

ALBINO ROCCA

2018 Ratings



2015 Barbaresco Cottà

James Suckling 96 pts

This is very structured and linear with a fine line of tannins running through the center palate. Medium to full body. Cedar and dark-berry character. Long and focused. Muscular and fine-tuned. Drink in 2021.

Vinous 93+ pts – Antonio Galloni

Here in its first release, 2015 Barbaresco Cottà, shows the natural breadth of this vineyard in Neive. There has a real sense of weight and gravitas that distinguishes the Cottà in this range. I would give the 2015 at least a few years in bottle to fully come together. This is certainly an auspicious debut. The Cottà could very well be a new star in the range.

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2015 Barbaresco Angelo

James Suckling 94 pts

Really beautiful and subtle Barbaresco with ultra-fine tannins and gorgeous strawberry and light-cherry character. Medium-bodied, this is so persistent and mouth-caressing. Drink in 2020, but so pretty already.

Vinous 93+ pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2015 Barbaresco Angelo is a blend of fruit mostly from Ronchi, with pieces of Montersino and Loreto that sees 55 days on the skins. Today, the Angelo is very tight and austere. Crushed rose petal, cedar and dried herb notes are pushed forward, while the fruit is more restrained in its expression initially. Time in the glass brings out the wine's pedigree as well as the raciness and natural richness of the year. There is so much to like here.

Wine Spectator 93 pts – Bruce Sanderson

Aromas of cherry, plum, sun-warmed hay, leather and tar show promise, but this red will need time to absorb the beefy tannins. Rich and powerful, with a long, chalky finish. Best from 2023 through 2043.

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2015 Barbaresco Ovello Vigna Loreto

James Suckling 94 pts

Aromas of roses, orange peel and fresh plums. Full body, yet very fine tannins that give this such pretty finesse, tension and form. Hard not to drink now, but a long life ahead. Try in 2021.

Vinous 92+ pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2015 Barbaresco Ovello Vigna Loreto is beautifully lifted in the glass. Even in this warm vintage, the Loreto retains the nerve and tension that are such signatures of this Barbaresco vineyard. Crushed flowers, dried herbs, mint and chalk are

all nicely delineated in a precise, finely sculpted Barbaresco endowed with real character. Readers should plan on cellaring the 2015 for at least a few years before diving into bottles.

Wine Spectator 96 pts – Bruce Sanderson

Pretty cherry, strawberry and floral aromas and flavors define this elegant, supple red. Firmly structured and beautifully integrated, leaving a lingering aftertaste of iron, tobacco and underbrush. Best from 2022 through 2042.

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2015 Barbaresco Ronchi

James Suckling 94 pts

Aromas of blueberries and hot stones follow through to a full body, firm and silky tannins and a fresh and vivid finish with lovely chocolate and hazelnuts. Clean and refined throughout. Drink or hold.

Vinous 93 pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2015 Barbaresco Ronchi is gorgeous. The richness of the vintage marries very well with the personality of the site, which results in an ample, powerful wine of real character. Bright red cherry, mint, chalk and floral overtones abound. The tannins need time to soften, but that should not be an issue here. This is an impeccable wine from the Rocca family.

Wine Spectator 92 pts – Bruce Sanderson

A mix of sweet cherry, licorice and tar flavors, backed by dense tannins, this red has all the elements in the right proportions but will require time for them to come into balance. Fine length. Best from 2022 through 2038.

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2015 Barbaresco Montersino

James Suckling 93 pts

Lovely softness and juiciness to this Barbaresco with delicious strawberry and light chocolate character. Medium-bodied, round and pretty. Drink now.

Vinous 91 pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2015 Barbaresco Montersino is silky, gracious and enveloping, all while retaining a very classic mid-weight sense of structure. Rose petal, mint, game, sweet red cherry, chalk and white pepper add an attractive aromatic register. All the elements are very nicely balanced in this mid-weight Barbaresco.

Wine Spectator 92 pts – Bruce Sanderson

Aromas and flavors of medicinal herbs, juniper, sage, cherry, mineral and licorice mark this savory red. Firm and a bit austere now, with a core of ripe fruit and dusty tannins shaping the finish. Best from 2022 through 2038.

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2015 Barbaresco

Vinous 89 pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2015 Barbaresco is a very pretty, entry-level Barbaresco. Crushed flowers, mint, tobacco and cedar give the 2015 lovely aromatic lift. The 2015 is already quite open, which makes it a good choice for drinking now and over the next few years. There is good grip in the tannins, but the slightly forward flavor profile leads me to think the 2015 is best enjoyed sooner rather than later. Vineyard sources are mostly Meruzzano plus young vine fruit from Ronchi and Loreto.

Wine Spectator 91 pts – Bruce Sanderson

Austere and tannic, this is monolithic and unyielding, with elements of ripe fruit, and sweet spice and tar notes. Hard to see where this is going now, but shows character. Reveals pure cherry flavors after a few hours of aeration, so decant or cellar. Best from 2011 through 2036.

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2007 Barbaresco Bric Ronchi

Vinous 89 pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2007 Barbaresco Bric Ronchi is now fully mature. Dark stone fruit, chocolate, spice, leather, menthol and espresso flavors are nicely delineated in the glass. The 2007 was aged mostly in French oak barrels, with about 20% cask. More importantly, the 2007 shows just how far these wines have come over the last decade.

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2016 Barbera d'Alba

Vinous 90 pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2016 Barbera d'Alba is plush, supple and inviting, all of which make it virtually irresistible to drink now and over the next few years. Ripe red cherry and plum fruit flavors are pushed forward. Silky and juicy, with notable depth, Rocca's 2016 Barbera is a winner. Don't miss it.

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2017 Barbera d'Alba

Wine Spectator 90 pts – Bruce Sanderson

A distinctive graphite aroma is matched to flavors of black currant and blackberry, tinged by violet. This is elegant and focused, with a long, harmonious aftertaste. Drink now through 2023.

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2015 Barbera d'Alba Gepin

Vinous 91 pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2015 Barbera d'Alba Gepin is terrific. Dark, rich and voluptuous, but with plenty of structure, the 2015 expresses all of the natural intensity of the year while retaining a very appealing sense of translucency. Succulent dark cherry, plum, spice, leather, mint and dried herbs add to the wine's forward, racy personality.

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2016 Dolcetto d'Alba

Vinous 89 pts – Antonio Galloni

Rocca's 2016 Dolcetto d'Alba is bursting at the seams with varietal character. Wild cherry, smoke, licorice, lavender, tobacco and herb notes infuse a mid-weight, flavorful Dolcetto loaded with aromatic intensity and personality.

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2017 Dolcetto d'Alba

Wine Spectator 86 pts – Bruce Sanderson

Ripe and fruity, this red sports cherry and earth flavors, with light tannins and bright acidity for support. Drink now.

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2015 Nebbiolo d'Alba

Vinous 89 pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2015 Nebbiolo d'Alba emerges from parcels in San Rocco Senno d'Elvio and spends a year in cask. A powerful, deep wine, the Nebbiolo d'Alba shows all the richness of the year in its intense dark fruit and broad, ample personality. Hints of smoke, tobacco, licorice and incense add aromatic nuance. The 2015 is pleasant, if a touch rustic and rough around the edges.

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2016 Langhe Nebbiolo Rosso di Rocca

Vinous 90 pts – Antonio Galloni

The 2016 Langhe Nebbiolo Rosso di Rocca is another gorgeous entry-level wine from Albino Rocca. With the 2016, the Rosso di Rocca is a Langhe Nebbiolo, with the Nebbiolo coming from a newly acquired parcel in Magliano Alfieri, in Roero. What comes through is a relatively powerful, broad expression of Nebbiolo, with dark tonalities of fruit and a fair bit of brawn. The 2016 is a very pretty wine, but readers should expect a more potent style than in the past. The 2016 was done with short macerations and aged entirely in steel. Even so, it has quite a bit of tannic clout. This is a serious wine at its level.

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2017 Nebbiolo Langhe di Rocca

Wine Spectator 90 pts – Bruce Sanderson

A burst of bright cherry marks this young, fruity red, accented by light earth and tobacco notes, but the emphasis is clearly on the fruit. Fine length. Drink now through 2024.

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2016 Piemonte Cortese La Rocca

Vinous 89 pts – Antonio Galloni

Lemon peel, white flower, almond and mint are nicely delineated in the 2016 Cortese. Drink this refreshing, crisp Piedmontese white over the next year or two. The Cortese is fermented in neutral oak, but there are no perceptible oak signatures.

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2017 Chardonnay Langhe Da Bertù

Wine Spectator 87 pts – Bruce Sanderson

A fruity, unoaked style of Chardonnay, this boasts peach, apple and citrus flavors. Rich and balanced, with a pleasant bitterness on the finish. Drink now.

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2017 Moscato d’Asti

Wine Spectator 87 pts – Bruce Sanderson

This creamy Moscato is balanced by fresh acidity, showing a pleasing mix of white peach, Thai basil and orange sorbet flavors. Drink now.

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