

YEAR'S BEST BAROLO & BARBARESCO

firm in its stance, but not yet completely in focus. Check on it ten years from the vintage. *Vias Imports, NY*



90 | Damilano \$88

2007 Barolo Cannubi Tarry up front, this is sweet with scents of fresh cherries and kirsch. The tannins are so saturated with fruit that they feel fat and accommodating, even if there's a toughness underneath. Decant this now to enjoy with a steak, or cellar it to let the flavor gain detail and complexity. *Vias Imports, NY*

90 | Bruna Grimaldi \$56

2006 Barolo Badarina (Best Buy) From a vineyard in Serralunga d'Alba, this is a tough young Barolo, its blunt tannins balanced by a firm fruit core. The wine gives the sense of being saturated with flavor on a light frame, needing time to fill out its structure. *A.I. Selections, Long Island City, NY*

90 | Marziano Abbona \$75

2006 Barolo Terlo Ravera The Abbona family owns close to ten acres in the Ravera cru of Novello. Made in the winery they completed in 2006, this wine is firm rather than juicy, youthfully closed off for now. The fruit is there behind its acidity and the mineral intensity of the tannins; for the cellar. *Frederick Wildman and Sons, NY*

90 | Monchiero \$39

2004 Barolo Roere (Best Buy) Grown at an estate vineyard in La Morra, this is a dark juice of the earth. It tightens around black tannins and lasts, focused on the mineral core of those tannins. Give this a year or two in the cellar for the fruit to come forward. *The Marchetti Co./Scoperta Importing, Cleveland Heights, OH*

90 | Vietti \$49

2007 Barolo Castiglione (Best Buy) With a deep berry essence in the aroma, this wine makes a firm statement at the beginning and end. In the middle, the volume of the tannins edges out the fruit, building both richness and tension. Give this a few years of bottle age to evolve. *Dalla Terra, Napa, CA*

89 | Cascina Adelaide \$56

2007 Barolo 4 Vigne (Best Buy) Focused on its tannins for now, this is black and smoky with mineral edges and a little sweetness. There's enough juicy flavor underneath to infuse the firmness of tannins with vinous flavors as the wine ages. It's a blend from four vineyards, one each in Barolo, Novello, Castiglione Falletto and La Morra. *Tesori Wines, Napa, CA*

89 | Brezza \$43

2006 Barolo (Best Buy) An international style of Barolo saturated with sweet and supple fruit, this is round and firmly tannic. Ready to serve with beef braised in Barolo. *A.I. Selections, Long Island City, NY*

89 | Attilio Ghisolfi \$45

2005 Barolo (Best Buy) A plump Barolo with sweet scents of caramel to round out the bitterness of the tannins, this has a violet note and a hint of pipe tobacco. Decant it for pasta with boar *sugo*. *Quintessential, Napa, CA*

89 | Palladino \$51

2007 Barolo Serralunga (Best Buy) Voluptuous tannins provide the density of this wine's texture, while the fruit sustains freshness, skittering over the tannins and alcohol and lasting in the finish. While seemingly gentle on the surface, the firm structure underneath warrants a few years of cellar time. *Enotec Imports, Denver, CO*

88 | Elvio Cogno \$52

2007 Barolo Cascina Nuova (Best Buy) High-toned oak scents of vanilla recede as this wine's generous, rough-cut fruit comes forward. This shows promise for the future, needing time in a decanter or bottle age to integrate. *Vias Imports, NY*

88 | Mauro Molino \$40

2007 Barolo (Best Buy) Black and smoky, this wine's alcohol brings up a mineral edge to the tannin. It's densely textured, balanced in a warm mode. For roast beef. *Massanois Imports, Washington, D.C.*

87 | Luca Bosio \$46

2007 Barolo (Best Buy) This wine's black fruit scents of licorice and anise match its equally black tannins. Hard-edged and a bit leathery in aroma, this is suited to brisket. *Quintessential, Napa, CA*

86 | Beni di Batasiolo \$43

2005 Barolo Riserva (Best Buy) This wine's superripe, soft black cherry flavors contrast with its lean structure and bright herbal

notes. For Parmigiano-Reggiano. *Boisset America, San Francisco, CA*

86 | Mauro Sebaste \$19

2006 Barolo Monvigliero (Best Buy) Scents of tar and aniseed introduce this rustic Barolo, a wine with a hint of bitterness but plenty of stamina. Decant for beef in Barolo. *Saranty Imports, Harrison, NY*

BARBARESCO

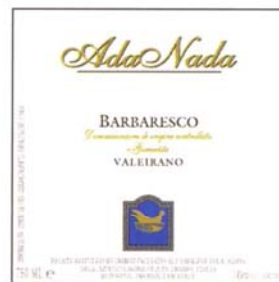


92 | Produttori del Barbaresco \$65

2007 Barbaresco Riserva Pora Fruity black mushroom scents add depth to the strawberry briskness of this cru. It's cool and fragrant, not at all pushed, with a firm, juicy middle that heads into a dark finish hinting at caramelized meat. Balanced for further bottle age, this is a pleasure to drink now with roast squab. *Vias Imports, NY*

92 | Produttori del Barbaresco \$65

2007 Barbaresco Riserva Muncagotta From the vineyard Produttori previously referred to as Moccagatta, this is a lively 2007, its floral scents of strawberry keeping it frisky and bright. The fruit flavor keeps driving through the lean nebbiolo tannins, creating a mouthwatering tension and spice. It will cut through the grizzle of a New York strip steak. *Vias Imports, NY*



91 | Ada Nada \$41

2007 Barbaresco Valeirano (Best Buy) The dark scent of truffle-rich earth leads into this young Barbaresco, refined yet staunchly tannic. Coming off vines about half a century old, the wine has a fruit sweetness that