

## Kyle Phillips's Italian Wine Review

The authoritative consumer newsletter about the wines of Italy

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007

### The 2004 Barbaresco, Tasted at Alba Wines

Barbaresco is made downriver from Alba, on the right bank of the Tanaro River. 2004 was just a fine vintage for Barbaresco, and the wines display considerable elegance and finesse, coupled with supple muscle. It's a powerful vintage, and the wines tend to be very young: While one could press them into service now with rich red meats, almost all will benefit considerably from another year or two of bottle age, and many will continue to climb for a decade or more. In short, the 2004 Barbaresco offers much to enjoy.

If one were to pick nits, Carlo Macchi of Wine Surf found some of the wines to be slightly dilute, and wonders how long they will age; he says the situation arose because the farmers, who are still smarting from the hail, rain, and heat that befell them in 2002 and 2003, were hesitant to carry out a vigorous green harvest in 2004 for fear that the shoe would drop yet again. I did not note this as much, and think the lighter expressions, which are still quite pleasant, will simply drink well with lighter foods.

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#### Azienda Agricola Abrigo Orlando

Via Cappelletto 5

Treiso (CN)

<http://www.orlandoabrigo.it>

#### Abrigo Orlando Vigna Montersino Barbaresco DOCG 2004

Deep garnet with black reflections and almandine rim. The bouquet is fairly rich, with sour berry fruit supported by greenish accents and spice, with some cedar too. On the palate it's full, with rich red berry fruit supported by clean slightly citric acidity, and by ample sweet tannins that flow into a clean smooth finish. Elegant, and will drink very well with succulent red meats -- a porterhouse cut comes to mind, though it's not Piemontese -- though I might be tempted to set it aside for a few years. Worth seeking out, and expect it to do very nice things.

2 stars

#### Abrigo Orlando Vigna Rongallo Barbaresco DOCG 2004

Deep black almandine ruby with black reflections and almandine rim. The bouquet is fairly intense, with greenish accents mingled with red berry fruit and some spice. On the

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palate it's full, with fairly rich berry fruit supported by moderate spice and sweet tannins that flow into a clean smooth finish. It's pleasant, but not as well defined as I might have liked; it has a lumbering feel to it and I found myself wishing it were more on its toes. This said, it will drink well with red meats, either stewed or roasted.

1 star