

Barbaresco 2017 – refinement after confinement

Walter Speller

13 Aug 2020

<https://www.jancisrobinson.com/articles/barbaresco-2017-refinement-after-confinement>



Walter's view from Tre Stelle towards Barbaresco and with the crus of Martinenga and Rabajà in the distance illustrates this collection of 67 tasting notes on 2017 Barbarescos grouped, as always, geographically. This follows on from his even more comprehensive review of [2016 Barolo](#).

17 August 2020 Now with the addition of Fletcher's Recta Pete 2017 bottling.

13 August 2020 My report on 2017 Barbaresco, now in front of you, comes much delayed due to COVID-19. Normally, I taste the new vintage in May, a time when I feel the wines are showing their best, before they go into a dormant period in which they sulk and are awkward to taste. Nebbiolo is a strange and schizophrenic beast. Once it starts to close up, it can be unrecognisable compared with only a few weeks before, with hard and angular fruit and seemingly diminishing acidity.

Because of the [long period of lockdown](#) and the impossibility of travelling beyond regional borders right afterwards, I had to postpone my journey from Padova. The anxiety associated with travelling to Piemonte, a region that in June still had a greater number of cases, especially in Turin, compared with my home region of Veneto, made me reschedule my tasting time and again. But at some point it became clear I had to overcome fear and start travelling again. So I packed my bag and got into the car.

The hotel in Alba where I stayed was practically empty, while staff as well as every guest wore masks. There was hand sanitiser everywhere, from the entrance to the lifts. Hands sticky with gobs of the stuff, which then sticks to everything you touch, including the car's steering wheel, mobile phone and laptop, is something you get used to, and something I am willing to accept because it helps to reduce my fear of contagion. I tried to apply the strategy of using

the room's key card to press the lift button, but once in the room my mind started to race: had it been sanitised? Did I have to wash my hands a second time once I had touched the furniture? Who has been touching the towels? Had they been wearing gloves? Does wearing gloves make sense? And so on. It became so exhausting that I mentally had to switch off. I now live by the five-day rule: if no symptoms appear in that period, all will probably be okay. Another strategy is avoiding the news in the morning.

In the airy and empty Enoteca del Barolo, closed during the week due to the total absence of tourists who are only hesitantly beginning to return now, its director Cristiana Grimaldi served me the flights of Barbaresco 2017 and, after that, [the many Barolo 2016s I reported on last week](#), on trays while we both wore masks. This reduced the risk to an absolute minimum (in Italy no one questions the obligatory wearing of masks inside). But that is the crux of the matter: the acceptance that nothing is 100% risk-free comes at some point and there is simply no way around it. I did decline, however, to enter a crowded restaurant one evening. Some things are riskier than others.

Back to Barbaresco 2017s, wines from the hottest vintage on record with practically no rain from June until September. I was bracing myself for a vintage resembling the hot 2011, with rather heavy wines and cooked flavours from a vintage that had seemed exceptionally hot, until 2017 came along.

As well as excessive heat and drought, 2017 was also marked by frost early in the growing cycle, which, luckily, did little harm to most vineyards, even if budbreak had been early due to an early, warm spring. But a violent hailstorm mid April ravaged vineyards in Neive, hitting the crus of Basarin and Currà particularly hard. As a consequence, several producers were unable to make these wines. As well as a considerable loss of yield, hail as severe as that in 2017 has repercussions for at least another year, during which the vines, while trying to restore themselves, produce few grapes or none at all, not to mention the fall-out of vines that are beyond salvation and need to be replaced. The first crop from these new vines will not materialise for at least another three years, with real complexity in the wines evident only after 10 years or so.

The 2017 wines did not conform to my expectations of rich, singed fruit and hard tannins at all. This might have been because I had to restrict the number of wines and carefully selected the best sites and producers. But still, what I tasted came as a total surprise. Barbaresco 2017 is good. There is no doubt about this, even if it comes on the heels of the outstanding 2016 vintage. In general, the wines showed ripe fruit, but stewed or singed flavours were notably absent. Hardly any of them were broad due to a lack of acidity, which they have aplenty. Very few were truly rich and fruit-driven, but even so they managed to maintain good overall balance. Some wines are even outstanding and ageworthy and, while most can be enjoyed now, holding off for another two to three years is what most of the wines deserve.

The succulent acidity of most of the 2017 Barbarescos, combined with supple and at times generous fruit, made me wonder if adding tartaric acid at the beginning of fermentation had done the trick in these cases. I have now come to doubt this was a practice applied wholesale to the 2017s, one which seemed to have been much more commonplace in 2011.

I discussed this phenomenon at length with Barolo producer Fabio Alessandria. He pointed out that the big difference between 2011 and 2017 in the Langhe hills was that in 2017 the heat built up steadily whereas 2011 was a year of heat spikes. He said he doesn't like the 2011 wines of the Langhe very much, explaining that Nebbiolo prefers an even season, while a heat

spike, especially one close to harvest, causes a speedy reduction of acidity in the grapes, something that can happen within days, while the ripeness of the tannins keeps lagging behind. In 2017 it was hot during the entire growing cycle to which Nebbiolo, especially from older vines, managed to adapt itself gradually, resulting in regular, even ripening.

In addition to showing none of the obvious faults of a hot vintage, what excites me most in 2017 Barbaresco, is that this vintage continues [the stylistic path](#) the region so convincingly took with the 2016s: that of increased transparency and elegance, which translates into a medium-weight rather than a full-bodied palate, while striking a perfect balance. 2017 is not as outstanding as 2016, but the stylistic path clearly continues. This sets it more clearly apart from its neighbour Barolo, while cementing its own reputation without the need for comparison.

The 68 Barbaresco 2017s below are grouped in the order tasted, from intercommunal blends to communal wines to 'cru' or single-vineyard wines. These are followed by 10 late-release and Riserva wines from the previous two vintages.

Barbaresco 2017

From more than one commune

[Molino, Teorema 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Tasted blind. Concentrated mid ruby with orange tinges. Brooding, peppery nose with a hint of sour cherry. Juicy, ripe red-fruit palate with coating tannins and a long, supple finish with plenty of acidity. A pretty wine. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2026

17

[Cantina del Nebbiolo 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Tasted blind. Mature looking, mid ruby with narrow, bricky rim. Balsamic nose with cherry and camphor and a little dusty. Quite austere palate with gripping tannins, which become slightly drying on the finish. Already some development. Genuine, if a little crude. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2028

15.5

[Cantina Rizzi 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Firm nose of spice and marasca cherry and just a touch of browning apple, indicating some development of the very ripe fruit. Soft cherry palate with dusty tannins. Long and a little tannic on the finish, but very pleasurable. Ready now. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2026

16

Commune of Alba

[Manuel Marinacci 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Alba. Cask sample.

Youthful mid ruby. Clearly lots of concentration and pure raspberry and wild strawberry fruit on the nose. Succulent and concentrated on the palate with unpolished tannins and supple acidity. Unpolished, like a rough diamond. Enormous length and focus. Not ready by far.

(WS)

Drink

2024

–

2036

17.5

Rizzi

[Armando Piazza, Fratin 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Alba. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby with bricky rim and already looking a little developed. Soft oak, cherry and dried-fruit nose. Supple palate of fruit cake and cherry and with bags of powdery tannins. For immediate enjoyment. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2024

15.5

[Cantina Rizzi, Rizzi 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Alba. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Deep, ripe nose of cherry and cherry liqueur. Voluptuous, full cherry fruit palate with a good dose of lively acidity and a layer of grainy tannins. A very attractive wine and ready now. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2028

17

Commune of Barbaresco

[Cantina Sociale dei Produttori del Barbaresco 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Lifted sour-cherry and raspberry nose. Elegant raspberry fruit palate which has a medium-weight feel to it and coating tannins. Long and still youthful. Promising. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2030

17 +

[Fletcher, Recta Pete 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Just mid ruby. A little reluctant to open up on the nose, with subdued but perfumed cherry fruit. Minerally with a meaty note and hints of iron. Concentrated yet subtle at the same time. Similar closed impression on the palate, with reluctant cherry fruit and firm, stalky tannins, at least for the moment, but a good balance is struck. Less forward than many

2017 Barbarescos and a little sulking right now, clearly indicating it needs to be cellared for a while. (WS)

14%

Drink

2022

–

2032

17

[Gaja 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Seductive nose of sweet cherry with a hint of oak and fruit cake. Supple palate with sappy cherry fruit and sandy tannins filling out the fruit. Skilfully made wine from a very hot vintage delivering plenty of enjoyment. Good ageing potential. (WS)

Drink

2022

–

2030

17 ++

[Socrè 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Generous, perfumed cherry fruit nose with a hint of marzipan (from oak). Plenty of ripe fruit on the palate supported by chewy tannins. Not super-complex, but well made and delicious. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2026

16

Faset

[Michele Chiarlo, Faset 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Deep ruby. A brooding cherry nose that is a little stinky/reductive and with a hint of fruit cake. Supple cherry and dried-cherry fruit palate with gorgeous, chewy tannins. Hedonistic, but needs more time to settle. (WS)

Drink

2022

–

2027

16.5

Muncagota

[Moccagatta, Bric Balin 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Grapes come from the Muncagota cru.

Tasted blind. Developed mid to deep ruby with orange tinges. Fruit-cake nose with a layer of marzipan on top – probably the oak. Supple palate with dried-fruit flavours, cherry and oak and powdery tannins. Clearly made from very ripe fruit, but still manages to maintain a certain freshness. Definitely not stale, but not for eternity either. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2026
15.5

Asili

[Ceretto, Asili 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Savoury, dusty nose with brooding fruit underneath. Much less direct and a little tighter on the palate compared with their [Bernadot](#). Elegant and a little austere and yet with plenty of fruit and ripe tannins. This has plenty of future. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2030

17 ++

[Michele Chiarlo, Asili 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Sweet-sour cherry nose with hints of dark spice. Juicy, fresh and ripe at the same time, with gorgeous, chewy tannins. A real charmer of amazing length. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2028

17

[Luisin, Asili 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Deep, brooding nose. Perfumed cherry fruit and just the merest suggestion of oak, although this has only seen large casks. Succulent cherry palate with quite firm tannins and a big dose of acidity. A little austere on the finish, but this is still very young, and a little drying on the finish, yet long and multi-layered and embryonic. Age will give it the final polish. (WS)

14%

Drink

2022

–

2032

17 ++

Martinenga

[Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy, Martinenga 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Elegant, tight cherry nose that is not yet fully open and with hints of shredded wheat. Succulent, wall-to-wall marasca cherry fruit palate and sandy tannins underneath. Quite complete and already hugely enjoyable. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2030

17 +

Rabajà

[Castello di Verduno, Rabajà 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Deep, brooding nose of ripe, sweet fruit and a little dramatic. Hints of iron, too. Gorgeous, lively acidity cuts through ripe fruit that is still a little backward. Fine sandy tannins complement the whole. Really youthful and not ready yet, but with lots of promise. Very elegant palate weight. (WS)

Drink

2022

–

2030

17 +

[Giuseppe Cortese, Rabajà 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange rim. Savoury cherry fruit with a hint of cumin and raw meat. Succulent acidity that is a little mouth-watering, and ripe, coating tannins. Generous fruit on the finish, while the salty, saffron hints provide a mineral edge. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2030

17

[Luisin, Rabajà 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Lifted cherry fruit with hints of cumin. Quite pretty. Soft cherry fruit with a long nerve of acidity running through the palate. Elegant, almost lightweight on the palate but with a firm, muscular structure. Closes up on the finish, and needs much more time. The tannins aren't rough, but certainly make their presence felt, but there is enough of a core of fruit to see this evolve with more bottle age. (WS)

14%

Drink

2024

–

2034

17 ++

Secondine

[Gaja, Sorí San Lorenzo 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. From the Secondine cru.

Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Full, ripe yet fine nose with plenty of depth. Succulent and elegant palate with generous, sweet-sour cherry fruit and truly animating, crunchy tannins. Lots of everything but contained and poised at the same time. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2030

17.5

Tre Stelle

[Cascina delle Rose, Tre Stelle 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. A slightly dusty nose with brooding, ripe fruit and hints of fruit cake and Moroccan leather. Supple, ripe cherry and

cherry-liqueur palate that nevertheless isn't broad. Clearly made from quite ripe fruit, but well handled and with delicious, crunchy tannins. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2030

17

Roncaglio

[Colla, Roncaglio 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Just mid ruby. Deep, concentrated cherry nose. Ripe cherry fruit on the palate that still needs to unfurl completely. Lots of marzipan-tasting firm, grainy tannins which dominate the finish a little right now, but this is set for a great future. (WS)

14%

Drink

2022

—

2030

17 +

Roncagliette

[Olek Bondonio, Roncagliette 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Mid ruby. Striking, complex nose of cherry, raw mince (ground beef) and a hint of cinnamon bark. Sappy, youthful cherry fruit with bags of grainy tannins that are almost a little astringent but the fruit stays on top. Good acidity too, and still a little embryonic, which bodes well for the future. Highly original. (WS)

14%

Drink

2022

—

2030

17 +

[Gaja, Costa Russi 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. From the Roncagliette cru.

Mid ruby with orange tinges. Sweet cherry and bacon nose with hints of dried fruit. Savoury, sweet cherry palate shot through by lively, ripe acidity and bags of chewy tannins. The fruit seems a little marked by the heat, but will age gracefully. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2030

17

[Gaja, Sorì Tildin 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. From the Roncagliette cru.

Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Brooding richness on the nose and ripe marasca cherry fruit on the palate with just the right dose of supple acidity. Elegant palate weight and intense fruit that is not heavy. Almost aromatic on the finish and with bitter-sweet, fine tannins adding a nice contrast. Quite gorgeous. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2032

17.5

Montestefano

[La Ca' Nova, Montestefano 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Quite deep ruby. Intense brooding nose of dark cherry with notes of fruit cake, but much more appealing than it sounds. Embracing, open-knit, supple palate with dried-fruit notes and coating tannins and plenty of ripe acidity on the finish. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2026

16 +

[Rivella Silvia, Montestefano 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Stalky and a little grubby/reductive on the nose for now. Generous cherry fruit palate with lots of dusty tannins that make their mark but never dominate. Long, expanded fruit palate. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2028

16.5

Ovello

[Albino Rocca, Ovello 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby that is already a little developing and with orange tinges. Rich cherry fruit nose with a hint of oatmeal. Perfumed marasca cherry fruit on the palate with a rich layer of dusty tannins and lots of acidity that keeps the whole lively. Ready now, but should be allowed a little more age. (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2030

17

Pora

[Musso, Pora 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Full cherry nose with smoked-bacon notes which lift with aeration, and a suggestion of vanilla. Supple, sweet fruit palate with a good dose of ripe acidity and plenty of fruit on the finish. A well-built whole. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2030

16.5

Rio Sordo

[Ca' Rome', Rio Sordo 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby. Impressive, deep cherry nose. Layers and layers of cherry fruit and chewy tannins. Hedonistic. Great depth and intensity of fruit. Can be approached now, but could do with more age. (WS)

Drink

2022

–

2030

17

[Musso, Rio Sordo 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Sweet cherry and cherry-cake nose with a note of speck. Supple and generous palate with fruit-cake notes and refreshing acidity. Clearly made from ripe fruit, but still has energy. Ready now, though. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2028

16

[Cascina delle Rose, Rio Sordo 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Sweet, yet subdued nose with minerally hints. Embryonic fruit palate with plenty of acidity upholstered by ripe fruit and grainy tannins. Marzipan and cherry finish. Great balance and can be approached now but will gain with further bottle age. Elegant, medium-bodied palate weight. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2030

17

Ronchi

[Albino Rocca, Ronchi 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Sweet cherry and rose hip on the nose and with hints of fruit jam. Succulent fruit shot through by mouth-watering acidity – quite a feat for this hot vintage! Long, aromatic sour-cherry finish with a layer of powdery tannins. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2030

17

Commune of Neive

[Castello di Neive 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Iron, cumin and dusty cherry on the nose. Rather ripe and sweet even if the fruit is (still) a little numb on the palate, but the surprisingly lively acidity pulls the whole up. Could go anywhere, while the finish keeps evolving. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2028
16.5 +

[Bruno Rocca 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Marzipan cherry nose with hints of fruit cake, but much more inviting than it sounds. Elegant, supple palate of fully ripe fruit with underlying powdery tannins and a hint of fruit cake. Fully ready now. (WS)

Drink
2020

–

2028
16.5

[Francesco Versio 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Just mid ruby with orange rim. Leafy cherry fruit nose with quite a bit of concentration underneath. Supple sour-cherry fruit and firm, slightly demanding tannins, but the fruit prevails – just. A little astringent on the finish, but more bottle age will give it much-needed polish. (WS)

14.5%
Drink
2022

–

2030
16.5

Cottà

[Albino Rocca, Cottà 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Great depth of sweet cherry and raspberry on the nose. Bags of chewy tannins frames supple, juicy sweet fruit. Can be approached now, but ideally should get a little more age. (WS)

Drink
2022

–

2030
17

[Sottimano, Cottà 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Balsamic, multi-layered nose with a hint of Marseilles soap and fruit cake. Delicious, ripe sour-cherry fruit with coating tannins supporting the fruit. Very long and intense and yet with elegant medium-bodied weight. (WS)

Drink
2020

–

2030
17 +

Bordini

[Fontanabianca, Bordini 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with bricky rim. Deep, brooding nose with a hint of fruit pastry and succulent, dark fruit and dried cherry on the palate. Lots of juice on the finish, while the coating tannins give it grip. (WS)

Drink
2020
—
2030
17

Basarin

[Fratelli Giacosa, Basarin Vigna Gianmatè 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby with orange tinges. Cherry cake and malt on the nose. Sweet tarry hints. Intense, sweet, thick and persistent fruit on the palate with a surprisingly high dose of acidity. Seems a little constructed. (WS)

Drink
2020
—
2026
16

Albesani

[Castello di Neive, Albesani 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby. Still a bit closed on the nose with only hints of sweet-sour cherry and raspberry lifted by a touch of oak. Just a touch of dried fruit. Captivating, supple fruit-driven palate with finely grained tannins and plenty of juicy acidity. Great balance, and needs more time. (WS)

Drink
2022
—
2032
17.5

San Giuliano

[Pelissero, Cascina Crosa 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Grapes come from the San Giuliano cru.

Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Sweet and a little candied on the nose and with cherry-compote notes. Ripe, generous but contained cherry palate. Great balance between chewy tannins, plentiful fruit and supple acidity. Ready now. (WS)

Drink
2020
—
2028
16.5

Serraboella

[Paitin, Serraboella Sori' Paitin 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Only mid ruby. Fruit cake, cherry and malt on the nose, quite upfront but multi-layered at the same time. Sweet, candied fruit and cherry with a big dose of juicy acidity that seems almost too much to be true in this torrid vintage and quite a contrast with the very ripe fruit. Long, powdery tannins underneath. (WS)

Drink
2020
—
2026

15.5

Gallina

[Castello di Neive, Gallina 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Lifted, sweet nose of raspberry and sour-cherry fruit with a pinch of oak. The ripe fruit is a little reluctant to come out on the palate. Raspberry and cherry with lively acidity and soft, grainy tannins. Has all the right building blocks for ageing, all it needs now is more time. (WS)

Drink

2022

–

2030

17

[Ugo Lequio, Gallina 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Rose-hip and cherry nose. Richly fruity yet compact on the palate with a juicy finish followed by mouth-filling powdery tannins that complement the fruit. Can age. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2028

16.5

[Giuseppe Negro, Gallina 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby. Balsamic, concentrated cherry nose and soft, dense, but not heavy cherry fruit on the palate. Quite soft fruit followed by succulent acidity. Marzipan-tasting tannins complement the whole on the finish. Ready now. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2026

16

[Oddero, Gallina 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Firm nose of crushed cherries with a hint of liqueur. Supple yet poised palate with a nice dose of juicy acidity lifting the cherry fruit. Polished tannins cling to the finish. Sappy and juicy and with an elegant mid-weight palate. (WS)

Drink

2020

–

2030

17

[La Spinetta, Gallina 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Deep, sweet-sour cherry nose with hints of cherry liqueur. Intense, deep, ripe fruit palate with the perfect dose of juicy acidity and crunchy tannins. A little massive right now but with time it will show its real personality, which it undoubtedly has. (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2030

16.5

Gaia Principe

[Rabaglio, Gaia Principe 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Cherry nose that seems a tiny bit soapy. Lots of concentrated, ripe fruit on the palate. While there is plenty of acidity too, I can't help but feel the fruit could be a little fresher. Ends quite sweet, but I am sure this will find friends.

(WS)

Drink

2020

—

2025

15.5

Bric Micca

[Dante Rivetti, Bric' Micca 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Maturing ruby with bricky rim. Deep, ripe cherry nose with hints of cherry cake. Quite sweet cherry palate with a creamy note. Ripe and dense but the succulent acidity and fine tannins lift it on the finish. Intensely ripe but not stewed fruit, but could be a little fresher. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2024

15.5

Starderi

[Fletcher, Starderi 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Dave Fletcher's first vintage of this cru.

Just mid ruby. Beautifully perfumed nose with a clear mineral streak and still quite tight. Quite tight and compact on the palate too, yet elegant at the same time. Succulent acidity and bags of slightly puckering tannins on the finish. This will need quite a bit of time to settle, but its potential is clear. Lively acidity on the finish. Powerfully structured, yet elegant. (WS)

14%

Drink

2024

—

2034

17 ++

Commune of Treiso

[Pier, La Fenice 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Lustrous mid to deep ruby. Tea leaves and lots of cherry and cherry cake on the nose. Plentiful and generous palate with bags of cherry fruit, but not overtly sweet.

Balancing acidity and fine gripping tannins. Should come out fine with more bottle age. (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2030
16.5

Bernadot

[Ceretto, Bernadot 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Compact, brooding, perfumed sour-cherry nose with a hint of fruit cake. Sappy, yet luscious cherry fruit and an elegant, medium-weight palate. Juicy acidity and subtle chewy tannins. Quite irresistible. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2030

17 +

Castellizzano

[Pertinace, Castellizzano 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Lifted, peppery, ripe cherry and raspberry nose. Concentrated and sweet fruit offset by lots of acidity and soft, grainy tannins. Really gains in complexity on the finish. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2030

16.5

Giacone

[Alberta, Giacone 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Youthful-looking mid ruby. *Mostarda di frutta* and sour cherry with a hint of fruit pastry. Striking rose-hip and sour-cherry palate with high-pitched, almost tart acidity and powdery tannins. Sweet and tart at the same time. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2028

15.5

[Eredi Lodali, Rocche dei 7 Fratelli 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Grapes come from the Giacone cru.

Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Impressive concentration of cherry compote on the nose. Same intensity and concentration on the palate with the lift of nervy acidity and soft crunchy tannins. Seems ready but isn't. Quite big but not unbalanced. (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2030

16.5

Marcarini

[Pertinace, Marcarini 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. A little numb on the nose, at least for now. Sweet, intense fruit on the palate that is also not fully open and is balanced by just the right

amount of acidity and coating tannins. Quite intense, dense finish and in need of more age to show what it is really about. (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2030

16 +

[Rivetto, Marcarini 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with watery rim. Sweet, red-fruit compote with a hint of cherry pie. Supple, elegant palate with a core of ripe fruit and lively acidity that is almost a little tart. Fine, sandy tannins. Quite a contrast between the almost-tart acidity and the rather ripe fruit, but this is not stewed or stale by any means. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2026

16

Meruzzano

[Cantina del Nebbiolo, Meruzzano 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with watery rim. Deep, seductive cherry and sour-cherry nose. Less expressive on the palate even if the sweet fruit is quite ripe. There is enough acidity to balance this out, if overall it lacks a little in finesse. Additional bottle age might do the trick. (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2028

16

MonTERSINO

[Albino Rocca, Montersino 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. A little closed on the nose and with hints of rose-hip jam. Savoury-sweet fruit palate that is still compact and with mineral notes. The fruit starts to just open up on the finish. Has all the building blocks to gain in complexity with more age and is definitely worth the wait. (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2030

17 +

[Massimo Rattalino, Quarantadue42 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. The grapes come from the Montersino cru.

Tasted blind. Maturing mid ruby with orange tinges. Exotic spice and sweet-sour cherry. Savoury, mineral notes mingle with ripe sour cherry on the palate, which is lined with fantastic, chewy tannins. Long and complex, but still embryonic (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2030
17

Nervo

[Pertinace, Nervo 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Deep, sweet cherry fruit nose with oatmeal hints. Rich and ripe fruit, which totally works with the refreshing, succulent acidity and the fine grainy tannins. Just a tiny bit candied on the finish. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2028

16.5

[Cantina Rizzi, Nervo 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Lustrous mid ruby. Pretty nose of ripe cherry and raspberry. Great purity here. Succulent and concentrated fruit on the palate and with great focus. Perfectly integrated supple acidity and fine, coating tannins. Long, focused, perfumed cherry and raspberry finish. (WS)

Drink

2022

—

2030

17 +

Pajorè

[Cantina Rizzi, Pajorè 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Attractive, stalky cherry nose. Impressive, concentrated cherry fruit on the palate, which maintains its focus. A lot of vibrant acidity and bags of coating tannins supporting the fruit, which rules supreme. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2030

17

[Sottimano, Pajorè 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Candied cherry nose with hints of sweet oak and shredded wheat. Noticeable oak and candied fruit and the finish is lifted by full, ripe sour cherry. A hedonistic wine for sure. (WS)

Drink

2020

—

2028

16.5

Rombone

[Luigi Oddero, Rombone 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Deep, savoury-sweet, perfumed cherry and rose-hip nose. Ripe fruit that is still a little numb on the palate, but builds up in concentration on the finish. Needs more bottle age to unfurl. (WS)

Drink
2022
—
2028
16.5

Valeirano

[Ada Nada, Valeirano 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Treiso. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Savoury-sweet cherry nose with quite a bit of concentration. Firm, compact, sweet cherry fruit palate perfectly balanced by a good dose of acidity. Coating tannins melt on the finish. Gorgeous grip and intensity, perhaps even too much so, at least for the moment. (WS)

Drink
2022
—
2030
17

Vallegrande

[Fratelli Grasso, Vallegrande 2017 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Tasted blind. Youthful, mid ruby. Lifted, candied sour-cherry nose laced with sweet vanilla. Bags of sweet vanilla-smothered cherry fruit, which just manages to come out on the finish. Great raw material, but relentlessly oaky. (WS)

Drink
2020
—
2024
15.5

Barbaresco 2016

Commune of Barbaresco

Martinenga

[Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy, Gaiun Martinenga 2016 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Enticing, perfumed nose of cherry with just the polish of oak. Concentrated fruit on the palate. Great balance between the generous dose of gripping tannins, supple acidity and fruit. Needs much more time. (WS)

15%
Drink
2024
—
2034
17.5

Ovello

[Cantina del Pino, Ovello 2016 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Great purity of ripe cherry fruit on the nose. Juicy acidity and gripping, grainy tannins becoming more powdery on the finish that shows plenty of compact fruit. Still very youthful and unsettled, but with very good balance. (WS)

14.5%
Drink
2024
—
2034
17.5

Roncaglie

[Socrè, Roncaglie 2016 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid to deep ruby with bricky rim. 'Wow-factor' nose with complex cherry fruit, cherry-compote notes and sweet spices. Supple fruit palate that is still a little backward and with a rich layer of finely grained tannins. Compact yet with a brooding, long, perfumed and firm finish. (WS)

14.5%
Drink
2024
—
2034
17.5

Commune of Neive

[Baracco Pietro 2016 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby. Savoury-sweet deep nose with a suggestion of fruit cake. Great impact of fruit on the palate and with plenty of chewy tannins. A little austere and drawn back on the finish for now, but will certainly shine in the future. (WS)

14.5%
Drink
2024
—
2032
17 ++

Basarin

[Luisin, Basarin 2016 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby. Balsamic and multi-layered and subtly perfumed on the nose. Elegant, sweet-sour cherry fruit with the right dose of muscular, chewy tannins. Great balance and with a long finish. Still embryonic and worth your patience. (WS)

14%
Drink
2024
—
2036
17.5

[Sottimano, Basarin 2016 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with bricky rim. Ripe open-knit nose with notes of cherry pie. Ripe and easy-going on the palate and already quite approachable, except for the considerable amount of firm tannins that dominate the finish for now. It seems the fruit is already more evolved than the tannins. (WS)

14.5%
Drink

2022

—

2030

16

Serraboella

[Cigliuti, Serraboella 2016 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Neive. Tasted blind. Quite dark ruby. Deep, heady, complex and generous nose with a hint of leather. Plenty of ripe soft fruit that is already a little evolved. Seems older than it is, but definitely seductive. Gripping, slightly drying tannins on the finish might indicate that the grapes were late harvested in order to get the tannins ripe. All of that might change with more bottle age. (WS)

15%

Drink

2022

—

2030

17

Barbaresco 2015

Commune of Barbaresco

Martinenga

[Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy, Camp Gros Martinenga Riserva 2015 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Impressive nose of cherry compote with top notes of spice and a hint of iron. Multi-layered, supple fruit that has already developed a little and with a suggestion of fruit cake on the finish. Perfect dose of acidity and bags of animating, chewy tannins on the finish. Elegant rather than full-bodied. Can be approached now. (WS)

14.5%

Drink

2020

—

2032

17

Roncaglie

[Socrè, Roncaglie Riserva 2015 Barbaresco \(Edit this note\)](#)

Barbaresco. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Rich, deep nose of cherry fruit with a hint of prunes. Soft, rich fruit that is already a little evolved, but there is plenty of depth on the palate. Liquorice notes and lots of long, chewy tannins. Can be approached now. (WS)

14.5%

Drink

2020

—

2032

17

Commune of Neive

Sottimano, Currà 2015 Barbaresco (Edit this note)

Neive. Tasted blind. Mid ruby with orange tinges. Quite a pretty nose of cherry fruit and raspberry jam with a hint of oak and liquorice. Generous fruit that still is not entirely open on the palate with a fine nerve of ripe acidity. Ripe, chewy tannins frame the fruit on the long finish. (WS)

14%

Drink

2022

—

2034

17 ++