

Gaja

Crafted from vines averaging 65 years old, this wine captures the terroir-driven precision and richness of the Costa Russi vineyard, delivering a harmonious balance of power and finesse.

GAJA

97 James Suckling



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Nebbiolo

Costa Russi 2020

Piedmont, Italy

Region and Vineyards

The Costa Russi vineyard lies in the **Barbaresco D.O.P.**, at the foot of the same hill as the Sorì Tildin vineyard, with a **southwest-facing exposure**. Covering 4.35 hectares at an altitude of **230 meters**, the vineyard features **clay-limestone marl soils**, which enhance the wine's structure and minerality. The vines, averaging **65 years in age**, are deeply rooted in this exceptional terroir, allowing them to express the full potential of the site.

The **2020 vintage** was marked by frequent summer rainfalls, an unusual pattern for the region. Winter temperatures were mild, with a particularly warm January, while cold weather arrived late in mid-March without frost damage. Alternating warm days and summer thunderstorms resulted in excellent conditions for slow, balanced ripening. Cool nights in September and October enhanced the **color, aromas, and health of the grapes**, producing fruit with exceptional concentration.

Winemaking

Costa Russi 2020 is crafted from **100% Nebbiolo**. The grapes underwent **fermentation and maceration for around three weeks**, followed by **24 months of aging in oak barrels**. This extended maturation develops the wine's depth, integrating its flavors and structure harmoniously.

The precise winemaking highlights the unique characteristics of the vineyard, delivering a wine that is both approachable and age-worthy.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet red with ruby highlights.
- **Aroma**: Abundant notes of strawberry and plum, evolving to reveal raspberry, red currant, pepper, verbena, elderflower, and marzipan as the wine opens.
- **Palate**: The entry is slightly sweet with a round, generous mouthfeel. The wine's fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity lead to an elegant and persistent finish.

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Did you know?

The name **Costa Russi** combines "Costa," meaning "side of a hill" in Italian, and "Russi," the nickname of the sharecropper who once worked this vineyard. The first vintage of Costa Russi was produced in **1978**, marking the beginning of its legacy as one of Barbaresco's iconic single-vineyard wines.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Braised beef cheeks with Barolo reduction**: The wine's rich red fruit and structure complement the tender, savory beef.
- **Porcini mushroom ravioli with sage butter**: Its earthy flavors align beautifully with the wine's herbal and floral notes.
- **Roast duck with cherry glaze**: The bright acidity and layered red fruit balance the richness of the duck.
- **Aged Pecorino Romano**: The wine's vibrant acidity and fine tannins enhance the nutty, salty profile of this classic cheese.



James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2020)

Lavender and sage with berries and dried strawberries, but so perfumed and subtle. Medium- to full-bodied with very fine tannins that are totally integrated with finesse and beauty at the end. Caresses your palate.



Wine Spectator (WS) : 95 Points (2020)

Fresh and pure, evoking cherry, raspberry, rose, iron and woodsy aromas and flavors, this is complex and solidly built, with a touch of creaminess to its texture and a superlong, expressive finish. Combines finesse and intensity.



Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2020)

The Gaja 2020 Barbaresco Costa Russi has a rose and floral note that emerges at first, and it doesn't have the heavy dark earth or cured leather aromas that we get in the Barbaresco. This wine is focused on fruit tones, bright ones, and those nuances are juicy, generous and long. There's more youth in this wine, and the tannins are extremely fine and silky. Count on this wine to improve with age.