



IPO WINES

2019 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.

"I recently sat with Massimo Benevelli at a belated KLWM 50th anniversary celebration, where several aged bottles emerged from Kermit's cellar. When one of Massimo's 2014 Baroli was poured, he seemed slightly anxious at first. It was not, he told me, an easy year in the region. But as we sniffed and tasted it, he relaxed and smiled. The wine was spectacular—as my colleagues and I knew it would be because, like all great producers, Benevelli is able to consistently make great reds even in challenging vintages. Vintage 2019 was much more favorable in Barolo, and while charming now, Le Coste di Monforte will reward you for many years to come." - Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant

91+ points, "The 2019 Barolo Le Coste di Monforte is redolent of dried herbs, leather, tobacco, menthol, pine, dried rose petal and spice. The aromatics are quite pretty, but like all these wines, the Le Coste is not fully expressive at this stage. Searingly tannic and potent." -Vinous Media

