

DECANTER PANEL TASTING

Recommended (continued) 86-89pts

Wine	Score	AB	MG	SH	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Santa Caterina, Vignalina, Superiore 2013	87	85	89	87	The earthy strawberry aromas are quite subtle at first, but the oak and vanilla characters come through on the palate.	14.5%	2017-2020	POA	The Wine Society
Bravo Cordara, Superiore 2013	86	86	88	84	A light cola note hangs around the nose, while the palate displays a heady shoe polish note mixed with lavender oil and finishing with racy acidity.	14.5%	2018-2022	N/A UK	sdomeniconi@boldovini.it
Marchesi di Barolo, Rurè 2015	86	85	85	88	This is a very frank example of Barbera, with its cherry and blackberry fruit-driven palate and classic bright acidity. Immensely quaffable.	13%	2017-2019	N/A UK	www.marchesibarolo.com
Montariolo 2015	86	85	89	84	Very dark maraschino cherry notes on the nose are followed by a touch of reduction, which is balanced out by tantalising cedar and fennel characters.	14%	2018-2020	E14	Tanlico UK (2013)
Torlasco 2015	86	83	85	89	Roasted coconut oak on the nose transforms into vanilla pods and nutmeg on the palate. Smart winemaking, but currently a lot of oak influence.	13.5%	2019-2022	N/A UK	www.tosti.it/prodotti/torlasco

Commended 83-85pts

■ Arione 2015 85, 13.5%, 2017-2020, N/A UK [www.arione.it](#) ■ Franco Mondo, Il Salice, Superiore 2013 85, 13.5%, 2017-2020, E20 Damncheeky Wines, Red Squirrel, Yardarm ■ Gallo, La Fea 2015 85, 13.5%, 2017-2019, N/A UK [www.gallovinimontabone.it](#) ■ Macario 2015 85, 13.5%, 2017-2019, N/A UK [www.macariovini.it](#) ■ Malgrà, Mora di Sassi, Superiore Nizza 2012 85, 14.5%, 2017-2020, POA L'Art du Vin ■ Mauro Molino, Leradici 2015 85, 14%, 2017-2020, POA Millésima ■ Poggio, Croja 2015 85, 14.5%, 2017-2019, N/A UK [www.vinipoggio.it](#) ■ La Pergola, La Cappelletta, Superiore 2013 85, 13.5%, 2017-2019, N/A UK [www.tenutalpergola.it](#) ■ Bava, Pianoalto, Superiore Nizza 2012 84, 13.5%, 2017-2019, POA Dolce Vita Wines ■ Bogge, Tutti i Frutti 2014 84, 14%, 2017-2021, N/A UK [www.boggero.it](#) ■ Castello del

Poggio, Masarej 2014 84, 14%, 2017-2019, E32.72 Grantham's, Zonin UK ■ Vigna Quaranti, Rable' 2014 84, 13.5%, 2017-2020, N/A UK [www.vigna Quaranti.com](#) ■ Cascina Perfumo, Merope, Superiore Nizza 2012 83, 14.5%, 2017-2020, N/A UK [www.cascinaperfumo.it](#) ■ Cordara, Costa del Sole 2010 83, 14%, 2017-2019, N/A UK [www.cordara.com](#) ■ Ferro, Notturmo, Superiore 2012 83, 14.5%, 2017-2020, N/A UK [www.ferrovini.com](#) ■ La Patateina, Superiore 2012 83, 15%, 2017-2020, N/A UK [www.lapatateina.it](#) ■ Mosparone, Superiore 2012 83, 14.5%, 2017-2018, N/A UK [www.cantinamosparone.it](#)

Fair 76-82pts

■ Fratelli Pavia 2015 82 ■ Il Mongetto, Guera 2012 82 ■ Scagliola, Bric dei Mandorli 2013 82 ■ Cascina Salerio, Terra 2015 79

Faulty

■ Araldica, Ceppi Storici 2014 (reduced)

For full UK stockist details, see p105

Next month's panel tastings
Grower Champagne and Piedmont Nebbiolo

My top three

Andrea Briccarello

■ Il Falchetto, Bricco Roche Paradiso, Superiore 2013 The Falchetto estate in Santo Stefano Belbo has been in the Forno family for more than four generations. Paradiso is only made in the best vintages and this has everything you could want from a top Barbera. Incredible! **98 Drink** 18-23

■ Cascina Gilli, Le More 2015 From the first sip I was instantly attracted to this bright and charming Barbera from the 17ha estate run by Gianni Vergnano. A vibrant young wine that will only get better with time. **93 Drink** 2017-2020

Vietti, La Crena, Superiore Nizza 2013 Vietti is renewed for its Barolo but this single-vineyard La Crena has nothing to be shy about. Made from old vines planted in 1932, this one really stood out because of the raw power and poise within the glass. A true classic. **93 Drink** 2017-2024

My top three

Michael Garner

■ Ferraris, La Regina, Superiore 2013 An extrovert style of Barbera: big, bold and ripe. Sourced from old vines, the grapes are fermented in wood and the wine bottled without filtration. With lashings of juicy, berry fruit and positive peppery aromas, this is a hedonist's delight. **95 Drink** 2017-2021

■ Olim Bauda, La Villa 2015 Broad, ripe and generous, with vibrant acidity to keep the rich, smoky-toned fruit in check. A textbook version of the youthful style of Barbera which will drink beautifully over the next few years. Gloriously uncomplicated! **95 Drink** 2018-2021

■ Cascina Gilli, Le More 2015 Another classic example of how good the more simple and straightforward style of Barbera can be. No need for oak: plum, red cherry, leather and tobacco dominate the palate while the acidity maintains juicy freshness. **90 Drink** 2017-2020

My top three

Susan Hulme MW

■ Il Falchetto, Bricco Roche Paradiso, Superiore 2013 Bricco Roche is Il Falchetto's flagship wine, only made in the best years from low-yielding old vines. Rich, super-ripe and sumptuous style with plenty of new oak, with the structure and concentration to last, yet the velvety tannins mean it is also approachable now. **96 Drink** 2018-2023

■ Ferraris, La Regina, Superiore 2013 La Regina is named for Luca Ferraris' grandmother - 'The Queen'. It's from the Castlet vineyard, on tufa soil, where yields are low and the grapes are left to dry a little on the vine; the extra concentration balances the naturally very high acidity. **95 Drink** 2017-2021

■ Olim Bauda, La Villa 2015 This shows the charming qualities of Barbera. It is 100% stainless steel fermented and matured and may be drunk young but still has the capacity to age. It is made mainly from younger vines in vineyards immediately surrounding the house, hence the name. **95 Drink** 2018-2021

NB: the tasters' top wines are not necessarily their top-scoring, rather those which, on learning the wines' identity, they feel are the most notable given their provenance, price or other factors