



RASSEGNA STAMPA

2009

Guide to Italian Wines
Tom Hyland

Autumn 2009

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**Ripe Nebbiolo Grapes in Serralunga d'Alba vineyard
These will be used for production of Barolo
(PHOTO ©TOM HYLAND)**

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2005 BAROLOS

From the start, the 2005 Barolos are faced with a problem – they follow the spectacular 2004 vintage. Any time that happens, the lesser vintage will suffer in the eyes of the press.

The truth about 2005 is that is a good to very good vintage with some excellent wines, but this is not a vintage that could be rated as great. There is good depth of fruit, but not the intensity of 2004 or the aromatics or fruit persistence. Acidity is good as is the overall balance.

I had a problem with some Barolos from La Morra, which seemed a bit dull and lacking some fruit. The wines from this commune are normally lighter than those from Serralunga or Monforte, so the strength of La Morra Barolos are based upon their aromatics and suppleness of tannins. These qualities are not that evident in 2005 for too many bottlings.

However, there are many fine offerings from Castiglione Falletto as well as Serralunga and Monforte. The best of these wines will offer optimal drinking pleasure in 15-20 years, so while these are not powerful wines, the finest are well made and offer very good complexity.

**** EXCELLENT

ELVIO COGNO “Ravera” (Novello)

Lovely garnet with aromas of cedar, dried cherry, rose petals and date. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Pinpoint acidity, nice use of oak and polished tannins. Round, long finish. Elegant, well made wine that will be at its best in 12-15 years.

RECENT BAROLO VINTAGES

2004 – OUTSTANDING

Beautiful aromatics, excellent fruit concentration and lively acidity. Complete and complex – the best will age for 20-25 years.

2003 – GOOD TO VERY GOOD

From a torridly hot year, the wines are slightly alcoholic and not all that well balanced. As always, there are some notable successes, but most examples are for the short term (7-10 years) and lack finesse

2002 – GOOD

Though huge hailstorms ruined much of the crop in La Morra, there are some nicely crafted wines. Lighter than most years- drink over the next 3-5 years.

2001 – OUTSTANDING

Richly flavored wines with great concentration and complexity. Beautifully structured wines with great intensity and precise acidity. 20-25 years.

