



"Tucked away off the main roads, Elio Grasso's estate is in one of the most peaceful, idyllic spots in the Langhe. For some reason this producer is not as well-known as some of his colleagues, yet in my conversations with other winemakers Grasso is always spoken of with the highest admiration and esteem. The estate's approach is based on rigorous attention to the vineyards, where low yields are the rule. From their fruit in the Gavarini and Ginestra crus in Monforte the estate makes a wide range of excellent wines in a unique style that marries elements of both traditional and modern styles." (Wine Advocate)



ELIO GRASSO MONFORTE D'ALBA

CHARDONNAY "EDUCATO" LANGHE

DOLCETTO D'ALBA DEI GRASSI

WA: 90 on the 2010 "The 2010 Dolcetto d'Alba dei Grassi is fabulous. Grasso's approach in the vineyard gives the Dolcetto just that extra little bit of dimension and complexity to the fruit, without abandoning a true, varietal expression. The wine shows excellent minerality and focus in a tense, wiry style that is typical of the year. I loved it."

NEBBIOLO LANGHE GAVARINI

BARBERA D'ALBA "VIGNA MARTINA"

Vigna Martina is a 2.2 hectare, southwest-facing vineyard 1150' above sea level. The Guyot-trained vines average 20 years of age and are planted to loosely-packed, slightly sandy, calcareous soil at 4,500 vines per hectare.

ST: 92pts on the 2008 "Bright red-ruby. Highly perfumed aromas and flavors of red fruits, flowers and spicy oak. Fine-grained, dry and suave, with perfectly integrated acidity and a strong floral component giving definition to the pliant, sweet middle palate. This has the finesse of a nebbiolo! Finishes with wonderfully smooth tannins and subtle lingering perfume."

BAROLO GAVARINI "VIGNA CHINIERA"

WA: 95pts on the 2006 "This is a supremely beautiful Barolo where expressive aromatics, generous fruit and silky tannins come together with unusual grace and elegance. Sweet, floral notes add a sense of lift on the finish."

ST: 94pts on the 2008 "Good bright, deep red. Knockout nose offers pungent flinty minerality, white pepper, rose petal and spices; at once explosive and pure. Wonderfully intense, sappy and spicy on the palate, with a suave, fine-grained texture and great perfumed, floral delicacy. I might have picked this blind as a Chambolle cru. Less plush than the Ginestra Casa Mate but wonderfully tight and vibrant on the back end, in need of extended cellaring."

BAROLO GINESTRA "VIGNA CASA MATÉ"

WA: 96pts on the 2006 "The 2006 Barolo Ginestra Casa Mate is simply marvelous. Sweet, balsamic and layered, this powerful Barolo covers the palate with endless dimensions to its fruit, showing exceptional richness and density. The wine continues to blossom beautifully in the glass with myriad expressions of dark, perfumed fruit that are hard to fully capture with words. This is class personified, but the tannins will require a measure of patience. Still, it is impossible to miss the wine's pedigree and significant potential. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2031."

WA: 96pts on the 2007 "This is a beautifully layered, textured Ginestra Casa Mate endowed with endless layers of dark, mineral-infused, balsamic-tinged dark fruit, all of which flow through effortlessly to a long, sumptuous finish that lasts forever. The stunning bouquet, purity of the fruit and overall balance are simply breathtaking. The Ginestra Casa Mate will be a fascinating wine to follow over the coming years and decades. Could it be a modern-day 1990? Anticipated maturity: 2017-2032."

ST: 96pts on the 2008 "Good bright deep red. Shy, high-pitched nose hints at strawberry, raspberry, rose petal, mocha and soil tones, plus a whiff of flinty reduction. Rich and full but weightless, offering outstanding, tingling palate coverage. Wonderfully graceful and energetic wine, finishing with perfectly ripe, noble tannins and palate-staining flavor. A real essence of fruit-and-flower nebbiolo perfume, which Grasso said was apparent even during the fermentation."

BAROLO "RÜNCOT" RISERVA

WA: 96pts on the 2004 "The 2004 Barolo Riserva Runcot offers up an intriguing array of licorice, tobacco, spices, plums and prunes. The purity of the fruit here is beyond striking, and the wine shows great intensity as well as superb overall balance. The Runcot saw 45 days of maceration on the skins and spent 36 months in 100% new French oak, all of which it has absorbed with impeccable elegance... What a beautiful wine! Anticipated maturity: 2014-2029."

WA: 96+pts on the 2006 "The 2006 Barolo Riserva Runcot is a huge, structured wine bursting at the seams with fruit. The French oak (100% new) is beautifully integrated. Today the wine is understandably quite reticent but its pedigree is hard to miss. Flowers, licorice and minerals linger on the finish. The 2006 Runcot needs time, most likely lots of it. Let me just say I can't wait to taste this powerhouse once it has had more time in bottle. It is a dazzling effort. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2031."

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