

## Tasting Report: Showing Off Their Energy

**Vietti Barbera d'Asti La Crena 2006** \$50 ★★★  
 Ripe, energetic and tangy, with lively flavors of fruit and earth.  
 (Dalla Terra, Napa, Calif.)

**Bartolo Mascarello Barbera d'Alba San Lorenzo 2008** \$45 ★★★

Zesty and beautifully balanced with subtle, savory fruit and smoke flavors. (Robert Chadderdon Selections, New York)

**Bruno Giacosa Barbera d'Alba 2008** \$30 ★★½  
 Classic barbera, slightly bitter and tensely balanced between sweet and savory. (Leonardo LoCascio Selections/Winebow, New York)

**BEST VALUE**  
**Michele Chiarlo Barbera d'Asti Le Orme 2008** \$13 ★★½

Densely textured yet understated with floral aromas and flavors of purple fruit. (Kobrand, New York)

**Cigliuti Barbera d'Alba Compass 2008** \$24 ★★½  
 Lingering fruit and floral flavors with a touch of oak.  
 (David Vincent Selection, New York)

**Elio Grasso Barbera d'Alba Vigna Martina 2008** \$35 ★★½  
 Straightforward and savory with earthy fruit flavors and a little oak.  
 (Martin Scott Wines, Lake Success, N.Y.)

**Vietti Barbera d'Alba Tre Vigne 2008** \$22 ★★½  
 Pleasing, long-lasting flavors of plums and spices.  
 (Dalla Terra)

**Giacomo Conterno Barbera d'Alba Cascina Francia 2008** \$50 ★★  
 Brash, spicy flavors of fruit and minerals, but slightly unbalanced.  
 (Polaner Selections, Mount Kisco, N.Y.)

**Coppo Barbera d'Asti Camp du Rouss 2007** \$19 ★★  
 Direct and sprightly with earthy, floral flavors.  
 (Leonardo LoCascio Selections/Winebow)

**Pio Cesare Barbera d'Alba 2008** \$25 ★★  
 Silky texture and flavors of black fruit, but oakiness is overbearing.  
 (Maisons Marques et Domaines, Oakland, Calif.)

### WHAT THE STARS MEAN:

Ratings, up to four stars, reflect the panel's reaction to the wines, which were tasted with names and vintages concealed. The wines represent a selection generally available in good retail shops and restaurants and on the Internet. Prices are those paid in shops in the New York region.

Tasting coordinator: Bernard Kirsch

