

# MARIO MARENGO

**M**ario Marengo, Marco's father, was a rare individual. In 1994, when I first visited the estate, the vineyard was truly a sight to behold: old vines (some 75 years old) high up on a south facing slope of the great Brunate cru of La Morra. After tasting several vintages, I knew I was in the presence of a greatness one rarely experiences, part of this greatness being a reserve of potential still unexploited. I also learned that though Mario devoted much care to his wine and took great pride in it, that he was quite occupied in other activities and was unable to personally carry his winery further forward: nor was he aware of any need for changes. Therefore, an unpleasant task I had faced many times before: tactfully informing a wine producer that though the wine was splendid in many ways, that it could and should be improved and that this would require some significant alterations. Mario listened, was perhaps a bit perplexed at first, but only right at the very start of the discourse. He then thoughtfully conceded a few possibilities and soon began experimenting and tasting with a reborn palate. He approved with a bright smile and said he suddenly felt 20 years younger.... and he acted that way too! Inside of a year he remade the cellars and all around the area heads were turning.

Mario's son, Marco, is now managing the estate, since his father passed away in 2001, with the same passion and dedication.

Barolo "Brunate" bears the character of the extraordinary vineyard it is made from, but equally apparent is the stamp of Mario Marengo that it continues to have: on all the 5,000 bottles made from the estate's 1.5 hectares.

The estate also makes another single vineyard Barolo from a tiny plot, Bricco Viole, in the township of La Morra, and small quantities of

Nebbiolo d'Alba and Dolcetto.

Finally, two new releases are a "base" Barolo and a Barolo made from a selection of the oldest vines of the Brunate vineyard. ♦



## Barolo Brunate

Zone: *La Morra*  
 Cru: *Le Brunate*  
 Varietal: *Nebbiolo*  
 Vineyard Ext.: *1.5 hectares*  
 Average Prod.: *5,000 bottles*



## Nebbiolo d'Alba Valmaggione

Zone: *Veza d'Alba*  
 Cru: *Valmaggione*  
 Varietal: *Nebbiolo*  
 Vineyard Ext.: *0.4 hectares*  
 Average Prod.: *3,000 bottles*