

Italian Wine Report

by Tom Hyland

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Italian Wine Report represents the opinions of *Tom Hyland*, who has been reporting on and visiting wine regions throughout Italy for over twenty years.

While I will be reporting on wines from all regions of Italy, the focus will be on the following regions: **Piemonte**, Toscana, Veneto, Campania, Alto Adige, Friuli and Sicilia (especially the wines of Etna)

SUPERB (96 -100 points)

Marchesi di Barolo Sarmassa

Beautiful young garnet; rich aromas of tobacco, orange peel and dried morel cherry. Medium-full to full-bodied with excellent depth of fruit, very good acidity, rich, balanced tannins and notable persistence. The finish has a great combination of Nebbiolo fruit and distinct brown spice notes that blend together beautifully. Wonderful sense of place and excellent texture, this is a sensual Barolo that is a beautifully expressive, highly distinctive wine. This is one of the best Barolos from this legendary producer I have tasted over the past few years. Impressive now, but greater complexities will emerge with another 2-3 years, with peak drinking in 20 years. **(96)**

EXCELLENT (88 -91 points)

Marchesi di Barolo Barolo del Comune di Barolo

Deep young garnet; aromas of sage, morel cherry and dill. Medium-full with very good concentration. Impressive complexity, very good acidity, youthful tannins, notable persistence. This is a bit tight and subdued at present, and has distinctive brown herbal notes in the finish. Peak in 12-15 years. **(90)**

VERY GOOD TO EXCELLENT (84 - 87 points)

Marchesi di Barolo Barolo Tradizione

Deep young garnet; aromas of Oriental spice, leather, dried morel cherry and cigar. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration. Rich, ripe fruit, nicely integrated wood notes, good acidity and rich young tannins. Nicely balanced, though the brown herbal notes dominate it at present. Give 2-3 years to settle down – peak in 12-15 years.