

**Barbaresco, Province of Cuneo**

*Established: 1980*

*Owners: Marengo family*

*Winemakers: Pino Marengo*

*Production: 25,000 bottles*

*Hectares under vine: 5*

*Viticulture: Conventional*



Ca' is short for 'casa' - home. In fact, you wouldn't take Romano Marengo's for a winery at first. Surrounded by an endless vista of gently sloping countryside at the top of a Langhe hill, it isn't until you walk down the drive that you see the beautifully terraced Nebbiolo vines overlooking Rabaja, Barbaresco's historical cru. After three decades of winemaking, notably with Produttori del Barbaresco, Romano set up a winery of his own in 1980. It is now very much a family affair with son Giuseppe assisting Romano to style the wines and daughter Paola in charge of marketing.

**Barbaresco vineyards**

At Rabaja and Rio Sordo, the soil is compact, clayey-calcareous and almost white in colour, rich in zinc and manganese, yielding wines with impressive structure, body and cellar life. Here the Ca' Romé style is defined by elegance and balance.

**Barbaresco DOCG 'Sori Rio Sordo'**

The name means 'sunny side' (sori in Piedmontese) of Rio Sordo, a cru long recognised for its elegance. This 1.7 hectare vineyard, planted in 1969, is perfectly situated south south-west. Aged one year in oak barrels and barriques, previous to one year in the bottle. Intense, concentrated aromas of ripe red berry fruit, wild roses, violets and liquorice with some herbal notes. The palate is complex and structured, nicely framed by juicy acidity with a long persistent finish.

**Barbaresco DOCG 'Maria di Brun'**

Dedicated to Romano's mother, Maria di Brun, and released only in the best vintages, this is from a special selection of the rare Michet clone of Nebbiolo. There is just half a hectare grown on the Rabaja hill and Michet produces a low yielding, small bunch that ripens late. The wine is aged 24 months in mostly Slavonian barrels followed by twelve months of bottle age. Michet typically shows a more herbal profile with notes of mint, sage and thyme woven with classic red berry and floral fruit. A full bodied Barbaresco with velvety texture, the palate is fine and long with great persistence. A wine that will certainly reward cellaring.

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**Serralunga d'Alba vineyards**

Romano's two Barolos from Serralunga, Cerretta and Rapet, are made in a 'take no prisoners' style. Classic winemaking, combined with Serralunga's remarkable tannin structure, means that these wines often need to mark time in the bottle. The marly, calcareous and clayey soil is rich in iron, bluish-white in colour and almost impermeable to water. It is conducive to big, full-bodied wines with an extremely long cellar life of up to 25 years.

**Barolo DOCG 'Vigna Cerretta'**

This 1.7 hectare vineyard in Cerretta, one of Serralunga's designated crus, was planted in 1961 and yields a very low crop. It offers excellent concentration of rich, dark fruit with notes of tobacco, liquorice, roses, violets and vanilla. The palate is long and persistent with smooth, velvety tannins and great structure for decades of cellaring.

**Barolo DOCG 'Rapet'**

From a one hectare vineyard within the township of Serralunga, planted in 1972 and renowned for its structure. Elegant bouquet of underbrush, dried roses and ripe fruit with floral and spicy notes. The palate is full bodied with balanced components of fruit, tannins and acidity with a long finish.

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