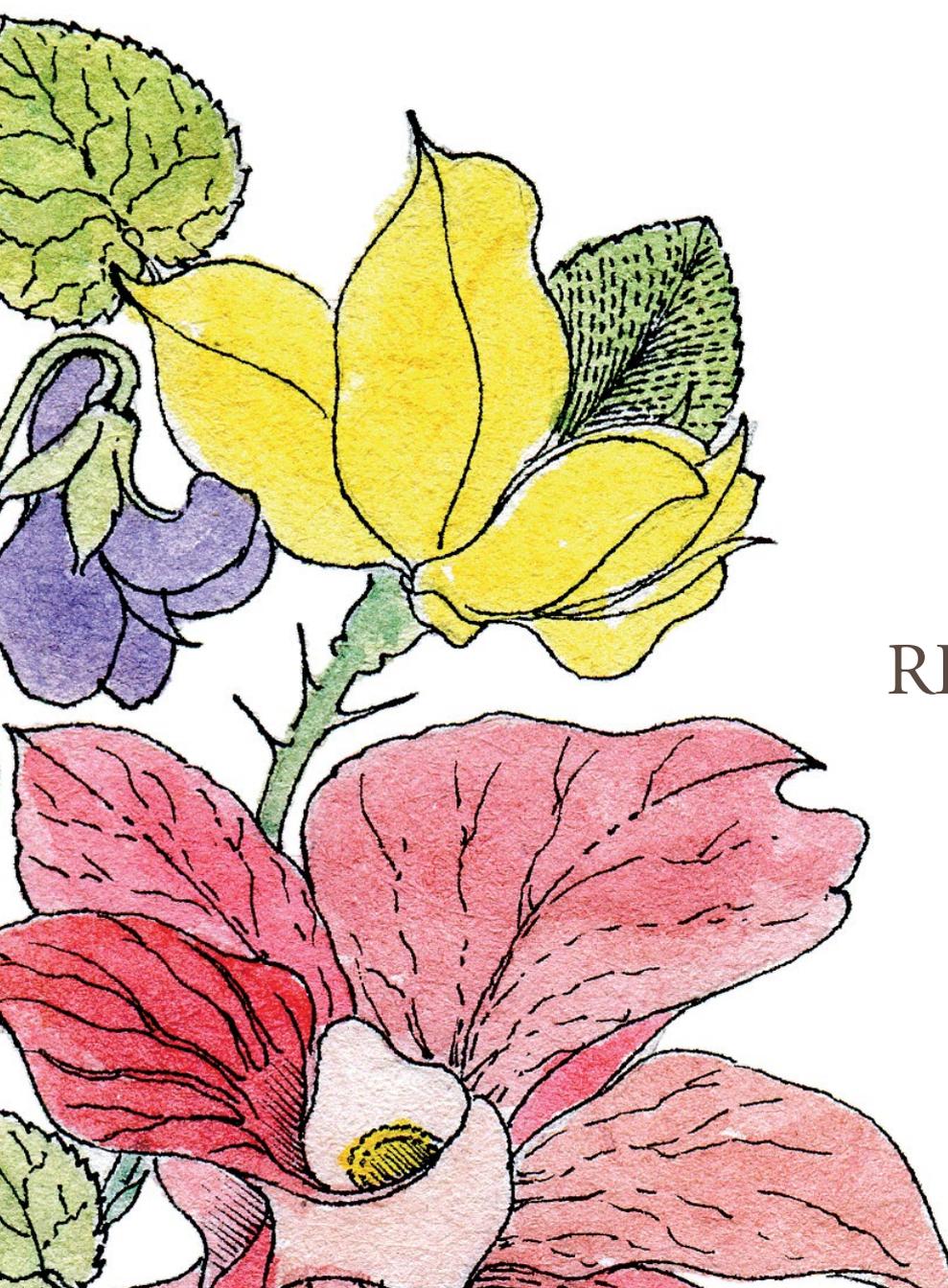




G.D.VAJRA



PRESS
REPORT

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Highlights



#16 TOP W&S Restaurant Top 50 - The Most Popular Wines in America's Top Restaurants

#2 Most Popular Italian Wines
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#36 TOP 100 WINES OF 2016
G.D. VAJRA **2011 Barolo Bricco delle Viole**

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2014 Langhe Nebbiolo - Daily Wine Pick on Apr. 06, 2016



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Decanter

2012 Barolo Bricco delle Viole on the Top 75 of the most exciting wines of 2017

2013 Dolcetto d'Alba featured by:
- **Christelle Guibert**, Decanter's tasting director, in her selection of 50 top wines under £20 on August 20th 2015.

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."

Bloomberg

- **Elin McCoy** in her selection of **50 Best Wines Under \$50 to Buy in 2017** on **2013 Barbera d'Alba** on December 13th 2016.

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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



Vinous & The Wine Advocate

Antonio Galloni

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. This year, for the first time, Vajra is releasing their Barolo Ravera, a wine that had previously been bulked out when the vines were young. Stylistically, the Ravera is a bit less polished than the flagship Bricco delle Viole, but in top vintages it can be thrilling, as is the case in 2010. [...]"

"I have had many fabulous tastings at Vajra over the years, but this was one of the most memorable, as I had a chance to sample a wide range of Barolos spanning vintages 2010-2013. [...] 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.** When I stopped by on a late Saturday afternoon, the tasting room was occupied by a large group. How many world-class wineries can you visit on a Saturday afternoon with a group? The answer is not many. **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.**"

•

OCTOBER 2012

"**Aldo and Milena Vajra are among the quietest and most introspective of Piedmont's top echelon growers. It is the wines that do the talking here, and they do that ever so eloquently.** The estate's continued focus on excellence throughout their entire range comes through in spades in these new releases. One of the most interesting wines I tasted during my most recent visit might never be released, but it speaks to the high level of quality that is synonymous with the Vajra name. Some years ago, the Vajras purchased a plot in the Ravera vineyard planted with Nebbiolo. The vineyards are now about 15 years old, but the Vajras have never released a Barolo from this site because they don't think the wine is important enough for their label. I tasted the 2008 from tank and can only say most producers would kill to have a wine of this level in their cellar. But at Vajra, it remains a work in progress. I hope the Vajras will decide to bottle this Barolo one day, as it seems a crime to deprive the world of this terrific Barolo. For those who are wondering, the Ravera is closer to the Barolo Bricco delle Viole than the Barolo Albe stylistically."

SEPTEMBER 2017

Slow Wine

"Chiocciola" award 2018

SEPTEMBER 2017

Guida Bibenda

"5 Grappoli" award 2018

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."

JULY 2015

Gambero Rosso

La Stella 2015 – Vini d'Italia

"It is a real varietal and territorial amusement park, the one shaped over the years by Aldo and Milena Vajra. Few other wineries in Langa have been able to experiment happily with not that common varietals as Rhein-Riesling, Pinot Noir and Freisa, preserving an admirable stylistic coherence on the great classics. [...]"

MAY 2015

L'Espresso

Massimo Zanichelli

"Versatility and completeness are the hallmarks of the family Vajra. From the juicy Barbera d'Alba Superiore 2011 to the "peppery" Dolcetto Coste&Fossati 2013 to an exemplary triptych of Barolo 2010: there is the new, vigorous Ravera, the classicism of the Albe and the verticality of the cru Bricco delle Viole, one of the most charismatic.

The outsider instead is the Pétracine 2013, a Riesling of adamantine purity. From 15 to 50 euro, prices for every budget."

ON THE WINES

“ These are some of the most graceful, polished wines being made in Piedmont, and that applies to the entire range. **”**

Vinous, Beyond Barolo and Barbaresco , Oct. 2013



BAROLO

BRICCO DELLE VIOLE



- 96 2014 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2014 Barolo: Surprise, Surprise, Feb 2018**
 The 2014 Barolo Bracco delle Viole is positively stunning. There are many things about this wine that are super-impressive, but what stands out most is how soft and silky the tannins are. Because of that, the 2014 is much more approachable than it usually is, and yet also conveys the feeling of translucence that is such a signature of this site and wine. I am not sure I have ever tasted a young Bracco delle Viole with this much purity of fruit. The 2014 is total class. Don't miss it.
- 93 2014 - Michaela Morris, Decanter, GD Vajra's Bracco delle Viole: Tasting 2004-2014, Oct 2017**
 2014 was notoriously cool and rainy throughout the summer, though conditions improved in September. Following harvest on Oct 7, macerations and cask ageing were on the shorter end of the spectrum for Vajra. With only a couple of months in the bottle the 2014 is reserved, but demonstrates a fresh, fine-boned prettiness with cherry blossom, pepper and appetisingly crunchy acidity. Delicate tannins suggest it may not be for the long haul, however this could surprise.
- 92+ 2014 - Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018**
 Here is a delicate, graceful and deeply floral expression of Nebbiolo. The 2014 Barolo Bracco Delle Viole offers a very polished and fine interpretation with a ready and accessible personality. This is a great wine to order at your favorite restaurant. [...] This is a more approachable interpretation of one of Barolo's most elegant and delicate wines.
- 17.5 2014 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2014 – last tranche of a surprising vintage, Apr 2018**
 Tasted blind. Surprisingly dark ruby. Lift and concentration on the nose and with a hint of pine. Proper concentration on the palate with long powdery tannins. Youthful, embryonic and gorgeous.
- 97 2013 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2013 Barolo: Sublime Finesse & Elegance, Feb 2017**
- 97 2013 - Steven Spurrier's Fine Wines, Decanter, Sep 2017**
- 18+ 2013 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2017**
- 17.5 2013 - Jancis Robinson, Gens de Métier – express route to pleasure, Aug 2017**
- 94 2013 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator, Oct 2017**
- 94 2012 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2012 Barolo: Grace Under Pressure, Mar 2016**
- 17+ 2012 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2012 – a vintage with issues - May 2016**
- 94 2012 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator**

BAROLO RAVERA



- 93 2014 - Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018**
The plot is only half a hectare in size and the vines range in age from 18 to 45 years old. The soils are rich in minerals and iron. The 2014 Barolo Ravera is indeed a fuller and more structured expression. The bouquet opens to dark fruit, iodine and mineral nuances. Ravera is a low-altitude vineyard from an estate that is specialized in high-altitude Nebbiolo farming. That added power is well suited to this thinner vintage.
- 93 2014 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2014 Barolo: Surprise, Surprise, Feb 2018**
A stark contrast to the Bricco delle Viole, Vajra's 2014 Barolo Ravera is a tannic, powerful wine. There is quite a bit of power and depth [...].
- 17 2014 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2014 – last tranche of a surprising vintage, Apr 2018**
A Tasted blind. Surprisingly dark ruby for this vintage. Brooding richness on the nose. Plenty of sour cherry on the palate and firm, somewhat drying tannins. This is still very youthful, and unsettled.
- 95+ 2013 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2013 Barolo: Sublime Finesse & Elegance, Feb 2017**
The 2013 Barolo Ravera is tightly wound and austere, with tons of its energy in reserve. Lavender, violet, plum, spice and menthol are beautifully delineated throughout. In some vintages Ravera is explosive, but the 2013 is very much closed in on itself. Attractive scents of rose petal, mint, sweet red berries and chalk infuse the taut, salivating finish. My instincts say this is going to be a very special wine one day.
- 17.5 2013 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2017**
Ravera is, once again, the Barolo to start with from Vajra. It is plump, fruit-forward, generous, smooth and the details of tannin and minty leaf notes only serve to add complexity to the wine as opposed to slowing it down. There is a grippy, but not too sour finish, hinting that you will need to wait a year or two to crack on, but otherwise this is a delicious wine.
- 94 2013 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator**
- 96 2012 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2012 Barolo: Grace Under Pressure, Mar. 2016**
- 94 2012 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast**
- 17 2012 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2012 – a vintage with issues - May 2016**
- 17.5 2012 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2016**
- 94 2012 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator**
- 93 2011 - Ian D'Agata, Decanter, Barolo 2011: Ian D'Agata's top wines**
- 92+ 2011 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2011 Barolo: The Here and Now, Mar. 2015**

BAROLO ALBE



- 91 2014 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast**
Aromas of rose, crushed mint, red berry and dark spice mingle together with an earthy whiff of leather on this fragrant Barolo. The vibrant, almost ethereal palate delivers juicy Marasca cherry, star anise and an almost salty note alongside taut, polished tannins and racy acidity.
- 91 2014 - Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018**
A tribute to local tradition, the 2014 Barolo Albe represents an assembly of fruit from various vineyard plots throughout the area. [...] This vintage shows silky, fine lines and a more accessible approach for near and medium-term drinking. I would recommend a few more years of bottle aging, however, to allow the wine the time to grow in texture and mouthfeel.
- 90 2014 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2013 Barolo: Surprise, Surprise, Feb 2018**
Vajra's 2014 Barolo Albe is a pretty wine [...]. Suggestions of sweet tobacco, cinnamon, dried flowers and black cherry are layered in this supple, easygoing Barolo. Drink it over the next handful of years.
- 92 2013 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2013 Barolo: Sublime Finesse & Elegance, Feb 2017**
Vajra's 2013 Barolo Albe is beautifully perfumed, sensual and expressive in this vintage, with a bit less overt fruit and more aromatic/structural intensity than is often the case. The style of the Albe has always favored a more succulent expression of Nebbiolo that is quite different from the single-vineyard wines, but the 2013 suggests Vajra may be moving the Albe closer in line stylistically to their other Barolos, which I think is a positive. In any event, there is an element of restraint in the 2013 that is hugely appealing. The Albe is a blend of fruit from Fossati, Coste di Vergne and La Volta aged in 75 hectoliter casks. The Albe may be the single best value in Barolo today. As for the 2013, don't miss it!
- 93 2013 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator**
Red Aromas of fresh-cut hay and grass shade the flavors of cherry, black currant, violet and tobacco in this elegant, taut red. A little compact now on the finish, yet should stretch out with some age. Best from 2021 through 2032.-B.S.
- 17 2012 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2016**
- 90 2012 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast**
- 93 2011 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator**
- 16.5+ 2011 - Jancis Robinson, Barolo 2011 – the tasting notes, Dec. 2014**
- 92 2012 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator**
- 94 2010 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, 2010 Barolo: Flying High Again, Jan. 2014**

DOLCETTO D'ALBA COSTE&FOSSATI



- (91-93) 2017 - Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018**
Tasted from barrel, the 2017 Dolcetto d'Alba Coste & Fossati is shaping up to be a real stunner. Rarely does a vintage come around that is as well suited to Dolcetto than the hot and dry 2017 growing season. This is an almost exaggerated version of Dolcetto. The wine exhibits broad shoulders and dark fruit aromas. In the mouth, it is abundantly rich, generous and succulent.
- 91 2016 - Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018**
Representing a marriage of two historic vineyard sites, the 2016 Dolcetto d'Alba Coste & Fossati shows impressive structure and depth. The Dolcetto clone used here is derived from an estate massal selection. The results are precise and fine-tuned, with dried blackberry aromas followed by black olive and grilled herb.
- 16.5 2016 - Richard Hemming MW, Jancis Robinson, Another piece of Piemonte, Jul 2018**
Vivid black cherry jam aromas – much riper and more user-friendly than their other Dolcetto. Still plenty of tannic tension, though, with acidity that cuts through nicely. Compact, flavoursome, powerful.
- 92 2015 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017**
Vajra's 2015 Dolcetto d'Alba Coste & Fossati is once again one of the most powerful, richly textured Dolcettos readers will come across. Dark blue and purplish, fruit, leather, menthol and spice notes give the 2015 much of its bold, almost flamboyant personality. I tasted the 2015 just two days after bottling, and it was superb, even under those less than ideal conditions.
- 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**
- 17+ 2014 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2016**
- 16 2014 - Jancis Robinson, Walter's mixed Italians - the North, May 2016**
- 91+ 2013 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Everyday Piedmont - Dolcetto, Barbera and Langhe Nebbiolo, Nov. 2014**
- 90 2013 - Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator**
- 18 2013 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2015/2016**
- 18 2013 - Matthew Jukes, MoneyWeek, Nov. 2014**

DOLCETTO D'ALBA



- 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 Lerner, 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**
This release has bright, crunchy, lovely, refreshing raspberry fruit. The acidity is mouth-watering and it is made to genuinely drink early without losing any of the grace and impact of the Dolcetto variety.
- 92 2013 - Christelle Guibert, Decanter 50 top wines under 20€**
A mix of eucalyptus, cherry, leafy and tar aromas and flavors are allied to a moderately firm structure in this balanced red. The finish is long and walks the line between fresh cherry, spice and earth notes. Best from 2018 through 2032.—B.S.
- 17 2013 - Ian D'Agata, Decanter, 35 amazing Piedmont reds under 20€**
An initially reduced nose clears with aeration to reveal violet and red plum notes. Finishes with mounting tannins and a hint of violet, tar and ink. A very big Dolcetto – almost too much – but it's an impressive wine nevertheless.
- 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



- 92 2015 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast**
Ripe black-skinned fruit, blue flower, crushed mint and cake spice aromas take center stage, while a balsamic note stays in the background. It's big, juicy and incredibly delicious, as it doles out mouthfuls of ripe plum, succulent blackberry, Marasca cherry and vanilla alongside soft, polished tannins. A star anise note lingers on the close.
- 17+ 2015 - Richard Hemming MW, Jancis Robinson, Another piece of Piemonte, Jul 2018**
Pure and juicy on the palate with wonderfully tingly acidity on the palate. Excellent clarity to the black cherry fruit here. Drying but not abrasive on the finish. Has enough weight and ageing potential to merit the price.
- 93 2015 - Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate, #237, Jun 2018**
The 2015 Barbera d'Alba Superiore is a profound expression of this native grape from a perfectly suited vintage. All the stars have aligned correctly to produce this gorgeous expression. [...] The bouquet is complex and dark with rich black fruit, tar, smoke and spice. The mouthfeel is equally rich and enduring. This beautiful Barbera should continue a steady evolution over the next decade in the bottle.
- 92+ 2014 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017**
Just bottled a few days ago, 2014 Barbera d'Alba Superiore might very well turn out to be better than the 2013! Vibrant, lively and intense, the 2014 possesses striking aromatics and tons of sheer appeal. Vibrant sweet red/purplish fruit, blood orange, sweet spices and hard candy infuse this exceptionally beautiful vibrant Barbera.
- 17.5+ 2014 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2016**
Superb intensity and superb polish, this is a profound Barbera with spectacular depth and a coolness and calm which is in complete contrast to luxurious 2013. Stern on the finish, this is a shade darker and cooler and this makes it a perfect candidate for a degree of ageing. I will follow this wine closely in case it changes gear and softens in a shorter time frame.
- 92 2013 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017**
- 18.5 2013 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2016**
- 17 2013 - Walter Speller, Jancis Robinson, Walter's mixed Italians - the North, May 2016**
-  **2013 - Gold Medal, Sommelier Wine Awards, April 2016**
- 93 2012 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Affordable Piedmont – Dolcetto, Barbera & Langhe Nebbiolo, Dec. 2015**

BARBERA D'ALBA



- 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**
Fantastic intensity for this label with more buoyant fruit than I have seen before and a luxurious texture, this is a gorgeous wine. A blend of six vineyards on three soil types, this is a stunningly layered wine with thoroughly engaging fruit and a very long, supple finish. Already drinking this is a must-have wine (November 2015). Stuffed with fruit and with a little swagger in its walk this is rolling along nicely and looking every bit as attractive as it did last year. (June 2016)
- 16 **2013 - Walter Speller, Jancis Robinson, Walter's mixed Italians - the North, May 2016**
Violet crimson. A little tight on the nose. Blackberry with peppery notes. Sweet, red fruit on the attack and then very fresh and supple. Easy to enjoy. Simple and delicious.
- 17 **2012 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2015/2016**
Spectacular blackberry intensity and juiciness mark this out as a very surprising wine for its price point. This is a totally clean Barbera with no excess tannin whatsoever. Forward and pretty, this precocious wine was drinking on release. (November 2014) Still looking superb with silky fruit and immense commercial appeal. (June 2015)
- 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 NEBBIOLO



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

The fruit for this expressive, wild strawberry-laden Nebbiolo comes from vineyards in the Barolo region, but is aged only in steel. A typically firm grip lingers on to a magical, silky finale.

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

Here is another terrific interpretation of Nebbiolo from a vintage that promises fantastic results with this finicky grape. The 2016 Langhe Nebbiolo offers bright floral and fruity intensity with dried violets, cassis, blueberry and forest floor. The effect is fine and elegant, and the wine finishes with smooth silkiness. The fruit is pressed cold at harvest in order to maintain that distinctive crispness and freshness.



2016 - Silver Medal, Sommelier Wine Awards, May 2018

This left an impression on Melania Bellesini of The Fat Duck, with its 'beautiful floral bouquet of rose petals, violets and fresh summer berries, elegant raspberry, strawberry and Morello cherry, then a very juicy palate with fine tannins, layers of fresh fruit, sweet spices and vanilla, and long finish of crunchy red fruit.

17.5 2015 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2017

In bottle for three weeks only, the nose on this wine is sensational, like a pot pourri of red and purple flowers. Brilliant on the entry and then the door slams shut with dry tannins and a pinched finish, this wine needs time, but the nose suggests it will be a beauty in time. With some juicy fruit and really lovely length it should come out of its shell within six months.

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

Just bottled a few days ago, 2014 Barbera d'Alba Superiore might very well turn out to be better than the 2013! Vibrant, lively and intense, the 2014 possesses striking aromatics and tons of sheer appeal. Vibrant sweet red/purplish fruit, blood orange, sweet spices and hard candy infuse this exceptional

2014 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2017

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

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

2013 - Matthew Jukes, The Piemonte Report 2015/2016

2012 - Jamie Goode's wine blog

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

LANGHE FREISA KYÈ



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

The 2015 Langhe Freisa Kyè will be released later this October. Freisa is a fascinating grape that has the structure of Nebbiolo and the freshness of Barbera. It also has a unique touch of bitterness that comes naturally to this variety. [...] This warm vintage has shaped a soft and rich red wine. This is an attractive pairing partner to serve with lamb or pork dishes.

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

The 2013 Langhe Freisa Kyè is remarkably polished and, dare I say, elegant, in this vintage. The bombastic style of some years past has been supplanted by a much more silky, perfumed expression of Freisa. Bright, nuanced and finely sculpted, the Kyè offers extraordinary finesse. Lavender, rose petal, sweet red cherry and mint are laced into the exquisite finish. What a gorgeous wine this is.

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

The 2012 Langhe Freisa Kyè is relatively tame in this vintage, which is not such a bad thing, as it will be ready to drink earlier than is the norm. This is an especially accessible, fruit-driven vintage for the Kyè. Shades of new leather, licorice and smoke add nuance on the close.

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

In 2011 Freisa Kyè is surprisingly laid back and refined, with far less of the pure intensity and explosiveness it typically presents. Varietal notes are also a bit more in the background, at least today. Sweet herbs, mint, rose petal and orange peel are some of the notes that mark an especially elegant Kyè from the Vajra family.

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

Vajra's Langhe Freisa Kye has been fabulous for several years now. The 2010 is another stellar vintage. Rich, deep and powerful, yet much lighter on its feet than some of the more explosive vintages, the 2010 stands out for its impeccable balance. Today the 2010 is incredibly primary, with very little in the way of flavor development. Instead, it is the wine's texture and pure minerality that stand out. With time in the glass the wine's volume and breadth become more apparent. Blood orange, savory herbs, menthol, rosemary and melted road tar linger on the finish. This is a cool, reserved vintage for the Kye. I won't be surprised if it opens up considerably with more time in bottle.

91 2009 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate, #203, Oct. 2012

The 2009 Langhe Freisa Kyè is beautiful in this vintage, even if it doesn't have the visceral thrill of some previous years. The heat seems to have baked out much of the varietal character, resulting in a wine that is silky, racy and polished, but maybe too much so for its own good.

LANGHE PINOT NERO

PN Q497



92 2013 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Affordable Piedmont – Dolcetto, Barbera & Langhe Nebbiolo, Dec. 2015

The 2013 Pinot Nero is striking in its beauty. Expressive floral and spiced notes open into a core of exuberant, boisterous fruit. Beams of tannin kick in on the finish, bringing the palate and mind very much back to Piedmont. I am hardly a fan of international varieties in Piedmont, but the Vajras have once again done a terrific job with their Pinot. There is so much to like here.

92 2012 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Everyday Piedmont - Dolcetto, Barbera and Langhe Nebbiolo, Nov. 2014

The 2012 Langhe Pinot Nero is laced with sweet red cherries, tobacco, mint and cinnamon in a wine that marries Pinot juiciness with the tannin and energy from high-altitude sites in Vergne and Roddino. Barolo-inflected nuances support the super-expressive finish. There is plenty of personality here.

92 2011 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate, #203, Oct. 2012

Black cherries, dark spices, menthol, tobacco and pine are laced together in Vajra's 2011 Langhe Pinot Nero. A dark, voluptuous wine, the 2011 is beguiling and highly expressive from the very first taste. Hints of orange peel, star anise and spices add the final layers of complexity.

(91-93) 2010 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate, #203, Oct. 2012

The 2010 Pinot Noir was resting in tank just prior to my visit. It is an incredibly vibrant, perfumed wine loaded with expressive fruit and total class. Aldo Vajra told me he wanted to bottle the wine quickly in order to preserve its freshness. If the bottled wine turns out to be as good as this tank sample, we may have a game-changer on our hands - a wine that amply demonstrates the potential for Pinot Noir here.

LANGHE RIESLING PIÈTRACINE



- 90 **2016 - Monica Lerner, 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**
Pale yellow. This wine always reminds me of Eden Valley. Lemon, cut lime and green peach on the nose. Really fresh, with mouth-watering acidity and quite pure lemon and lime fruit. Could do with a couple more months in the bottle.
- 92 **2014 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Affordable Piedmont – Dolcetto, Barbera & Langhe Nebbiolo, Dec. 2015**
The 2014 Riesling Piètracine is bright, focused and beautifully nuanced from start to finish. This is a remarkably crystalline white with real class. Some of the edges have begun to soften, which gives the 2014 considerable near term appeal. Green apple, flowers and mint are all laced into the exquisite, subtle finish.
- 91 **2012 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Piedmont Beyond Barolo and Barbaresco, Oct. 2013**
Vajra's 2012 Langhe Riesling is a drop-dead gorgeous beauty. Lime, tropical fruits, white flowers and spices all jump from the glass. This is one of the more immediate, open, young Vajra Rieslings I can remember tasting, which means the 2012 will drink well beautifully right out of the gate. Floral notes add lift on a finish of exceptional beauty. Drinking window 2013-2017.
- 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



- 16.5 2016 - Jancis Robinson, Gens de Métier – express route to pleasure, Aug 2017**
Delightfully grapey nose. Utterly fragrant without being OTT. Scented with orange flower water. Cool and juicy and so charming. (JH)
- 90 2015 - Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Top Values and Everyday Gems from Piemonte, Feb. 2017**
Vajra's 2015 Moscato d'Asti is delicate, gracious and quite pretty, with lovely green apple, pear mint and floral overtones.
- 92 2015 - Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast – Editor's Choice - The Enthusiast 100 of 2016**
Fresh and fragrant, this foaming dessert wine opens with aromas of orange blossom, chopped herb and ripe orchard fruit. The bright, generous palate doles out juicy yellow peach, apricot, Bartlett pear and lemon drop alongside fresh acidity and a hint of mineral. A sage note closes the finish.
- 2014 - Bronze Medal, Sommelier Wine Awards, May 2015**
'Just what you would expect from a frizzante,' began Enikő Heidenwolf of Bread Street Kitchen, adding: 'Lots of fruit and white flowers on the nose, with well-balanced sweetness and acidity. Good with ice cream, even in the winter time.'
- 92 2013 - Tim Atkin, MW**
How many wines make you want to start dancing? I love the perfumed frivolity of this wine. Sweet, frothy and perfumed, it's a wonderful expression of the Moscato grape. The alcohol is low, the flavours are fresh and aromatic. What's not to like? Try it with a bowl of strawberries.
- 90 2012 - Jamie Goode's wine blog**
5.5% alcohol. This is brilliant, and worth the premium price. Grapey and luscious but with good balance and some subtle herby notes. Really lovely example of Moscato at its best.
- 89 2011 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate, #203, Oct. 2012**
The 2011 Moscato d'Asti comes across as a little compact next to some of the other top wines of the year. Stylistically, this is a Moscato built on energy and texture rather than overt richness.
- 89 2010 - Antonio Galloni, R. Parker's The Wine Advocate #197, Oct. 2011**
The 2010 Moscato d'Asti is very nicely done. It shows excellent richness and depth through to the creamy, textured finish. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2012.

N.S. DELLA NEVE VINO SPUMANTE DI QUALITA'



- 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**
A blend of Nebbiolo and Pinot Nero, this vibrant sparkler has aromas of small red berry, grapefruit and chopped herb. The racy palate offers strawberry, raspberry, nectarine zest and a hint of fennel alongside tangy acidity. It finishes clean and crisp.

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ROSA BELLA VINO ROSATO



- 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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