

Luigi Baudana

From the heart of Serralunga d'Alba, Cerretta 2021 delivers a cerebral yet grounded Barolo, steeped in limestone purity and silent power.

LUIGI BAUDANA

97 Wine Spectator



Barolo Cerretta 2021

Piedmont, Italy

Region and Vineyards

The Cerretta MGA lies within the commune of Serralunga d'Alba and is recognized for its geological purity and historical significance. Unlike the more diverse soil types found in other parts of the appellation, Cerretta's terroir is composed entirely of **Formazione di Lequio**, a compact limestone formation from the Serravallian epoch, dating back some 12 million years. These **calcareous soils impart firm structure, vibrant acidity, and a restrained aromatic profile**, elevating the site among the most revered crus of Serralunga.

The vineyard is farmed organically under the Vajra family's guidance since 2009, continuing the stewardship of Luigi and Fiorina Baudana. A notable anecdote from 2008 reflects this deep commitment: after a destructive hailstorm, the couple hand-removed all damaged berries to preserve the integrity of the remaining fruit. Today, biodiversity and sustainability efforts are practiced holistically, with active monitoring of flora and fauna throughout the estate and surrounding forested land.

Winemaking

Cerretta 2021 is crafted from **100% Nebbiolo**, harvested on October 14, a notably late date that speaks to the vintage's cool, even ripening conditions. The grapes underwent a long fermentation with submerged cap maceration that lasted **54 days**, significantly longer than in the adjacent Baudana cru. This slow kinetic profile required only delicate interventions — gentle punch-downs and pump-overs — to extract structure while preserving elegance.

Spontaneous malolactic fermentation occurred the following spring, after which the wine was aged **23 months in custom-made large Slavonian oak casks** ranging from 15 to 25 hL. Bottling was completed on June 28, 2024, ensuring the wine remained undisturbed during a crucial phase of evolution.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Nebbiolo

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet core with subtle ruby edges, indicative of both youth and concentration.
- **Aroma**: Layers of ripe citrus, cherry, and blackberry intertwine with dried roses, mint, Tasmanian pepper, and crushed limestone. An ethereal floral lift accompanies the core of Serralunga minerality.
- **Palate**: Tightly knit yet expansive, the palate reveals notes of Earl Grey tea, lychee, elderflower, and candied orange peel. The tannins are finely grained yet imposing, suggesting a long and **dignified aging potential**.

Did you know?

The Cerretta vineyard, though often overshadowed by names like Francia or Lazzarito, has quietly built a cult following for its **distinctive limestone identity** and slow-maturing wines. The 2021 vintage, marked by low nitrogen and high phenolic content, allowed for **one of the longest macerations in Baudana's recent history**, resulting in a wine of uncommon grace and gravitas.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Wild boar ragù with pappardelle**: Resonates with the wine's dark fruit and earthy depth.
- **Venison loin with elderberry glaze**: Highlights both the wild character and mineral backbone.
- **Aged Comté or Beaufort**: Amplifies the structured tannins with umami complexity.
- **Porcini and truffle polenta**: Enhances the floral and spice nuances in the mid-palate.

97 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 97 Points (2021)

The 2021 Barolo Cerretta sports a bright red hue and is deeper aromatically, offering notes of candied flowers, raspberry liqueur, hints of tiny blue flowers, and a quiet note of polished leather underneath that will come through with time. The palate offers broader tannins, more rounded fruit on the midpalate, and more depth and remarkable transparency. Its noble structure comes through on the finish, and while it has a complete feel all around, it demands more time.

97 JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 97 Points (2021)

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LUIGI BAUDANA

Barolo Cerretta 2021

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2021)

Starting off a bit slower than the other wines in this flight, the Luigi Baudana 2021 Barolo Cerretta is quite nervous and tightly wound at this point. Cerretta in Serralunga d'Alba is known for its powerful, age-worthy wines. Despite that initial shyness, this bottle does reveal layers of sweet fruit, grenadine and tart cherry. The wine is nicely balanced with chalky, elegant tannins.