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95_{pts}

Vietti 2009 Barolo Riserva Villero

Castiglione Falletto, Piedmont

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2019 - 2039

It's almost a shock to taste the 2009 Barolo Riserva Villero after the 2013s, as it is quite soft and open. Part of that is the personality of the 2009 vintage, but the wine's is also four years older. Dark cherry, plum, mocha, spice, leather and a host of balsamic-infused notes wrap around the generous, inviting finish. Although the 2009 will be at its best with a few more years in bottle, opening it before that it won't be in vain, as the wine is quite approachable and expressive, even in the early going. The 2009 is sensual, beguiling and inviting today.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: November 2016

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From 2013 Barolo: Sublime Finesse & Elegance (Feb 2017)

Vietti

The sale of the Vietti winery last summer continues to reverberate throughout Piedmont. It is a subject I have already written about extensively. I will limit my comments here to the wines, as the 2013s are spectacular wines that deserve to be appreciated on their own, without any noise from recent events. The 2013s were always superb from barrel. They are every bit as impressive from bottle. Simply put, this is a magical set of new releases from Luca Currado, his wife, Elena Penna, and their talented team. The 2014s and 2015s I tasted from barrel point to two superb vintages in the works at Vietti.

Grape/Blend

Nebbiolo

Release price

\$373.00

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100_{pts}

Vietti 2013 Barolo Ravera

Novello, Piedmont

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2025 - 2053

The 2013 Barolo Ravera is a real stunner. An exceptional, brilliant wine, the 2013 Barolo Ravera possesses breathtaking aromatics, translucent fruit and energy to burn. In 2013, the Ravera is dark and brooding, with fabulous intensity and the linear, focused precision that is the signature of this site in Novello. I have tasted and followed the 2013 Ravera for a number of years. It has never been anything less than thrilling. It is all that and more today. Readers who can find the 2013 should not hesitate, as it is tremendous.

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Grape/Blend

Nebbiolo

Release price

\$175.00

Release Date

January 2017

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97 pts

Vietti 2013 Barolo Rocche di Castiglione

Castiglione Falletto, Piedmont

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2025 - 2053

The 2013 Barolo Rocche di Castiglione is ample, generous and also surprisingly rich. The more intense, voluptuous side of Rocche comes through loud and clear. Even with all of its textural depth, the Rocche possesses superb aromatic intensity and nuance. The 2013 is an unusually rich, racy Rocche, with tons of mid-palate richness. In many vintages, the Rocche is open-knit and sensual, which gives it a certain amount of early accessibility. I don't see much of that in the 2013. Readers will have to be patient here.

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Grape/Blend

Nebbiolo

Release price

\$175.00

Release Date

January 2017

vinous

96 pts

Vietti 2013 Barolo Lazzarito

Serralunga D'alba, Piedmont

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2025 - 2053

This tasting of the 2013 Barolo Lazzarito confirms just how far the wine has come along in recent vintages. Creamy, ample and potent, the 2013 offers an intriguing interplay of aromatics, fruit and structural underpinnings. Gravel, smoke, tar and dark fruit - all signatures of this Serralunga site - are front and center, but it is the wine's overall balance that is most impressive. Scorched earth, leather, smoke and graphite are some of the many notes that reappear on the finish. The 2013 is a real stunner.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: November 2016

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From 2013 Barolo: Sublime Finesse & Elegance (Feb 2017)

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Grape/Blend

Nebbiolo

Release price

\$175.00

Release Date

January 2017

vinous

96_{pts}

Vietti 2013 Barolo Brunate

La Morra, Piedmont

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2025 - 2053

Vietti's 2013 Barolo Brunate is one of the most reticent, powerful and explosive wines in the range. Huge beams of tannin give the wine its energy and overall shape. Readers will have to be especially patient with the 2013, as it is built for the long haul. As...in the very long haul. The gravitas and overall muscularity of Brunate is quite evident, but the wine remains raw, powerful and in need of significant bottle age. Today, the tannins are searing, which adds to the wine's brooding personality. This is the first vintage that includes old-vine fruit that used to go to Oberto and Marengo from a parcel Vietti acquired a few years ago.

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Grape/Blend

Nebbiolo

Release price

\$175.00

Release Date

January 2017

vinous

93+ pts

Vietti 2013 Barolo Castiglione

Castiglione Falletto, Piedmont

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2019 - 2043

The 2013 Barolo Castiglione is rich, powerful and intense, especially for what is the estate's entry-level Barolo. Dark cherry, plum, spice, new leather and menthol are all used together. Intense and voluptuous, the Castiglione shows the richer, more intense side of the vintage. Time in the glass helps release the aromatics and the brighter side of Nebbiolo. Quite simply, the 2013 is a super Barolo Castiglione that is starting to close the qualitative gap with the single vineyard Barolos.

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Grape/Blend

Nebbiolo

Release price

\$52.00

Release Date

January 2017

vinous

95 pts

Vietti 2013 Barbaresco Masseria

Neive, Piedmont

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2023 - 2043

The 2013 Barbaresco Masseria is fabulous. Large-scaled, ample and super-expressive, the 2013 possesses striking depth and intensity, while retaining tons of Nebbiolo nuance and translucence. Bright red cherry, cranberry, chalk and floral notes give the 2013 its aromatic intensity and lift. The flavors turn a bit darker and richer with time in the glass as the wine fills out its broad frame. Once again, Vietti's Barbaresco punches well above its weight. The Masseria emerges from a vineyard in Bricco di Neive and is essentially vinified and aged like a Barolo. In recent years, the Vietti single-vineyard wines have inched up in price. While none of the wines can be defined as a value, the Masseria offers exceptional quality for the money. Simply put, the 2013 Masseria is a total knock-out. Don't miss it!

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Grape/Blend

Nebbiolo

Release price

\$105.00

Release Date

January 2017

