

THE DRINKABILITY OF 2013 BAROLO

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Cerequio vineyards near the town of La Morra

Beautiful harmony, bright fruit, clarity—these are the defining traits of Barolo's 2013 vintage, which may be its best vintage since 2008. I blind tasted more than 60 bottles a few months ago in the town of La Morra and thoroughly enjoyed the firm, linear tannins that gave the reds real dynamism and form. These are young nebbiolos that will please wine lovers with their classic structure yet accessibility. In other words, you can drink them now or lay them down. You'll enjoy them either way.

"It was a great vintage," said Franco Conterno of Poderi Aldo Conterno, who made terrific Barolos from the vintage. "It was a little cooler during the growing season than some vintages. I think it will be in the same style as 2010 but maybe better. 2013 is something more elegant."

Indeed the 2013s have a comparable structure to the excellent 2010 vintage, but the 2013s are overall more refined and focused as well as more consistent in quality.

"I think 2013 is most like 1999," said Guido Damilano, the winemaker at the winery bearing his family's name. They are the biggest owners of the vineyard area of Cannubi. "It's very fresh and the tannins are firm. I think it's a top vintage."

It's hard to find specific areas or vineyards that excelled in 2013 other than noting that the best vineyards, like Cannubi or Bussia, appeared to make the best wines. I'll have a better answer in a few weeks when I return to Italy to taste more 2013 Barolos, but already I can say that I like what I've had so far.

"This is a great vintage with elegance," continued Conterno. "It will be a great wine for aging for collectors and will also be an amazing wine to drink." —James Suckling, CEO/Editor



Cannubi excelled in this 2013 tasting.