



IPO WINES

2018 Benevelli Barolo "Le Coste di Monforte"

IMPORTED BY Kermit Lynch

COUNTRY

Italy

REGION

Piedmont

APPELLATION

Barolo

SOIL TYPE

Blue, grey marl

VARIETAL(S)

100% Nebbiolo

FARMING

Traditional

WINEMAKER

Massimo Benevelli

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

It was in 1978 that Piero Benevelli started out with five hectares of vines in Monforte d'Alba and focused on the traditional grapes of Piedmont: Nebbiolo, Dolcetto, and Barbera. His son, Massimo, started his training in the vineyard at age 14 and quickly learned the core principle that still guides him today—to make great wine, you must first have great grapes.

The young Massimo Benevelli has developed into an extremely talented Piemontese grower. He exhibits a total command of the production process, from vine to bottle. When tasting his production during various stages of aging—in barrel, tank, and bottle—there is a consistency, a touch, an intangible quality that is the mark of something great. His wines show character, soul, and originality.

The Benevelli holdings are mostly concentrated in the southeastern-facing hillside cru of "Ravera" in the deep southeast of the Barolo zone. The wines from Ravera have the distinction of combining the structural strength of neighboring Serralunga d'Alba with the concentration and richness of Bussia and the other crus further north. Massimo's Baroli are approachable young but like any great Barolo, reveal their true potential after at least five years or more in bottle. His Dolcetto and Langhe Nebbiolo are true Piemontese delights as well—classic and full of pleasure.

The estate follows organic principles without certification, and all the grapes are hand-harvested and fermented in stainless steel tank with temperature control. Only indigenous yeasts are used, and fermentations are started spontaneously. The Barolos spend around 20 days in fermentation with daily pump overs, followed by extensive (20-30 days) submerged cap maceration, and aged typically in the first year in tonneau, and then old botti for another year. A judicious amount of sulphur is used during vinification and before bottling. Wines are bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

"I am often asked who the up and coming stars are in Piedmont. Massimo Benevelli is surely one of them." Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com

WINE NOTES

Daily pumpovers, submerged-cap maceration lasts 20-25 days, depending on the vintage. Aged 1 year in 8-year-old 225-L barrels, then a second year in 10-year-old 40-HL Slavonian oak botti. After two years of aging, racked to stainless steel for 1-2 months before bottling. Aged 4 months in bottle before release.

"For six generations, Massimo Benevelli's family has farmed the steep hillsides in southeastern Barolo. Massimo has worked among its vines since he was fourteen, and he knows exactly how to translate this distinctive terroir, which produces wines with the structure and concentration that epitomize great Barolo from Monforte. None of the soul has been buffed out, but notes of black cherries, forest floor, and blood orange emerge even more polished than usual. Truly phenomenal." - Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant
"2018 was a cold and little rainy vintage, but there is a good quantity and a great quality with soft and fine tanins a good body and freshness"

#93points - "The 2018 Barolo Le Coste di Monforte is a dark, brooding wine. A blast of dark cherry, menthol, licorice, dried herbs, incense, tobacco and gravel hits the palate, conveying all of the virile intensity this site is well-known for. There's good depth and a fair amount of brawny tannins to wrap it all together. The 2018 is very nicely done." Vinous Media

