

♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2018

The Manzone 2018 Barolo Castelletto is a robust expression of Nebbiolo with ample texture, dark fruit and plenty of oak toast and spice. The wine needs time to shed some of that extra fruit weight and baby fat, and once it does it will show more pinpoint focus and linearity. Fruit for this full-bodied wine comes from Monforte d'Alba.



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Barolo Bricat 2018

The 2018 Barolo Bricat leans toward full-bodied concentration (on the Nebbiolo scale) but stops a bit short of that with a leaner mid-palate performance that is characteristic of this vintage. The wine does deliver a pretty good ride along the way with dark fruit, earthy or ferrous tones and spicy toasted oak.



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Barolo Riserva Gramolere 2015

Medium to full-bodied on first inspection, the 2015 Barolo Riserva Gramolere is quite a big wine ultimately, with thick layering and bold aromas of pressed blackberry and plum. Those dark fruit tones cede to toasted spice, clove, smoky tar and cured tobacco. There is a lot of ripe fruit here and a lot of oak spice, but these two sides of the wine are well matched.



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Barolo Gramolere 2018

The Manzone 2018 Barolo Gramolere is toasty and generous on first nose with baking spice, Spanish cedar and mahogany wood. The oak imprint is strong, and it takes a little while before the wine begins to show dark primary fruit, plum, steeped tea and black rose. The Gramolere Vineyard in Monforte d'Alba is planted to 30-year-old vines, and the wine is structured and fresh.



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Barbera d'Alba Superiore La Marchesa 2018

The Manzone 2018 Barbera d'Alba Superiore La Marchesa delivers ripe fruit, blackberry preserves and dusty notes of crushed chalk or mineral. This is a full-bodied red wine with soft tannins, lots of richness and end notes of sweet tobacco and tarry smoke.v



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Barolo Castelletto 2016

Drawing fruit from Monforte d'Alba (always known for its power and depth), the 2016 Barolo Castelletto shows classic lines and lively fruit intensity that gives the bouquet a pretty sense of lift and power. Red currants, spice, blood orange and rusty nail are part of the aromatic package. Underneath, the wine reveals a solid and tight core of primary fruit that needs time to soften and fresh out. I like the no-nonsense, direct and frank approach of this Barolo by Giovanni Manzone. Some 5,500 bottles were released in June 2020.



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Barolo Gramolere 2016

From another celebrated vineyard site in Monforte d'Alba (planted to 30-year-old vines), the Giovanni Manzone 2016 Barolo Gramolere shows a degree more intensity and darkness compared to the slightly more streamlined Castelletto. The difference is minimal, but I get a bit more volume and soft fruit on the bouquet here with summer cherry and plum, backed by classic Nebbiolo aromas of ferrous earth and licorice. The Manzone team opts for long skin maceration times lasting up to 40 days, and the wines age in botte and tonneaux. This is your Barolo for a lean cut of steak. An ample 11,000 bottles were released in June 2020.



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Barolo Gramolere 2015

The Manzone 2015 Barolo Gramolere is an oak-driven expression of Nebbiolo with a more informal drinking style that prizes immediate fruit and intensity. The aging process takes the wine through both tonneaux and botte grande. Dark fruit nuances are thick and tightly stitched together with blackberry spice and leather. This is a voluminous vintage with 10,000 bottles produced.



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Barolo Castelletto 2015

With fruit from Monforte d'Alba, the 2015 Barolo Castelletto is a darkly concentrated and thick expression of Nebbiolo with ripe fruit tones that emerge first from the glass. That initial wave is composed of black cherry, blackberry and ripe plum. This is a soft and more accessible expression of Barolo that shows some oak spice and smoke to round off the more rigid contours of the Nebbiolo grape. It spends 30 months in wood, half of it in tonneaux and the other half in botte grande. Some 5,500 bottles were made.



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Barolo Bricat 2015

The 2015 Barolo Bricat opens to a darkly concentrated appearance with savory and smoky aromas of ripe fruit, barbecue spice and campfire ash. This Barolo is painted in broad and long brush strokes, but the quality of fruit is simple and direct overall. It spends 30 months in oak, half of it in tonneaux and the other half in large oak casks. Some 5,000 bottles were made.

