

Elvio Cogno: New Releases

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Yesterday I was guest at Brand Wijnimport in Leiden to taste the new released wines from Elvio Cogno. Based in the town of Novello in the southern part of Barolo, this producer is best known for its three Barolo bottlings from the Ravera vineyard: the Barolo Ravera, Barolo Vigna Elena and Barolo Bricco Pernice. Talking just about these wines wouldn't do any justice to the estate's other bottlings; I encountered an impressive and very solid set of wines as you can read in the notes below. Judging according to the consistency and quality across the entire range of wines, I do believe Valter Fissore and team are gradually lifting this estate into Barolo's top league.

Elvio Cogno Langhe Bianco Anas-Cëtta 2009

*From native Nascetta grapes (Anascetta in Piemontese dialect) grown in the Cerviano vineyard (Novello). Cold maceration for one day, partially fermented in stainless steel tanks on indigenous yeasts. Around 30% is transferred to used Allier-Limousine barriques to complete primary fermentation and undergo regular lees stirring for 6 months. Partial (40%) MLF, final blend in steel tanks before bottling. Bright straw yellow color with aromas of citrus fruit, peach, apricot, spice and some nuts, running through to an intense palate with a lovely medium weight texture, vivid acidity and a persistent finish. Very clean and pure. **Very good** (now-2015) €*

Elvio Cogno Dolcetto d'Alba 'Vigna del Mandorlo' 2009

*Fermented in stainless steel tanks with regular pumping over. Ageing in tank for 8 months, and an additional 6 months in bottle before release. Bright garnet color with violet hue, showing red berry fruit, dark cherry and fragrant floral aromas on the nose. The palate instantly offers bags of sweet and intense fruit, balanced by good acidity, soft grainy tannins and a pleasant almondy bitterness on the finish. This is textbook Dolcetto. **Good** (now-2013) €*

Elvio Cogno Barbera d'Alba 'Bricco dei Merli' 2008

*Made from old vine grapes (including 150 years old pre-phyloxera vines) grown in the 1.8 ha Bricco di Merli vineyard (Novello). Fermented in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks with regular pumping over. Ageing on its lees in new Slovenian casks and old French barriques for 12 months. Additional 6 months of bottle age before release. Deep garnet color with dense, initially somewhat restrained aromas of ripe plum, chocolate, black cherry and spice. Medium to full-bodied palate with rich fruit, warm spice, smoothening oak, nerry acidity and plenty of tannic structure. Needs a bit more time to open up. **Very good** (Now-2016+)*

Elvio Cogno Barbaresco Bordini 2007

*From a 0.6 ha parcel of 20-30 years old vines in the Montesommo vineyard (Neive) – Fermentation and maceration in stainless steel tanks for 20 days. Ageing in Slovenian casks for just over one year. Deep ruby red with bright aromas of violet, morello cherry, chocolate and exotic spice. The palate shows vibrant young fruit with vigorous acidity, firm tannins and integrated oak. Not incredibly complex but very subtle with excellent concentration and balance. Great value. **Very good** (now-2018) €*

Elvio Cogno Barolo Cascino Nuovo 2006

*From 1.5 hectares of the estate's young vines – Ageing in large Slovenian casks for 24 months, 6 months ageing in bottle before release. Deep ruby red with fragrant floral and spicy aromas. A very approachable and open palate shows nice cherry and blueberry fruit, cedar, tobacco and tar with lively acidity and youthful tannins at a persistent and elegant finish. Another great value. **Very good** (now-2020) €*

Elvio Cogno Barolo Ravera 2006

*From 4.9 hectares of vines grown in the Ravera cru (Novello) – Fermentation and maceration for 40 days with regular pumping over and submerged cap. Ageing for 24 months in large Slovenian casks, 6 months ageing in bottle before release. Deep ruby red color with a more reserved nose than the Cascina Nuova, offering rose, plum, tobacco and spice. The palate goes a big step up, both in density and concentration, with loads of warm juicy fruit, firm tannins and zippy acidity. Long and weighty without losing its signature elegance. Great ageing potential. **Outstanding** (now-2020+)*

Elvio Cognito Barolo Ravera 2000

Medium dark ruby brown color, predominantly showing secondary and tertiary aromas of leather, wet earth, coffee and mushrooms, following through to a palate with only – after some time in the glass – a slight hint of sweet fruit, long and soft tannins and earthy minerality at the finish. A testimony of a warm vintage that produced a lot of low-acid Baroli. This probably has been an attractive wine in its youth, it has gone past its best now. Very interesting still. **Good** (now)

Elvio Cognito Barolo Ravera 1996

Good tastings always end with something special, so did this one. Dark garnet color with a rusty hue, the wine displays a beautiful complex nose with currants, prune, leather, cigar and forest floor characters, growing more complex with time in the glass. Youthful sweet cassis dominates the palate where only a hint of earthiness at the finish reveals a fraction of its true age. Time now has integrated every component in this beautiful balanced wine, but with tannins and acid still showing vibrant it has another lease on life. **Outstanding** (now-2020)