Poderi Aldo Conterno

A benchmark Barolo from Bussia's storied slopes: crystalline Nebbiolo fruit, savory licorice and balsamic notes, vibrant acidity, and a long, mineral spine–structure for cellaring without sacrificing immediate charm.A benchmark Barolo from Bussia's storied slopes: crystalline Nebbiolo fruit, savory licorice and balsamic notes, vibrant acidity, and a long, mineral spine–structure for cellaring without sacrificing immediate charm.

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Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Nebbiolo

Barolo Bussia 2021

Piedmont, Italy

Region and Vineyards

Bussia sits in **Monforte d'Alba**, one of Barolo's most hallowed communes, prized for wines that combine depth with a stern, age-worthy backbone. The zone spans varied altitudes and expositions, but its heartland—Bussia Soprana—offers marl and sandstone that yield Nebbiolo with red-cherry intensity, rose and licorice, and firm, **finely grained** tannins. Poderi Aldo Conterno has long farmed extensively here, rooting its identity in these slopes and their classical expression.

Poderi Aldo Conterno's Barolo Bussia draws on different parcels across Bussia, typically from vines of at least **20 years** (with many older), capturing a panoramic view of the cru. The estate's holdings concentrate in Bussia Soprana, historically the core of the vineyard before later expansions, reinforcing a style of purity and structure rather than overt richness. Careful, hand harvesting in mid-October preserves acidity and aromatic lift fundamental to the wine's ageability and poise.

Winemaking

The wine is **100% Nebbiolo** (Michet and Lampia biotypes). Fermentation is classic and measured: red vinification with the must on skins **20-30 days** in stainless steel, temperatures reaching **~32 °C**, and complete primary fermentation on the skins to shape tannin quality without harshness. This approach favors perfume retention and a compact, linear structure—hallmarks of the house style.

After **4-5 months** in steel (with several rackings), the wine ages **~26-28 months** in large **Slavonian oak** botti, preserving Nebbiolo's transparency while allowing slow oxygenation. Bottling follows without barrique imprint; release comes after additional bottle rest. Listed alcohol for 2021 is around **14.5%**, consistent with the vintage's ripeness allied to freshness. The élevage underscores a commitment to purity, avoiding overt oak signatures and letting Bussia's voice carry.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Transparent garnet with ruby core and orange-tinged highlights.
- **Aroma:** Dried cherry, rose petal, citrus peel, licorice and sweet violet, with hints of camphor and subtle balsamic complexity.
- **Palate:** Taut yet silk-lined; red-fruit precision over chalk-dust tannins and vibrant acidity. Linear, persistent finish with cherry-stone, anise and tea-leaf nuances—poised for long development.

Did you know?

Poderi Aldo Conterno's Barolo identity is anchored in **large, seasoned botti** rather than new barriques—reflecting a philosophy that oak should frame, not flavor, Nebbiolo. The estate's iconic Granbussia blends three Bussia crus (Romirasco, Cicala, Colonnello) in only top years, released after extended aging.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Brasato al Barolo:** Slow-braised beef mirrors Nebbiolo's savory depth; collagen and protein tame young tannins for a seamless, mouth-coating finish.
- **Tajarin with white truffles:** Egg-rich pasta and Alba truffles amplify the wine's rose, anise and earthy nuances while its acidity refreshes each bite.
- **Porcini risotto:** Umami richness dovetails with balsamic and tea-leaf notes; the wine's drive cuts through creaminess.
- **Aged Castelmagno:** Salty, nutty intensity highlights cherry-stone and licorice on the finish while softening structure.

95

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2020)

The Poderi Aldo Conterno 2020 Barolo Bussia is a fine and silky wine with the elegant power that is characteristics of this special cru. The wine shows bright fruit flavors with cherry and blackcurrant followed by earthy iris root and licorice. There is a hint of perfume or church incense. That pretty intensity follows through to the palate with balanced freshness and lasting medium-plus richness.

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2020)

The nose is attractive, with watermelon, leafy lightness, fresh violets and strawberry fruit. The palate is savory and graceful, with a full body, velvety tannins soaked in peach fruit, juicy acidity and a polished aftertaste. A bracing Barolo with at least 10 years of cellaring potential, yet enjoyable now.

93 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 93 Points (2020)

Starts with cherry and strawberry flavors interwoven with a supple texture. Earth, mineral and hibiscus notes add detail, while solid tannins emerge on the vibrant finish.