
ROAGNA®

NEW RELEASES 2020



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Luca Roagna is one of the stars of Piedmont, always looking to improve his already spectacular wines and it is a pleasure to be able to offer you his latest releases. The Roagna family has lived in the village of Barbaresco for centuries, long before the wines of Barbaresco and Barolo became world famous. Owing twenty hectares, twelve of which are under vine, while the rest remain wild forest, the family now also buys in grapes from three districts. Luca has been working the harvest since 2001 and his guiding principles are summarised by the ten points in his manifesto.

Manifesto

- #01 Old vines located in historic vineyards
- #02 Massale Selection – No Clones – Single Vineyard Wines
- #03 Biodiversity, No herbicides, No Pesticides, No Fertilizers
- #04 Maturity at Harvest
- #05 Wild yeast fermentation
- #06 Long aging in large oak casks
- #07 Bottling using low sulfur and no filtration or fining
- #08 Long maceration using a submerged cap
- #09 Family tradition
- #10 Purity from the terroir without any oak flavor

These ten bullet points encapsulate the Roagna ethos, but in order to fully appreciate the manifesto it is important to focus on the wines themselves. There are people who share Luca's quest for perfection, but not many who truly embody it. While he understands that he can only influence the vineyards and quality in the vineyards he exerts strict control of everything down to the wood used for the cases of his large format bottles.

"Quite simply, Barolo, and Piedmont more broadly, is going through a remarkable boom." Antonio Galloni

"I generally advise Vinous readers to focus on producer above all else. Two thousand fifteen is a perfect vintage to see why that approach makes sense," Antonio Galloni

Last year saw the release of two new Barbarescos: Albesani and Gallina. Although in the commune of Nieve, both vineyards still have the same soil as the Barbaresco commune. The Albesani vineyard is shaped like an amphitheatre, with an exposition to the southwest and more clay in the soil. Gallina is a large hill which borders Albesani. The Roagna family rents a small part of both vineyards from an old friend. These additions to the Roagna stable represent the biggest changes at the estate since the creation of their old vine "Vecchie Viti" to produce wines with the best expression of terroir from each vineyard in 2007.



VINTAGE REPORT



Two thousand fifteen was marked by mostly warm and dry conditions that were a welcome respite after the considerable stress of 2014. The growing season started with significant rain and snow in the winter of 2014/2015 that would prove to be critical later on.

Luca Roagna continues to ratchet up the quality of his wines in a meaningful way. Probably the biggest change here in recent years has been the shortening of time in barrel for most of the wines from about five years in cask to roughly three and half. Upon release, the wines have more freshness, energy and nuance than they once had.

"Alfredo and Luca Roagna [...] are handcrafting fascinating, soulful Barbarescos and Barolos of mesmerizing depth. [They are] earthy, structured wines with mind-blowing complexity and exceptional character and are the result of ideally ripened Nebbiolo from prime vineyards coupled with scrupulous disdain for convention and a near-fanatical obsession with nature." Kerin O'Keefe, Piedmont expert & author of Barolo and Barbaresco



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WINES

Solea 2018

£288 per 6x75cl IB

All of the Chardonnay and Nebbiolo for Roagna's Solea comes from the family's Pira vineyard in Barolo. The Nebbiolo is vinified with no skin contact, but lends the wine its texture and length. It matures for two years in cask before being bottled. Antonio Galloni describes Solea as "one of the most compelling white wines being made in Piedmont". This is made with a nod towards Burgundy.

Montemarzino 2018

£372 per 6x75cl IB

The 2018 Timorasso Derthona Montemarzino is only the fourth vintage produced and has quickly captured the imagination of collectors. Made from the Timorasso grape, Luca produces the very best example from a tiny one hectare plot in the Colli Tortonesi, 400 metres above sea level. Ripe and honeyed, this displays a fine balance of refreshing acidity and creamy texture. We suggest giving this a few years in the bottle for it to truly shine.

Langhe Rosso 2015

£135 per 6x75cl IB

The grapes for the Langhe Rosso come from Roagna's younger vines (25 years old and younger) in Pira in Castiglione Falletto (Barolo) and in Pajé in Barbaresco. The wine spends a little under three years in oak and two years in cement. This is one Langhe Rosso that punches significantly above its weight, and can be enjoyed whilst the single vineyard wines mature in the cellar.

Barbaresco Pajé 2015

£420 per 6x75cl IB

All of the Pajé bottlings are known for their aromatics and depth – and this is the perfect place to begin. The Pajé vineyard is a south-south-west facing amphitheatre, perfectly sheltered from the wind and with a higher concentration of limestone. The parcel is just 1.8 hectares and has been owned by the Roagna family 1953. The vines are 50 years old.

Barolo La Pira 2015

£420 per 6x75cl IB

La Pira is a Roagna family monopole situated in Castiglione Falletto. With 7 hectares of vines, it is their largest vineyard. Of the monopole's distinctive character, Monica Larner writes: "Pira is easy to recognize in terms of bouquet, thanks to those distinctive aromas of dried rose petal and balsam herb that lift gently from the bouquet." This is delicate, nuanced Barolo with superb length and precision.

Barbaresco Pajé Vecchie Viti 2015

£900 per 6x75cl IB

This is a selection of the Pajé vineyard's oldest vines, many dating back to 1937. The parcel is less than half a hectare in size. As Antonio Galloni writes: "Other wines in this range offer power and/or finesse, but the Pajé Vecchie Viti is all about elusive, ethereal beauty." It is typically amongst the most perfumed of Roagna's wines.

Barbaresco Asili Vecchie Viti 2015

£900 per 6x75cl IB

From 80 year old vines in the heart of the vineyard, this is an Asili of great beauty over power. From just 0.22 hectares, purchased in 1961, a layer of sand under limestone adds elegance and charm to the wine. This is one of Roagna's most sought-after releases, with just 1,200 bottles produced on average each year.

Barbaresco Montefico Vecchie Viti 2015

£900 per 6x75cl IB

A super-classic Barbaresco, Roagna's Montefico is typically one of the most focused, structured releases from the estate. The Roagna family has been crafting wine from Montefico longer than any other vineyard; their parcel was bought in 1929, and many of the original vines remain today. Montefico ripens last, which means the grapes benefit from an extended phenolic maturation. Fewer than 1,200 bottles are produced.

Barolo La Pira Vecchie Viti 2015

£900 per 6x75cl IB

Next to the straight Pira, the Vecchie Viti has an extra kick of mid-palate sweetness and richness that is very attractive. With many vines planted on their original rootstocks, the Vecchie Viti receives an extended maceration, typically two and half months, which gives it great complexity and structure. This is a Barolo that will require sometime in the cellar.

Barbaresco Faset 2015

£420 per 6x75cl IB

£420 per 3x150cl IB

First produced in 2013, this is an especially soft, open-knit style, and yet there is plenty of Nebbiolo persistence and overall grip. It doesn't take much to see where the Faset is likely to go in coming vintages. Grapes come from a tiny half hectare plot and no more than 2,000 bottles are produced.

Barbaresco Albesani 2015

£420 per 6x75cl IB

£420 per 3x150cl IB

This is just the second vintage of this wine, made from a parcel rented by a family friend. Antonio Galloni writes: "Barbaresco Albesani is frankly on another level relative to the other Barbarescos Luca Roagna has recently added to his range." The chalky soils contribute to the wine's fragrant aromatics.

Barbaresco Gallina 2015

£420 per 6x75cl IB

£420 per 3x150cl IB

Another new wine for the Roagna family, first produced in 2014, Gallina offers the hedonistic quality that typifies wines from this site whilst also displaying the classical feel of Roagna's Barbarescos. Like Albesani, this comes from a leased parcel of vines in Neive.

Barbaresco Crichtet Pajé 2012

£650 per 1x75cl IB

Crichtet Pajé is the pinnacle of Roagna's production, the jewel in the crown, and one of Piedmont's greatest wines. Limestone soil from a small parcel (just half a hectare) at the top of the Pajé vineyard produces wines of sublime depth and complexity. The first vintage of this legendary wine was 1978, although a few bottles were produced as an experiment in 1977. Vines are 80+ years old. This is something truly special.





To enquire about your allocation for the 2020 releases from Roagna, please get in contact with clients@armitwines.co.uk at your earliest convenience.



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