



RASSEGNA STAMPA  

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2009

Reflections on Wine  
Tom Hyland

1 settembre 2009

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Via Rio Mirureto, 8 • 12051 ALBA (cn) • Tel. +39 0173 362958 • Fax +39 0173 362940  
info@wellcomonline.com • www.wellcomonline.com

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## REFLECTIONS ON WINE

VIEWS ON WINES FROM ITALY, CALIFORNIA, CHILE, ARGENTINA AND OTHER GREAT REGIONS OF  
THE WORLD FROM A FREELANCE WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER

*Tuesday, September 1, 2009*

### **2005 Barolos - Many Promising Wines**



**Brunate, one of Barolo's finest crus and the source of outstanding and excellent Barolos from the 2005 vintage**  
(Photo ©Tom Hyland)

Enough about the mess in Montalcino, let's turn our attention to a positive subject for Italian wines at the moment – the release of the new Barolos from the 2005 vintage.

You should realize that you will be subjected to a number of reviews in the coming months about the 2005 Barolos stating that these wines are not like the 2004s, which were outstanding. This is true, but unfortunate, as 2004 was a brilliant vintage for Barolo and brilliant just doesn't come along every year – in fact, it doesn't come along but once or twice a decade, if that much. So remember that, please.

So let's be fair with the 2005 Barolos; this was a successful vintage and there are some excellent wines and even a handful of outstanding ones. The best offerings are medium-full with very good to excellent concentration, offer very good acidity and refined tannins. This is not a powerhouse vintage and the wines are not as complex in aromatics as the 2004s, but overall, these are very well made wines. The finest Barolos from 2005 will age for 15-20 years and while that is not as long as a great year such as 2004, 2001, 1999 or 1996, that is still impressive.





I tasted over 100 different Barolos from the 2005 vintage this past May in the city of Alba at the annual Alba Wines Exhibition. The wines were tasted blind, and as usual with this practice, I found many pleasant surprises along with a few disappointments. This is always an excellent tasting and my thanks to the hard-working staff of wellcom for their organization. (...)

Other **excellent** Barolos from 2005 include the **Sergio Barale “Cannubi”**; the **“Brunate” from Oddero**; **Marcarini “Brunate”**; **Michele Chiarlo “Cerequio”**; **Fontanafredda “La Rosa”**; the **Massolino “Margheria”**; the **“Ravera” from Elvio Cogno**; the **Prapò bottling of Ceretto** and the **Famiglia Anselma** bottling.

There are several more bottlings I’ve rated as excellent; you’ll be able to read about these wines in the upcoming Fall issue of my Guide to Italian Wines. This will include reviews not only reviews of the 2005 Barolos, but also the excellent 2006 Barbarescos (tasted in Alba the same week as the Barolos) as well a few dozen new releases of wines from Campania. To learn about subscribing to my Guide to Italian Wines, click [here](#).

POSTED BY TOM HYLAND AT [10:11 AM](#) [0 COMMENTS](#) 

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