

♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Riserva Gramolere 2016

This is aromatic with notes of dried rose petals, sour cherries, tangerine peel and spices. Compact and slightly chewy but very fine and polished with medium to full body and a lengthy, firm finish. Better after 2025.



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Barolo Gramolere 2019

Spiced cherries, dried herbs, ground cloves, hints of cedar and overturned earth. Medium- to full-bodied with very fine, grippy tannins and are seasoned with lots of spices and cedary undertones. Chewy finish. Try after 2026.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Bricat 2019

Ripe red berries and chocolate with some meaty and cedary undertones. It is intense and layered with a full body and compact, taut tannin structure. Solid and focused with a long, encompassing finish. Better after 2026.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2019

Fresh notes of cranberries and cherries with dried flowers, hints of sandalwood and cloves. Medium- to full-bodied, firm and chewy with juicy acidity. It holds a grip on your palate yet there is plenty of red fruit underneath. Needs some time. Drink after 2026.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Nebbiolo Langhe Il Crutin 2021

Aromas of sour cherries and wild strawberries with hints of dried herbs and spices and some savory undertones. Medium-bodied with vivid acidity that gives tension and length. Juicy and bright. Drink now.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Rossese Bianco Langhe Rosserto 2021

Notes of pears and apricots with hints of spices, dried herbs and cedar. Medium- to full-bodied, waxy and a little tight with vivid acidity and a bright, lengthy finish. Drink or hold.



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Manzone is one of Piedmont's greatest under the radar gems. The wines have been especially fine here for a number of years, and yet the estate's reputation has not caught up. Readers who appreciate fine, nervy Barolos will adore the 2018s. I was impressed, but I can no longer say surprised. Manzone remains one of the undiscovered gems. Wines have been especially brilliant of late.

Barolo Riserva Gramolere 2016

The 2016 Barolo Riserva Gramolere takes all the Gramolere signature and amplifies them, partly because of the richer vintage but also through a more extracted approach that also features a stronger oak imprint. Succulent dark cherry, plum, mocha, new leather and dried herbs are beautifully dialed up.



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Barolo Gramolere 2019

The 2019 Barolo Gramolere is a brilliant, classically austere wine that will delight readers who enjoy linear, taut Barolos. All the elements are so well balanced. Crushed flowers, mint, pine, spice and lavender are some of the many notes that grace this ethereal but deep, super-expressive Barolo.



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Barolo Castelletto 2019

The 2019 Barolo Castelletto is redolent of pine, menthol, Alpine herbs and crushed flowers. Medium in body, this nuanced, silky Barolo has so much to offer. As is often the case, the Castelletto is a Barolo of subtlety and nuance.

This is very nicely done.



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Barolo Bricat 2019

The 2019 Barolo Bricat is bright, aromatic and nicely lifted, with gorgeous energy and purity. Orange zest, white flowers, mint and chalk all run through a core of red-toned fruit in this mid-weight, nuanced Barolo from Manzone. Vi brant saline notes extend the finish.



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Rossese Bianco Langhe Rosserto 2019

A tangy expression made with the rare rossese bianco, delivering spiced pomelo, dried parsley and some wet stones. Grippy and phenolic on the palate with lots of zesty flavors in a medium- to full-bodied palate with a saline hit in the finish. Drink now.



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Nebbiolo Langhe Il Crutin 2019

Red cherries, tile and stones dusted with a hint of white pepper. Dry, linear and juicy with chalky tannins spreading across the palate. A finely crafted Langhe Nebbiolo here with a transparent, mineral finish. Drink now.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2018

Racy red berries, blue fruit, dark earth and blue flowers on the nose with a tarry undertone. Broad, yet fluid and structured, with tight, chalky tannins driving the fruit to a sappy, mouthwatering finish. Long and bright. Drink or hold.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Bricat 2018

Racy strawberries, stones and blood-orange zest, crested with clove and cinnamon spices. Savory, yet mineral on the palate, with fine, dusty tannins that extend with the zesty fruit to a long yet nuanced finish. Mouthwatering! Drink now or hold.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Gramolere 2018

Mineral and tangy nose with a minty edge to the red berries and oranges. Lightly mossy and decadent, with an impressive mineral quality on the linear, medium-bodied palate. Really refined and composed with a long, juicy finish. Drink now or hold.



◆ M A N Z O N E ◆

Barolo Riserva Gramolere 2015

A layered, complex nose, full of dark raspberries, cinnamon and sweet red currants, as well as cedar and hot stones. Finely structured and textured on the full-bodied palate. There's volume and tension, but no heft. Quite long and bright finish. Tightly wound, yet the fine-grained tannins are well resolved. Drink or hold.



♦ 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.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

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.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

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 2018

The 2018 Barolo Castelletto is another compelling wine in this range from Manzone. It exudes vertical intensity, not to mention tons of character, right out of the gate. Sweet red/purplish fruit, rose petal, dried herbs lavender, spice and orange zest are some of the many aromas and flavors that emerge gradually over time. Bright Castelletto acids and vibrant tannins round things out nicely. This heady, explosive Barolo has so much going on.

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Barolo Bricat 2018

The 2018 Barolo Bricat is a gorgeous, classy wine. Dried herbs, pine, menthol, spice and licorice give the 2018 tons of aromatic complexity to play off its red cherry fruit. The Bricat is a touch nervy in 2018. I would give it a few years to come together a bit more fully. Even so, it is impressive, especially for the vintage.

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Barolo Riserva Gramolere 2015

The 2015 Barolo Riserva Gramolere is a gorgeous, statuesque wine. Aromatic, deep and beautifully layered, the 2015 has so much to offer. Orange peel, spice, incense, dried rose petal and orange peel emerge slowly as the 2015 shows off all of its complexity and overall charm. There's terrific depth here, and striking inner sweetness, not to mention tons of personality, too.

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Barolo Gramolere 2018

The 2018 Barolo Gramolere is the most linear and intensely aromatic of the three 2018 Barolos in the range. It offers up an exciting mix of bright red fruit intermingled with scents of leather, iron, dried herbs and white pepper that lend brightness. The clean, bracing finish is a thing of beauty. This classically austere Barolo is superb. Give the tannins a year or two to soften.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

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.



◆ M A N Z O N E ◆

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.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

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.



◆ M A N Z O N E ◆

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.



◆ M A N Z O N E ◆

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.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Bricat 2016

A red with pretty intensity of ripe berries and plums with some walnuts. It's full-bodied, yet tensioned and toned. The vivid finish shows energetic texture. Drink after 2022.



• M A N Z O N E •

Barolo Gramolere Riserva 2013

A solid Barolo with fantastic ripe berries and cherries with chocolate, walnut and tar undertones. It's full-bodied and very rich with chewy tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Just coming around now, but better in a year or two. Try in 2022.



• M A N Z O N E •

Barbera d'Alba Superiore La Marchesa 2017

A fruity red with blueberry and light chocolate character, as well as orange peel. It's medium-bodied with fresh acidity and a linear finish. Compact and racy. Drink now.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2016

Floral with an undertone of cedar and wood to the cherry and berry character. Medium-bodied with fine, creamy tannins and a delicately fruity finish. It's a balanced and harmonious wine, even though the new wood is showing now. Give it two or three years to come together. Drink after 2022.



• M A N Z O N E •

Barolo Gramolere 2016

A finely textured 2016 Barolo with cherries, berries and mild hazelnuts with just a hint of citrus. Medium-bodied with fine tannins and a beautiful finish. Drink or hold.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Rossese Bianco Langhe Rosserto 2017

Pretty white with bitter-lemon and honey character with some green apples and pears. Medium to full body, bright acidity and a flavorful finish. Lots of bitter lemon and honeysuckle on the finish. Drink now.



• M A N Z O N E •

Barbera d'Alba Le Ciliegie 2016

This is very minerally with blackberries and blueberries. Hints of wet earth, too. Medium-bodied, tight and focused. A lovely barbera. Drink now.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2014

I love the richness and the vitality of the fruit on the nose, which ranges from blueberries and blackcurrants to cherry essence. A touch of baking spices, too. The fruit doesn't disappoint on the palate, where it's nicely matched with fresh acidity and a bite of savory tannins. Drink in 2020.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Bricat 2015

Aromas of ripe strawberries with plums, tar and orange peel follow through to a full body, chewy tannins and an intense and flavorful finish. Shows drive and focus. Better after 2021.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Gramolere 2015

A juicy, lightly chewy red with light chocolate, plum and berry aromas and flavors. Medium body. Linear, tight tannins and a fresh finish. Drinkable now, but better in 2021.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barbera d'Alba Le Ciliegie 2017

Lots of soaked blueberry fruit on this one, as well as bright lemons and orange peel. Light-to-medium in body with lots of orange-marmalade and watermelon flavors. Fine tannins and a very fruity but still quite savory finish. Drink now.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2015

Manzone's 2015 Barolo Castelletto is truly impressive. Bold, rich and pulsing with energy, the 2015 captures all the vibrancy that makes Barolo from Castelletto so distinctive, with an extra touch of mid-palate sweetness. If that sounds appealing, well, it is. Rose petal, bright red berry fruit, mint, chalk and wild flowers all run through this wonderfully nuanced, translucent Barolo. There is so much to like here. What a pretty wine this is.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Gramolere 2015

The 2015 Barolo Gramolere is more powerful and overly dense than the Castelletto tasted alongside it. Sweet tobacco, spice, mint, cedar and tobacco are all laced together. Rich and supple, the Gramolere will drink well with just a few years in bottle. I have a slight preference stylistically for the Castelletto, but is impossible not to love the Gramolere for its immediacy.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Bricat 2015

The 2015 Barolo is classy, polished and very, very pretty. Sweet floral notes, bright red cherry fruit and a dash of new oak add its considerable allure. Bright and gracious, with striking purity and translucence, the 2015 Bricat is a winner from Manzone. Best of all, the 2015 will drink beautifully with minimal cellaring

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Bricat 2014

The 2014 Barolo Bricat is all class. Perfumed, gracious and impeccably balanced, the 2014 is sublime today. Freshly cut flowers, sweet red berry fruit, mint and spice all lift from the glass effortlessly. Mid-weight structure and fine, silky tannins add to an impression of total finesse.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2014

The 2014 Barolo Castelletto is another very pretty wine from Manzone. Orange peel, rose petal, rosemary, star anise, mint and kirsch give the 2014 a slightly exotic quality that is hugely appealing. The 2014 is already quite expressive and giving. It should drink well for another 15-20 years, maybe more.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Gramolere 2014

The 2014 Barolo Gramolere is the darkest and richest of the three 2014 Barolos I tasted. Black cherry, spice, menthol, licorice and dried herbs, along with a kiss of new oak, all meld together. Deep, creamy and beautifully expressive, the Gramolere is another impressive Barolo from Manzone.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Bricat 2016

The 2016 Barolo Bricat is a very pretty, gracious wine. Sweet floral, spice and red berry fruit are all nicely lifted, with a hint of new oak that lingers in the background subtly. A wine of aromatic nuance and mid-weight structure, the Bricat will drink well right out of the gate. It is an engaging, alluring wine full of charm.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2016

The 2016 Barolo Gramolere is an exquisite wine. It's a Barolo that speaks to finesse and class more than anything else. Pulsating tannins drive a core of sweet red fruit, mint, spice and blood orange, with strong mineral accents that keep everything lively. Bright acids and a spine of tannin shape the long, beautifully persistent finish as the wine fleshes out with time in the glass.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Gramolere 2016

The 2016 Barolo Castelletto pulses with energy. The flavors are dark and deeply pitched, with tons of balsamic inflections laced throughout. There is a feeling of translucence to the 2016 that is quite appealing. Time in the glass brings out the wine's resonance and breadth. Give it a few years in bottle.

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♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Bricat 2015

Rose petals, lavender, wild violet in a floral and sensual wine. Medium body, velvety tannins, and a broad finish with a flat profile. Great drinkability right away. Best from 2020 to 2027.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Gramolere 2015

Precise and sensual on the nose, thanks to the presence of rose petals and white flowers. It is complex, with the presence of hints reminiscent of white chocolate in the background. Full body, velvety tannins, dense and creamy structure, and a broad and enveloping finish. Good persistence and accuracy. Well done. Best from 2020 to 2028 and beyond.



♦ M A N Z O N E ♦

Barolo Castelletto 2015

Rose petals, rosemary, and thyme in a Barolo with a Mediterranean touch. Full body, ripe and well extracted tannins, and a clear and lively finish. Best from 2021 to 2027 and beyond.

