco notes. Tightly knit but refined tannins provide the backbone, while surprisingly fresh acidity for the hot vintage keeps it balanced.

95 2017 - James Suckling, Apr 2021

Aromas of ripe strawberries and flowers follow through to a full body with firm, chewy tannins that are silky and very polished. That palate is very clear and precise. Attractive, of chewy finish.

95 2017 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2017 Barolo: Here We Go Again..., Feb 2021

The 2017 Barolo Bricco delle Viole is classy and elegant to the core. Medium in body and wonderfully translucent, the 2017 captures all of the finesse of this site. Naturally, the 2017 also shows the ripeness of the year, but it retains its sublime sense of poise. The 2017 Bricco delle Viole is one of the clear stand outs of the year.

17.5 2017 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2017, Mar 2021

Transparent pillarbox red. Powerful nose of dried something. Cherries? rose petals? Perhaps both. Super-fresh, despite the alcohol, with such great presence in the mouth. It's not nearly ready but it's clearly destined for great things. Sweet and chewy with a strong mineral undertow. Jewel-bright fruit. Real lift but more powerful than ethereal. Even slightly pungent with a whiff of cordite. Really refreshing health juice. Great stuff.

98 2016 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines, Jul 2020

97+ 2016 - Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, Sep 2020

97 2016 - James Suckling, Jul 2020

96 2016 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

97 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2016 Barolo: Right Place, Right Time, Feb 2020

95 2016 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Sep 2020

BAROLO RAVERA



94+ 2017 - Monica Larner, Wine Advocate, Jun 2021

The G.D. Vajra 2017 Barolo Ravera shows solid build and consistency, with more rich and saturated fruit compared to the other Barolo releases from this historic estate. The Ravera cru offers broad shoulders with a tight textural fabric. That powerful approach makes a good sounding board for the wine's dark cherry, plum, dark mineral and spice flavors. This is more of a red meat wine.

97 2017 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Jun 2021

From the township of Novello and from what is now widely recognized as one of the denomination's top vineyard sites, this is just stunning, offering intense aromas of wild berries, new leather, floral notes, camphor and grilled herb. The delicious, structured palate shows finesse and power, featuring ripe red cherry, blood orange, cedar, licorice and mineral notes suggesting tangy iron. Noble tannins provide support. Reflecting the vintage, this won't need years to come around but will also age well for at least another decade.

96 2017 - James Suckling, Apr 2021

Very floral with pure fruit, such as cherries and raspberries. It's full-bodied with ultra fine tannins that are energetic and focused. The center place shows such wonderful fruit character, yet it's weightless and energetic.

95 2017 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2017 Barolo: Here We Go Again..., Feb 2021

The 2017 Barolo Ravera is gorgeous right out of the gate. I am so impressed with its depth and pedigree. Rose petal, sweet red berry fruit, lavender, spice and dried herbs are all finely delineated in a Barolo of tremendous presence. Orange peel, cinnamon and cedar develop later, adding shades of dimension. Time in the glass brings out the wine's stature and power. The 2017 is going to be fascinating to follow. Today, it is just breathtaking. That's all there is to it.

17.5 2017 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2017, Mar 2021

Transparent garnet. Broad, sweet, chestnut sort of aromas on the nose. Big-shouldered and quite concentrated. Very complete and with a minerally undertow. This is a bit of a charmer with great presence. Even a hint of red cherry fruit that seems to be overpowering the (considerable) tannin. Beautiful balance in this evidently serious wine.

97 2016 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

96+ 2016 - Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, Sep 2020

96 2016 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Sep 2020

96 2016 - James Suckling, Jul 2020

95 2016 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines, Jul 2020

96 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2016 Barolo: Right Place, Right Time, Feb 2020



BAROLO COSTE DI ROSE



94 2017 - Monica Larner, Wine Advocate, Jun 2021

With fruit from higher-elevation vineyards in the village of Barolo, the 2017 Barolo Coste di Rose is quite elegantly downplayed and fragile. The wine reveals wild berry, cassis and lots of blue flower or lilac. A pretty mineral note recalls crushed limestone and is present through the long and polished mouthfeel. This wine overperforms, considering the challenges of this vintage that saw extreme weather, from spring frost to scorching summer temperatures. These vineyard sites performed better than most.

96 2017 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Jun 2021

Wild berry, menthol and tilled earth aromas mingle with whiffs of dark spice. Linear and savory, the lithe palate is already immediate, featuring juicy raspberry, red cherry, crushed mint and star anise accompanied by taut, polished tannins. Tangy acidity keeps it fresh and bright.

93 2017 - James Suckling, Apr 2021

Sweet-strawberry, flower, iodine and stone aromas follow through to a full body with firm, polished tannins that show finesse and form. Give it a year or two to soften and come together.

93 2017 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2017 Barolo: Here We Go Again..., Feb 2021

The 2017 Barolo Coste di Rose is pretty, supple and inviting. Some of the tannins need to resolve, but this is a young Barolo after all. The Coste di Rose doesn't have the sensuality of the Albe or the pedigree of the Viole, but it nevertheless has so much to give. Crushed flowers, sweet red berry fruit, mint, crushed rocks and sage are some of the many notes that linger. I won't be surprised if the 2017 is even better than this note suggests once it softens a bit.

17 2017 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2017, Mar 2021

Very pale, transparent garnet. Hints of autumn undergrowth. Lifted and decidedly leafy. Rich palate entry with a hint of mint. Real depth and a note of violet cachous too. Juicy mid palate on the way to a dry, almost drying finish. Really rather accessible. Fine-boned.

95+ 2016 - Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, Sep 2020

95 2016 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

95 2016 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Sep 2020

94 2016 - James Suckling, Jul 2020

94 2016 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines, Jul 2020

94 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2016 Barolo: Right Place, Right Time, Feb 2020

BAROLO ALBE



93 2017 - Monica Larner, Wine Enthusiast, Jun 2021

This is one of the most accessible and trustworthy wines you can buy from Piedmont. Keeping in line with past vintages, the G.D. Vajra 2017 Barolo Albe opens to medium concentration and a very expressive or fruit-forward bouquet. This hot-climate 2017 edition shows a little more ripeness and roundness as is to be expected, but these results are a safe bet nonetheless. Cherry and raspberry aromas are followed by blue flower and pressed violets. Set this bottle aside for medium or long-term drinking.

93 2017 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Jun 2021

Red berry, rose and camphor aromas waft out of the glass. Tangy and delicious, the smooth, full-bodied palate doles out ripe Marasca cherry, fleshy raspberry and hints of ground baking spice framed in taut, polished tannins. It's already accessible but also has good midterm aging potential.

92 2017 - James Suckling, Apr 2021

Fresh and floral aromas with plum, orange peel and some cedar follow through to a medium body with fine tannins and a fresh finish. Very drinkable now, but will improve with age.

91 2017 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2017 Barolo: Here We Go Again..., Feb 2021

The 2017 Barolo Albe is exquisite. Bright and beautifully lifted, the 2017 Albe is a wine of pure and total pleasure. All the elements come together so gracefully. Crushed flowers, red berries, mint, cinnamon and lavender are some of the many notes that open in the glass. The 2017 is so nicely done in the way it captures the radiance of the year and the classicism that runs through all these wines. Vineyard sites are Fossati, Costa di Vergne and Le Volte.

16.5+ 2017 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2017, Mar 2021

Translucent ruby. Edgy, tarry nose that's very ethereal. Tannic grip and quite a bit of heat on the way there. Floats on the palate - it's certainly not heavy, and has quite enough freshness. You could drink it now with food - maybe with tonight's steak? Long and relatively open.

94+ 2016 - Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, Sep 2020

94 2016 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

94 2016 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Sep 2020

94 2016 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines, Jul 2020

93 2016 - James Suckling, Jul 2020

91 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2016 Barolo: Right Place, Right Time, Feb 2020

93 2015 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

DOLCETTO D'ALBA COSTE&FOSSATI



90 2019 - Monica Larner, **The Wine Advocate**, Jun 2021

The organic 2019 Dolcetto d'Alba Coste & Fossati is plump and bright with raw cherry and sweet blueberry. This 8,000-bottle production is streamlined and fresh with all sorts of fun fruit flavors to keep your attention. To the palate, the wine is quite simple, but you still have the textural fiber to pair with fried chicken or breaded veal. There is a dusting of black pepper on the close. This is the second time in as many years that the Vajra family has resisted submerging the cap during winemaking for this wine, a tradition they had originally started in 1989.

94+ 2018 - Gary Walsh, **The Wine Front**, May 2020

It's still deep and powerful for a Dolcetto, though not as thick and rolling as the warmer 2017 vintage. Loads of spice, perfume, new leather and sage, dark cherry, maybe liquorice. It's just over medium-bodied, with crunch of boysenberry and cranberry, grip from chamois-like tannin, and a long and focused finish. I think it will cellar very well.

92 2018 - Antonio Galloni, **Vinous, Piedmont: Beyond the usual suspects**, Mar 2020

The 2018 Dolcetto d'Alba Coste & Fossati is a gorgeous wine. Usually, the Coste & Fossati is a richer, bigger wine; the 2018, on the other hand, offers lovely mid-palate depth, but in a restrained, perfumed style that is hugely appealing. Dark red cherry, red plum, chocolate, licorice and spice all flesh out in this delicious and inviting Dolcetto from the Vajra family. The 2018 marks the second vintage of the return to submerged cap maceration, an approach the Vajra family used up until the late 1980s.

91+ 2018 - Monica Larner, **The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines**, Jul 2020

95 2017 - Gary Walsh, **The Wine Front**, May 2019

93 2017 - Antonio Galloni, **Vinous, New Releases from the Langhe, Roero, Asti & More**, May 2019

91 2017 - Bruce Sanderson, **Wine Spectator**

(91-93) 2017 - Monica Larner, **The Wine Advocate**, #237, Jun 2018

91 2016 - Monica Larner, **The Wine Advocate**, #237, Jun 2018

16.5 2016 - Richard Hemming MW, Jancis Robinson, **Another piece of Piemonte**, Jul 2018

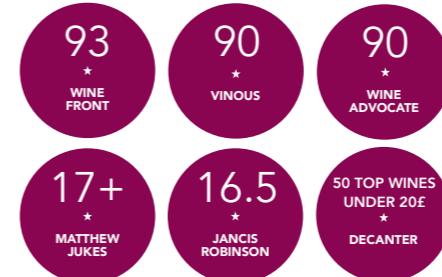
92 2015 - Antonio Galloni, **Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte**, Feb. 2017

17 2015 - Matthew Jukes, **The Piemonte Report 2017**

17 2015 - Jancis Robinson, **Liberty Wines' 20th anniversary Italians**, June 2017

90 2014 - Antonio Galloni, **Vinous, Affordable Piedmont – Dolcetto, Barbera & Langhe Nebbiolo**, Dec. 2015

DOLCETTO D'ALBA



93 2018 - Gary Walsh, **The Wine Front**, May 2020

Blue and purple fruit, spice and flowers, some liquorice. It's medium-bodied, stony feel and distinctly 'mineral' acidity, tannin is slightly raw and sticky, but it's still pretty much a baby, and it finishes firm and long, shining with some red fruit as it goes. Such crunch and energy here. It's a very appealing wine.

90 2018 - Antonio Galloni, **Vinous, Piedmont: Beyond the usual suspects**, Mar 2020

The 2018 Dolcetto d'Alba is a super-classic wine loaded with varietal flavors to match its mid-weight structure. Soaring aromatics and plush red and purplish berry fruit come through loud and clear in this refreshing, supremely delicious Dolcetto from the Vajra family. This is such a gorgeous wine.

16.5 2017 - Richard Hemming MW, Jancis Robinson, **Another piece of Piemonte**, Jul 2018

Leathery and tart on the nose with lots of tannic fuzz on the palate. Very punchy for Dolcetto, even considering its youth. Lots of chew on the finish. Substantial and aromatic.

90 2017 - Monica Larner, **The Wine Advocate**, #237, Jun 2018

Dolcetto is sometimes considered the ugly duckling of the Langhe. But in a hot vintage such as this, the grape flaunts its inner beauty and charm. The 2017 Dolcetto d'Alba delivers earthy and raw aromas of black fruit, plum and black olive. There are dusty sensations of crushed mineral or granite on the close. The finish offers vibrancy, depth and freshness.

17+ 2015 - Matthew Jukes, **The Piemonte Report 2016**

With stunning purity and lift and really fresh tannins, this is a feisty wine with a compact frame and cheek-sucking, brittle acidity on the finish. I love this combative style of Dolcetto, but it does need another six months or so for it to soften before you start to drink it. Otherwise, the fruit is blueberry and black-liquorice-smooched and you will love it (June 2016). Nearly six months later and this wine is on top form. Stunning and really rewarding, this is a grippy, bouncy Dolcetto with thrilling integrity. (November 2016)

17 2013 - Matthew Jukes, **The Piemonte Report 2015/2016**

92 2013 - Christelle Guibert, **Decanter 50 top wines under 20£**

17 2013 - Ian D'Agata, **Decanter, 35 amazing Piedmont reds under 20£**

89 2012 - Antonio Galloni, **Vinous, Piedmont Beyond Barolo and Barbaresco**

90 2011 - Antonio Galloni, **R. Parker's The Wine Advocate**, #203, Oct. 2012

88 2010 - Antonio Galloni, **R. Parker's The Wine Advocate**, #197, Oct. 2011



BARBERA D'ALBA SUPERIORE



93+ 2017 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines, Jul 2020

This wine carries the fantasy name "Viola delle Viole," when in fact, its fruit comes from the Bricco delle Viole vineyard and the Bricco Bertone, two sites with different soil types, one adding structure and one adding aromatic purity. The G.D. Vajra 2017 Barbera d'Alba Superiore Viola delle Viole opens to an inky almost impenetrable appearance. The bouquet opens to robust aromas of blackberry jam and cherry preserves. You feel the heat and richness of the vintage, and there's no way around it. The 2017 growing season produced very concentrated fruit with smaller berry size due to heat and drought. In effect, you get a super-sized Barbera that ups the ante in terms of extraction and intensity. There is a point of almost-sweetness on the close followed by good acidity. A pairing with marinated or spicy barbecued meat might work best. Honestly, I'm not a fan of overripe wines, but I make an exception with Barbera because this grape handles the warmest growing seasons with grace and always offers enough acidity to balance things out.

93 2017 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont: Beyond the usual suspects, Mar 2020

The 2017 Barbera d'Alba Superiore is plush, racy and flat-out delicious. Raspberry jam, cinnamon, dried flowers, sweet tobacco and cedar all flesh out in a forward, plush Barbera that will drink well right out the gate. The Superiore always needs a few years to fully emerge. I imagine that will be the case here as well. Even so, the 2017 is an especially open-knit version of this wine.

93 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont: Beyond the usual suspects, Mar 2020

The 2016 Barbera d'Alba Superiore is elegant, powerful and restrained all at the same time. My impression is that the Superiore is holding back quite a bit of potential. Even so, it is incredibly expressive today. Black cherry, mocha, licorice, spice and leather all open up, but it is the wine's balance and overall sense of harmony that are most impressive. I suggest giving it a few years in bottle. The 2016 is a translucent, classically built wine.

93 2016 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

94 2015 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, New Releases from the Langhe, Roero, Asti & More, May 2019

92 2015 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

92 2015 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast

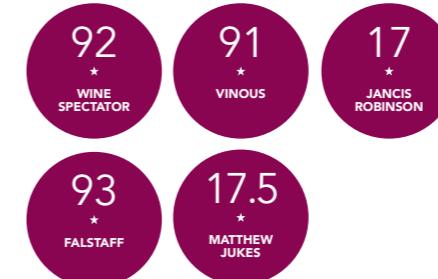
17+ 2015 - Richard Hemming MW, Jancis Robinson, Another piece of Piemonte, Jul 2018

93 2015 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018

92+ 2014 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017

17.5+ 2014 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2016

BARBERA D'ALBA



90 2017 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont: Beyond the usual suspects, Mar 2020

The 2017 Barbera d'Alba is a joyous wine that is sure to put a smile on readers' faces. Pliant, supple and full of character, the 2017 offers superb density and tons of pure deliciousness. Sweet dark cherry, plum, mocha and sweet spice are pushed forward in this engaging, arrestingly beautiful Barbera. Best of all, the 2017 is a superb value.

92 2016 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

This is round and juicy, its cherry and blackberry fruit melding seamlessly with the bracing acidity. Flashes of iron and hot stone add depth as this stretches out, ending on a peppery accent.

91 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, New Releases from the Langhe, Roero, Asti & More, May 2019

The 2016 Barbera d'Alba is another stellar wine from Vajra. Plump and explosive on the palate, with superb overall depth, the 2016 captures all the personality of the year with its tremendous richness and resonance. A rush of dark plum, leather, smoke, licorice and incense builds as this flamboyant Barbera shows off its curvy personality.

17 2016 - Richard Hemming MW, Jancis Robinson, Another piece of Piemonte, Jul 2018

Bonfire smoke, black cherry, tight tannins and mouth-watering acidity. Very serious in style, with an almost severe edge to the savoury notes. Plenty of alcohol on the finish. Captures the origin authentically, and would be a great – indeed necessary – partner to hearty food.

17 2014 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2017

Lovely and lush and with fat, black cherry notes this is a superb, glossy wine with an immediate appeal. There is no need to hold back here, because it is ready to go and I think that you must capture it in its youth to enjoy the energy and vivacity of this style.

17.5 2013 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2016

16 2013 - Walter Speller, Jancis Robinson, Walter's mixed Italians - the North, May 2016

17 2012 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2015/2016

90 2011 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

90 2011 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont Beyond Barolo and Barbaresco

89 2010 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate, #203, Oct. 2012



LANGHE NEBBIOL



92 2019 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Jun 2021

Opening to a medium ruby color, the G.D. Vajra 2019 Langhe Nebbiolo is beautifully balanced to deliver an informal drinking style, but it also hints at the enormous complexity that is inherent to this mighty grape of Piedmont. The bouquet reveals cassis and wild berry, crushed rose and lavender. However, the mouthfeel is precise and linear, thanks to those drying mineral notes.

93 2019 - Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, May 2020

Red fruits, almond paste, aniseed, sweet spice and floral notes. It's medium-bodied, pure and fine, cherry and red fruits, fennel and almond, crisp feel here, brightness and perfume, light brick dust tannin, a quiet succulence, and a long cool finish. A taste of Vajra finesse at an entry level price, is the message.

93 2018 - Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, May 2020

Dark cherry, plenty of spice, rhubarb topped with biscuit crumbs, something a little earthy, and a good amount of perfume. It pulls fresher in the mouth, with red berries and spice, some almost chalky tannin grip, and a bright, but dusty feeling finish of good length. Very nice.

90 2018 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont: Beyond the usual suspects, Mar 2020

The 2018 Langhe Nebbiolo emerges from a parcel in Sino. Dark fruit, spice, earthy notes and a good bit of tannin give the Vajra's Langhe Nebbiolo a decidedly brooding, powerful feel and quite a bit more seriousness than is typical at this level. Sweet red berry fruit, mint and spice add freshness alongside bright acidity as the 2018 opens up in the glass. This is such a pretty and expressive wine.

#5 2017 - Vinepair, The 50 Best Wines of 2019, Dec 2019

90 2017 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Oct 2019

93 2016 - Simon Wolf, Decanter Anything But Oak, May 2018

92 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, New Releases from the Langhe, Roero, Asti & More, May 2019

92 2016 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018

2016 - Silver Medal, Sommelier Wine Awards, May 2018

17.5 2015 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2017

90 2014 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017

17.5+ 2014 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2017

90 2014 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator – Apr. 06, 2016 Daily Wine Picks

LANGHE FREISA KYÈ



94+ 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont: Beyond the usual suspects, Mar 2020

The 2016 Langhe Freisa Kyé is a gorgeous wine, but it is going to need at least a few years in bottle to be at its very best. Scorched earth, smoke, tobacco, grilled herbs and black pepper give the Kyé its distinctive brooding personality. As always, the Kyé is a powerful, deep wine, but, as in recent years, the style is a bit more restrained than the more explosive wines in the past. The Kyé emerges from a parcel in the Vajra family's Bricco delle Viole home vineyard.

92 2016 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines, Jul 2020

This wine carries the fantasy name "Viola delle Viole," when in fact, its fruit comes from the Bricco delle Viole vineyard and the Bricco Bertone, two sites with different soil types, one adding structure and one adding aromatic purity. The G.D. Vajra 2017 Barbera d'Alba Superiore Viola delle Viole opens to an inky almost impenetrable appearance. The bouquet opens to robust aromas of blackberry jam and cherry preserves. You feel the heat and richness of the vintage, and there's no way around it. The 2017 growing season produced very concentrated fruit with smaller berry size due to heat and drought. In effect, you get a super-sized Barbera that ups the ante in terms of extraction and intensity. There is a point of almost-sweetness on the close followed by good acidity. A pairing with marinated or spicy barbecued meat might work best. Honestly, I'm not a fan of overripe wines, but I make an exception with Barbera because this grape handles the warmest growing seasons with grace and always offers enough acidity to balance things out.

95 2015 - Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, May 2019

Perfume of flowers and dried herb, almond, dark fruit, distinctly mineral texture to the tannin and acidity, set to light to medium-bodied, clarity and purpose, some raspberry, new leather and spice to close. Distinctive and beautiful. 94 or 95 points, but who cares?

92+ 2016 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, New Releases from the Langhe, Roero, Asti & More, May 2019

The 2015 Langhe Freisa Kyé is incredibly finessed. Once huge and bombastic, the Kyé has developed into a much more refined wine in recent vintages. The 2015 Kyé is dark and mysterious, not to mention quite closed in on itself. I won't be surprised if there is more to this wine. Time will tell.

90 2015 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018

95 2013 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017

92 2012 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Affordable Piedmont – Dolcetto, Barbera & Langhe Nebbiolo, Dec. 2015

92 2011 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2011 Barolo – A First Look, Sep. 2014

94+ 2010 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont Beyond Barolo and Barbaresco, Oct. 2013



LANGHE NEBBIOL CLARÉ J.C.



93 2020 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Jul 2021

This was one of my favorite discovery wines from last year, and it sure is a pleasure to circle back to this G.D. Vajra 2020 Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C. today. Showing a luminous and bright ruby color, the bouquet shyly reveals wild cherry fruit and cassis. In a second moment, you taste bitter almond, candied lilac and hints of fresh garden herb or rosemary blossom. It's hard to imagine such a young wine tasting so good at this unbelievable price.

92+ 2019 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines, Jul 2020

Although this wine has been produced since 2014, it is a new discovery to me—and a terrific one at that. I'll start off with the beautiful graphics on the label that were inspired by the winemaking protocols penned in 1606 by Gian Battista Croce, a jeweler for the House of Savoia who dabbled in wine. The G.D. Vajra 2019 Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C. is a pure expression of Nebbiolo, with about one-fifth whole-cluster fermentation. Following suggestions to serve the wine slightly chilled, I tasted my sample at 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and I would recommend the same to you. This wine offers an innovative and playful look at the normally austere, long-term Nebbiolo grape. In fact, this Langhe Nebbiolo borrows from Beaujolais. You'll love the vibrant, tonic and lively fruit that pops from the glass with focused intensity. The palate is lean and crisp.

92 2019 - Eric Guido, Vinous, 'Tis the Season for Rosato, May 2020

Wow, the 2019 Vajra Clare JC explodes from the glass with masses of crushed raspberry and strawberry fruits, complicated by sweet and savory herbs, along with crushed stone minerality. On the palate, fleshy textures are quickly firmed up by a mix of tart red berries, with zesty acids, a slight frizzante spritz, and a coating of liquid violet florals. The finish is long and lightly structured, displaying a lasting and unmistakable note of red licorice with hints of spiced orange. This is wonderfully expressive and bridges the gap between Red and Rosé; please pour me another. Of note, the 2019 Claré JC was gently fermented with about 20% whole cluster fruit with malolactic completed in stainless steel, hence the perceivable effervescence.

92 2019 - Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, May 2020

It's juicy, popping with sweet cherry and red fruits, tickled with spritz, some new leather, spice and dried herb in the mix. Tannin plays a firm but fair game, and the finish, while slightly sweet, closes with a cranberry/pomegranate crunch, which cleans the whole affair up very nicely indeed. It's such a delightful wine to quaff, and while it's not exactly cheap, it does deliver. A different thing. A good thing.

92 2018 - Ian D'Agata, Vinous, Think Pink: Italy's Lively 2018 Rosatos, May 2019

PUNCH 2017 - Jon Bonné, Punch Drink Wine, The 25 Essential Wines of 2018

LANGHE RIESLING Piètracine



90 2020 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Jun 2021

Crystalline and luminous, both in appearance and personality, the G.D. Vajra 2020 Langhe Riesling Piètracine opens to light tones of honey, orchard fruit and soft tropical tones. At this young stage, the wine expresses its primary fruit best, although we can expect the bouquet to take all those fascinating aromatic twists and turns that only this grape can deliver. Riesling cultivated in Piedmont is a niche market for sure, but there are ample signs of its growing popularity.

90 2018 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont: Beyond the usual suspects, Mar 2020

The 2018 Riesling Piètracine is a rare Piedmont white endowed with real distinction. Lime, white flowers, slate and chalk infuse the 2018 with tons of character as well as nuance. I love the energy here; this is very, very nicely done.

91 2017 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, New Releases from the Langhe, Roero, Asti & More, May 2019

Vajra's Riesling Piètracine is once again one of the most distinctive whites in Piedmont. Green apple, mint, white flowers and light tropical notes. I would prefer to drink the 2017 sooner rather than later.

90 2016 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018

A courageous and innovative wine, the 2016 Langhe Riesling shows impressive results in this cool vintage. [...] This wine only sees stainless steel to preserve the integrity of those lime, honey and tangy grapefruit notes.

17 2015 - Jancis Robinson, Gens de Métier – express route to pleasure, Aug 2017

Intensely limey nose, with a touch of cedar. Great intensity of lime fruit and a delicious chalky texture that accentuates the fresh finish. The friction from the texture balances well with the fruit intensity. (JH)

90 2015 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017

In 2015 Vajra's Riesling Piètracine is built on a core of rich, expansive fruit. Peach, apricot pit, chamomile and lightly honeyed notes infuse the creamy, expressive finish. This is one of the more racy, forward vintages of the Riesling I can remember tasting. I would prefer to drink it sooner rather than later.

17 2014 - Jancis Robinson, Walter's mixed Italians - the North, May 2016

92 2014 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Affordable Piedmont – Dolcetto, Barbera & Langhe Nebbiolo, Dec. 2015

91 2012 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont Beyond Barolo and Barbaresco, Oct. 2013

91 2011 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate, #203, Oct. 2012

91 2010 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate, #203, Oct. 2012

MOSCATO D'ASTI



2020 - Richard Hemming MW, Jancis Robinson, May 2021

What makes it so good? There are three unique qualities that we should cherish. Firstly, it really does smell and taste of grapes, unlike almost all other wines, and grapes taste delicious. Secondly, it has only 5.5% alcohol, which makes it drinkable with abandon. (Indeed, those first two points are closely related, since the interrupted fermentation process that keeps the alcohol low also retains those pure, unconverted grape flavours.) Thirdly, it is frizzante, which is not only an excellent word, but indicates a lightly sparkling style that I can't think of in any other wine.

The result is a foaming glass of sheer, unadulterated joy that I challenge anyone to drink without a smile.

90+ 2019 - Monica Larner, The Wine Advocate, Lockdown Wines, Jul 2020

This pretty semi-sparkling Moscato d'Asti produces a thick foam of bubbles as it pours into the glass and boasts a luminous pale gold color. The G.D. Vajra 2019 Moscato d'Asti sees fruit sourced from the Vigneti di Moncucco in Santo Stefano Belbo and the Riforno vineyard in the nearby area of Mango. Both sites are at the historic heart of the Moscato d'Asti production zone. This pretty wine delivers a wide range of floral and tropical fruit aromas with fragrant peach and star jasmine. There are delicate background notes of crushed stone or oyster shell.

93 2017 - Ian D'Agata, Vinous, Asti & Moscato d'Asti: The Delightful Lightness of Being, Dec. 2018

16.5 2016 - Jancis Robinson, Gens de Métier – express route to pleasure, Aug 2017

90 2015 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017

92 2015 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast – Editor's Choice - The Enthusiast 100 of 2016

90 2014 - Bronze Medal, Sommelier Wine Awards, May 2015

92 2013 - Tim Atkin, MW

90 2012 - Jamie Goode's wine blog

89 2011 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate, #203, Oct. 2012

N.S. DELLA NEVE VINO SPUMANTE DI QUALITA'



91 NV - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Dec 2020

Vibrant and linear, this tangy sparkler offers aromas of rose, red berry and a hint of pastry dough. On the racy palate, small, continuous bubbles and lively acidity accompany juicy red cherry, pomegranate, citrus and bread crust before a dry, crisp finish.

90 NV - Eric Guido, Vinous, 'Tis the Season for Rosato, May 2020

The NV Vajra N.S. Della Neve is remarkably pretty, lifting from the glass with a display of dusty roses and crushed raspberry, offset by hints of lime and subtle sweet spices. It coats across the senses, intensely mineral and almost salty yet vibrant, with a soothing bead of bubbles and brisk acids adding to its incredibly fresh character. The finish is long and floral, with hints of ripe orchard fruits, as the mouth waters for another sip. This blend of Nebbiolo and Pinot Noir comes across as highly energetic, refined, perfectly dry and just begging to be paired with all sorts of summertime cuisine.

16 NV - Jancis Robinson, Walter's mixed Italians - the North, May 2016

Pale fuchsia. Fresh and with a little yeast impact. Lively and lasting CO₂. Very fresh and almost a little mouth-watering. Lovely aperitif style. (WS)

89 NV - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Sep 2017

ROSA BELLA VINO ROSATO



90 2019 - Eric Guido, Vinous, 'Tis the Season for Rosato, May 2020

The 2019 Vajra Rosabella, this year is a blend of 90% Nebbiolo and 10% Barbera, lifts from the glass with a remarkably pretty yet understated display of ripe pear offset by white smoke minerality, a hint of lime, and spring florals. On the palate, it coats across the senses, delivering a more tart fruit sensation, further accentuated by saline-minerals and brisk acids. The finish is medium in length, yet buzzing with energy and neatly framed by hints of lemon and green apple.

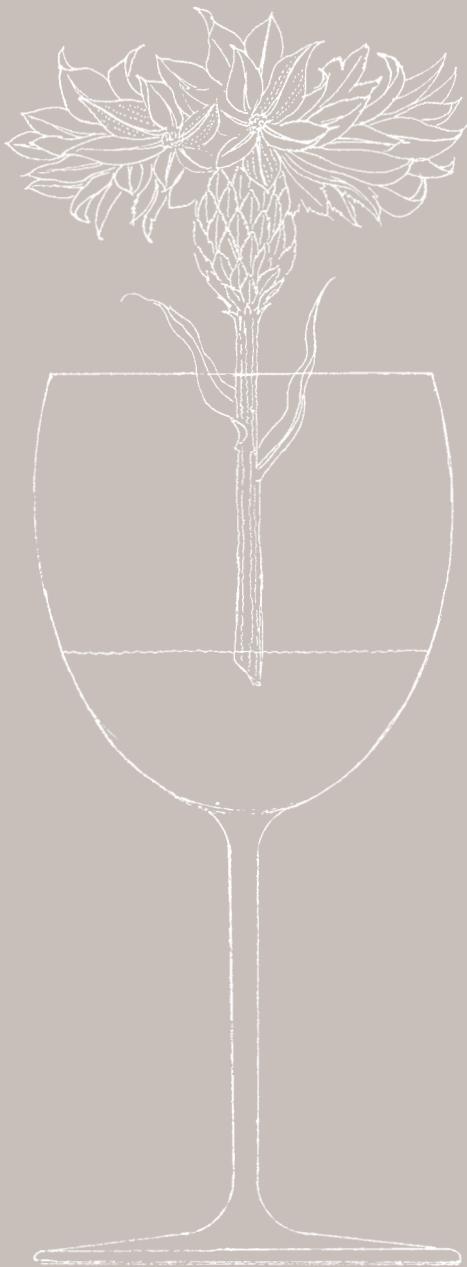
90 2018 - Ian D'Agata, Vinous, Think Pink: Italy's Lively 2018 Rosatos, May 2019

Bright pink. Intense, mineral-accented aromas of red berries and fresh flowers, with a herbal undertone. Classically dry and vibrant rose that closes long and crisp, with nicely persistent notes of herbs and red fruit.

90 2017 - Ian D'Agata, Vinous, Exploring Italy's 2017 Rosatos, Jun 2018

Light pink. Heady aromas of dried pear, peach and orange peel, with a herbal touch. Juicy and penetrating, offering tangy and saline citrus peel and orchard fruit flavors. A grown-up Rosato that eschews candied or sugary shortcuts and that finishes long crisp and bright.





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