



## Barbaresco Vallegrande



Italy > Piedmont

### Variety

100% Nebbiolo



### Terroir

Grey marl (clay and limestone) with layers of sand an average of 1200 feet above sea level on a western facing slope.



### Winemaking

*Winemaker:*

*Alfredo and Luigi Grasso*

A very traditional style, this single vineyard 'Vallegrande' is aged between 30-48 months in large Slavonian oak Botti before bottling. There is no hurry, the wines are released when the brothers feel like the wine is ready.



### Production

1000 cases



Alfredo and Luigi truly love what they do. A simple way of life, they spend the majority of their waking hours in the vineyards or in the winery doing everything together by hand. Of course, they want you to enjoy their wine, but their passion isn't for selling but for making. This is why they hold wine to release when the wine is truly ready.

For 50 years the brothers have been working together and making only small improvements to a very traditional way of thinking. With four generations of experience with the land, they nurture a classic, rustic style that expresses fully the terroir of their vineyards and the positive energy of their approach.

A wine full of character with rose petal, cherry, and cassis balanced by savory elements of cedar, forest-floor, and espresso bean. The 2005 vintage shows the subtlety and nuance that makes the Nebbiolo grape one of the most noble and age-worthy grapes in the world. Compare it to a more youthful vintage like the 2015 and appreciate the evolution of time in a bottle!

### VARIETAL NOTES

**Nebbiolo:** The most noble grape in all of Italy stands alone for its tannic structure, high acidity, and thinner skin. Typically a lighter garnet color, this grape can show surprising strength and has the potential to age for decades. The Nebbiolo grape, when made in the region of Barolo, is considered "the wine of kings, and the king of wines" because of its popularity with the ruling House Savoy, in the 1800's. The prestigious grape shows its potential in Barbaresco, the 'Queen' region of the Nebbiolo grape.

### FOOD PAIRING

A fun wine for lighter dishes and white meats. The fruit character plays well with Chinese foods and mild curries. Great with fresh cow's milk cheeses.



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Italy > Piedmont



**Estate owned by:**

Alfredo and Luigi Grasso

**Winemaker:** Alfredo and Luigi Grasso

**Year Founded:**

Four generations, farming and winemaking dating back to the 1880s. The Grasso Fratelli (brothers) Azienda Agricola, was officially established in 1970.



**Farming and Land:**

The family estate is 14 hectares (34 acres) of land found within 3 of the Cru vineyards of Barbaresco in the area around Treiso, the highest village in the Barbaresco zone. A part of the 'Green Experience' in the piedmont, <http://www.thegreenexperience.it/>, no pesticides or herbicides are used in the vineyards.



**Production:**

Barbaresco Vallegrande: 1,000 cases



The Grasso brothers have been making wine since before they founded the Azienda Agricola in 1970. They have been farming the same land and making wine from that land non-stop for 50 years! Nothing seems more traditional or wholesome than joining them for a walk through their vineyards. The vineyards are right out the back door and adjacent to the winery converted from the old family barn. Even though they don't speak English, their infectious smiles and easy-going nature make one feel right at home.

With large Slavonian oak barrels that average 45 years of age, very little has changed in their approach for the last half a century. The largest portion of their land holdings comes from the Vallegrande cru which runs from the bottom of the hill at 900 ft asl., up to 1300 feet at the crown of the hill. Here Alfredo and Luigi make their flagship wine with a minimum of 30 months (up to 48 months) of aging in the large old barrels.

The Barbaresco region is often times referred to as the 'Queen' of the Nebbiolo grape because the wines tend to be more elegant than their neighboring Barolo (The King). Barbaresco is a third the size of Barolo and received DOC status in 1966 and later DOCG status (Italy's highest designation) in 1980. The aging requirements for Barbaresco are 9 months in barrel with a total of 2 years aging in both barrel and bottle. As you can see from the minimum barrel aging of 30 months for Grasso, they go above and beyond the standard requirements to achieve wines of maturity and excellence!



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