

TERRE MIROGLIO

FAMILY ESTATES

Decanter

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Top Barolo Riserva 2012 wines

- [Stephen Brook](#)

Stephen Brook takes a look at the latest vintage of Barolo Riserva to be released. Read on for tasting notes and scores...



The farmhouse of Franco Conterno overlooking Monforte d'Alba. Credit: francoconterno.it

Barolo Riserva 2012

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Drink or keep

Sunburn and hail were just some of the problems this year, and growers had to respond adroitly in the vineyards. Some fine wines, but others are soft and forward.

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2012 was an inconsistent vintage, complicated by a cool and rainy spring, sporadic summer hailstorms, and rainfall in late August and early September.

Variable weather in the spring had led to an uneven flowering, which complicated the vintage and required growers to be vigilant and attentive in the vineyard. There were periods of intense heat, and there were reports of sunburn in some exposed vineyards.



An assortment of Slavonian and French oak barrels & bariques for ageing Barolo Riserva.

Hail did the greatest damage in La Morra and Barolo, however the naturally thick Nebbiolo skins allowed many of the bunches to emerge unscathed.

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Overall quality was good but not exceptional, and the grapes reached proper ripeness after improving weather in September. The wines are generally juicy and accessible, although growers that didn't harvest the uneven crop scrupulously may have picked some bunches with aggressive tannins.

Although it wasn't a vintage that would seem to result in a profusion of Riservas, the decision to produce one is often based on localised factors, and there are certainly some excellent results. Tastings of regular Barolos from this vintage in 2018 suggested the wines were evolving quite fast, but Riservas are of course in a different category, with intrinsically more weight and density.

Stephen's pick of Barolo Riserva 2012

Tenuta Carretta, Barolo, Barolo, Cannubi, Piedmont, 2012



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Blind tasted by Stephen Brook, (at Hotel I Castelli, Ala, 15 May 2018)

Part of Top Barolo Riserva 2012 wines



Carretta are based in the Roero, but also produce Barolo from the Cannubi cru. This Riserva has a sweet cherry and marzipan nose that's elegant and stylish. It's sleek and precise on the attack, with ample volume of fruit, good depth and ripe tannins. It's perhaps not very nuanced, but has balance, vigour and length.

Drinking Window 2020 - 2035



Producer	Tenuta Carretta	Vintage	2012	100% Nebbiolo
Wine Type	Still	Colour	Red	
Country	Italy	Region	Piedmont	
Appellation	Barolo	Ageing	Riserva	
Sweetness	Dry	Closure	Cork	
Body	Full	Time in Oak	36 months	
Oak	Oaked			