

Gaja

Gaja Barbaresco is a pure and refined expression of Nebbiolo , capturing the elegance and complexity of Piedmont's legendary terroir. A wine of poise and depth, it represents a true icon of Italian winemaking.

GAJA

95 James Suckling



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Nebbiolo

Barbaresco 2020

Piedmont, Italy

Region and Vineyards

Gaja Barbaresco 2019 is produced in the **Barbaresco D.O.P.**, a historic appellation in Piedmont. The wine is sourced from **14 vineyards** within the municipality of Barbaresco, situated at altitudes between **250 and 330 meters**. Covering a total of **21.4 hectares**, these vines are planted in soils rich in clay and limestone, contributing to the wine's structure and vibrant minerality.

The vineyards are composed of Nebbiolo vines with an average age of **40 years**, reflecting a deep connection to the terroir. Barbaresco's climate, marked by hot summers and abundant rainfall in critical months, ensures a balanced phenolic ripeness essential for producing Nebbiolo of exceptional quality.

Winemaking

Gaja Barbaresco 2019 is crafted from **100% Nebbiolo**. Each vineyard's grapes undergo **separate fermentation and maceration**, preserving their distinct characteristics. The wine is aged in oak for **12 months**, followed by blending and an additional **12 months of aging in oak barrels**.

The 2019 vintage presented unique challenges and opportunities: a dry winter followed by abundant spring rains and a warm summer. This weather pattern allowed for **optimal phenolic development**, with the Nebbiolo harvest occurring from early to late October, ensuring perfectly ripened fruit.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Brilliant ruby with vivid highlights.
- **Aroma**: A bouquet of rose petals and wild strawberries is enriched by nuances of marzipan, wild fennel, and juniper.
- **Palate**: Crisp red fruit flavors are complemented by bright acidity and a saline touch. The wine's tense structure and fresh character define the 2019 vintage, offering length, balance, and refinement.

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Did you know?

Barbaresco, along with Barolo, represents one of Italy's most revered wine styles. Gaja has been instrumental in elevating the reputation of Barbaresco on the global stage, with each generation contributing to its legacy. This wine is a quintessential example of the Nebbiolo grape's ability to express both elegance and power.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Tajarin pasta with white truffle**: The wine's earthy nuances and bright acidity enhance the truffle's aromatic complexity.
- **Braised veal shank (osso buco)**: The Nebbiolo's structure complements the tender richness of the dish.
- **Grilled porcini mushrooms**: The wine's red fruit and herbal notes balance the umami depth of the mushrooms.
- **Aged Parmigiano-Reggiano**: The saltiness and nutty flavors of the cheese pair beautifully with the wine's vibrant acidity and refined tannins.



James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2020)

So many aromas of fresh rose petals as well as hibiscus tea. Medium-bodied with crunchy and flowery character with sliced strawberries and a bright finish. So appealing with lovely structure. Chewy at the end. Drinkable but better in three or four years.



Decanter (DCT) : 95 Points (2020)

Depth, structure and complexity are the hallmarks of Nebbiolo, and this wine certainly delivers but also offers a juicy helping of fresh berry fruits. It is blended from 14 different sites throughout the Barbaresco DOCG with an average of 40 years of vine age. Barbaresco is the wine that launched the Gaja legacy in 1859. Aromatics of spiced orange peel, an assertive bouquet of dried purple florals and a touch of dried mint. The palate balances the savoury character of baking chocolate and fennel seed with an abundance of ripe red berry fruits—notes of strawberry and balsamic, raspberries and fresh mint and dried tobacco. There is ample structure, but a stylistic transition in more recent vintages of Barbaresco makes this wine immediately drinkable.



Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 94 Points (2020)

The 2020 Barbaresco is a very young wine. In most years, the Gaja Barbaresco is quite showy, but the 2020 clearly needs time. There's terrific fruit intensity, but the aromatics aren't quite expressive. These days the Gaja wines have less oak imprint, which pushes the fruit forward, but also yields a wine that is a bit more austere in the early going.

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