



**GIACOMO FENOCCHIO**

AZIENDA AGRICOLA

**RASSEGNA STAMPA**

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One of the most beautiful Italian regions, Piemonte is the land of big red wines, white truffles, cheeses and top quality food

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## Presentation of the New 2012 Barolos and 2013 Barbarescos!

Vinitaly, one of the world's largest and most important wine fairs is right around the corner. With this event, the new vintages are normally officially presented to the world. However, there is a smaller and more focused event in Torino, held by the **Italian Sommelier Association** called **BAeBA** where you can taste a real preview of the new vintages for just Barolo and Barbaresco. Sipping Barolo in the stunning **Palace of Carignano** was just spectacular. The Baroque Palazzo was constructed in 1679 and was the birthplace to Italy's first king, Vittorio Emmanuel II. During Italy's unification period in the mid 1800s, this building was used as the House of Deputies of the Subalpine Parliament. It was the first time I had been inside and it was indeed impressive.



The whole event was just amazing...except for just one thing...I couldn't drink! But I could smell, and maybe the wines were so young, they were more pleasant on the nose than the palate anyway. I was showing around two potential business partners from the States and took the opportunity to say hi to old friends like Paolo from **Cà Del Baio**, Alberto from **Alberto Voerzio** and of course Isidoro from my old workplace, **G.D. Vajra** and yet was eager to introduce myself to winemakers I had not yet met. The wines I tasted seemed balanced and fruity but obviously not extremely expressive yet. Some winemakers rebelled and brought old vintages so it was fabulous to taste Ambrigo's 2006 Barbaresco Rongaglio Riserva, Cantina del Pino's 2011 Barbaresco, Cascina Fontana's 2011 Barolo, Scarzello's 2009 Barolo Sarmassa Vigna Merenda, and Mauro Sebaste's Ghè 2010 to name a few.

It was interesting to "smell" some new wines but I can't really give you a personal and proper analysis of the new vintages. So here is what some of the experts are saying about the 2012 Barolo vintage:

### Antonio Galloni, Vinous -

*Two thousand twelve is one of the most intriguing recent vintages in Barolo. The 2012s span a wide range of styles, from Barolos that are lifted and gracious to those that offer quite a bit of richness. Quality is uneven across the board, so readers will have to be selective in order to enjoy the best the vintage has to offer.*

### Jancis Robinson, -

*An unusually hot summer unexpectedly resulted in Nebbiolos with low alcohol levels and high acidity. A very cold February with an abundance of snow helped to replenish water tables. Prolonged cool weather, well into April, protracted budbreak by two weeks. The weather became more regular, with a warm July, only to be interrupted by several hailstorms destroying the crop in several vineyards in Novello. August turned out to be exceptionally hot with temperatures rising well above 40 °C, causing vines to shut down and halting the growing cycle. Rain at the end of August cooled things down and restarted (slow) ripening. A dry autumn allowed a delayed harvest. The best wines show acidic nerve, balance and freshness. Overall a light vintage but with several excellent wines on the top level.*

### Bruce Sanderson quoting Alessandro Ceretto, Wine Spectator -

*"There was probably an initial concern as to whether the grapes would reach phenolic ripeness at the same time as sugar ripeness," said Alessandro Ceretto, the winemaker for his family's estates. "However, the weather change in late August that brought the cooler nights allowed the grapes to slowly develop ripe tannins and strong varietal characters. While it is early to judge the wines, we are seeing elegance coupled with strong tannins."*

Here is what has been said about the 2013 Vintage:

### Produttori del Barbaresco -

*2013 harvest will be remembered as a classic one, with picking operation progressing almost until the end of October! It started with a cold and wet tail of the winter which caused a very delayed start of the growing season. Nebbiolo's buds broke in Barbaresco around April 12th almost two weeks behind average timing! Most of April and May were cold and quite wet with intense rainfall, over 8.0 inches in just 3 weeks, and farmer's skills were put at test due to favorable conditions to mildew's attacks right from the outset of the season. June and July were blessed by much better climate and both flowering and fruit set happened regularly. Needless to say July green harvest and careful canopy management were crucial in a vintage like such. Despite the good turnout of the second half of the summer, vines were not quite able to fully recover the delay and by early September we were looking at healthy grapes, still quite behind schedule in the ripening process. September brought cool nights and warm, bright days, particularly in the second half of the month, and conditions remained fair also into October. Nebbiolo is the grape that benefits more from this climatic condition, properly developing to the full the phenolic profile that grants complexity and produces wines best suited for ageing.*



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*Thanks to the protracting good weather conditions, we were able to wait and pick late, starting harvest on October 10th and ending it two full weeks later. October harvest was the norm during the '80s but has becoming an exception in the new millennium when harvest usually happens around last week of September. Late harvested grapes bring into the wine complexity, structure and ripe tannins combined with intense color, all quality that will result in elegant, yet powerful wines of great balance and longevity, definitely a "classic" vintage!*



So it's lookin' pretty good and I am happy to say I have purchased my first Barolo 2012 from **Giacomo Fenocchio Villero 2012**. Incredible but he is almost out already. I find this to be a very elegant cru with a lot of finesse and this traditional producers in one of my favorites. Looking forward to opening this up down the road and starting my 2012 collection:)



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