

New Releases: Italy

ITALY

Piedmont / Langhe

93 Gaja Langhe Costa Russi 2008 \$440 Deep and rich, this red is fresh and vibrant, displaying mint, cherry, licorice and spice flavors. Framed in oak, both spice and tannins, with a taut structure and fine length. Best from 2014 through 2025. 150 cases imported.—B.S.

93 Gaja Langhe Sorì San Lorenzo 2008 \$440 Coffee, licorice and baker's spices overshadow the more delicate cherry and berry aromas and flavors in this tightly wound, linear red. But the length and vibrant structure keep this pulsating through the finish, where a mineral accent emerges. Best from 2015 through 2030. 150 cases imported.—B.S.

92 Aldo Conterno Nebbiolo Langhe Il Favot 2008 \$53 Coffee and cocoa aromas segue into black cherry and plum flavors as this rich, polished red unfolds on the palate. Though pure fruit and sweet oak notes persist, the wine is more about the texture and harmony. Ends with a long, lingering aftertaste of cherry, vanilla and spices. Best from 2014 through 2028. 150 cases imported.—B.S.

92 Pelissero Langhe Long Now 2008 \$50 The dark ruby purple color is matched by brooding plum and blackberry fruit in this imposing red, which is dense and rigid, with the blueberry and spice elements playing out on the finish. Needs time to absorb the tannins. Nebbiolo and Barbera. Best from 2014 through 2025. 800 cases made.—B.S.

91 Gaja Langhe Sorì Tildin 2008 \$440 Espresso, plum, black cherry and toast aromas and flavors mark this powerful, muscular red, which is angular and out of sorts today, but dense and grainy, with a firm, tannic structure. The oak dominates the finish, so give this time. Best from 2015 through 2032. 150 cases imported.—B.S.

90 Giacomo Borgogno & Figli Nebbiolo Langhe 2009 \$34 Exuding cherry, rose petal, leather and tar aromas and flavors, this red has the muscular structure and assertive tannins, but also the character and complexity, with fine grip and length. Very Nebbiolo. Best from 2014 through 2021. 3,000 cases made.—B.S.

90 Cigliuti Langhe Briccoserra 2008 \$45 Generous, yet not soft, with a lush up-front appeal from the blackberry and black cherry fruit. There's support from the dusty tannins, while a pure blueberry note shines through on the lingering finish. Barbera and Nebbiolo. Best from 2013 through 2020. 400 cases made.—B.S.

90 Giuseppe Rinaldi Nebbiolo Langhe 2009 \$36 This red is taut and intense, despite its elegant stature, revealing strawberry, raspberry and peppery spice notes. Though firmly structured on the finish, this has sweet fruit as well. Best from 2013 through 2020. 500 cases made.—B.S.

90 Pietro Rinaldi Langhe Argante 2008 \$28 There's ample spice in this red, along with licorice, black cherry and plum flavors that are set against a backdrop of tight, dense tannins. Sweet spices grace the finish. Nebbiolo. Best from 2013 through 2020. 600 cases made.—B.S.

90 G.D. Vajra Nebbiolo Langhe 2009 \$23 Enticing aromas of raspberry and flowers introduce this supple, elegant red. As the raspberry and cherry flavors unfold, moderate tannins bolster the finish. Drink now through 2016. 2,400 cases made.—B.S.

89 Ceretto Langhe Monsordo 2009 \$36 Aromatic, with black currant, black cherry and thyme flavors that show a hint of licorice. This is round and supported by firm, integrated tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. Best from 2013 through 2020. 4,800 cases made.—B.S.

89 Paitin Langhe 2008 \$21 Loaded with black currant, blackberry and spice flavors, this red is on the lean, austere side. Saturated and long, needing time to soften the firm grip. Nebbiolo, Barbera and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2013 through 2018. 666 cases made.—B.S.

89 Vietti Nebbiolo Langhe Perbacco 2008 \$25 There are tar and diesel aromas, but mostly opulent, sweet fruit flavors, in this ripe, concentrated red, which is thick but juicy, and the tannins are firm and well-coated. This is just a little dry in the end. Best from 2014 through 2022. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 4,000 cases made.—B.S.

