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by Antonio Galloni

Fontanabianca

2004 Fontanabianca Barbaresco Sori Burdin

RATING:	92 points
PRODUCER:	Fontanabianca
FROM:	Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy,
VARIETY:	Nebbiolo
DRINK:	2009 - 2019
ESTIMATED COST:	$68
SOURCE:	WA, #173 Oct 2007

I remember visiting Fontanabianca and proprietor Aldo Pola as his 2004 Barbarescos were fermenting right after the harvest. The perfumes emanating from the winery were heavenly. Pola's 2004 Barbaresco Sori Burdin has turned out beautifully. It is a big, authoritative Barbaresco loaded with super-ripe red fruit, macerated cherries, menthol, minerals, flowers and spices. Endowed with notable weight and a layered texture, it offers outstanding concentration and fine, well-integrated tannins. This is a terrific effort from Fontanabianca. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2019. Importer: Premium Brands, Forest Hills, NY; tel. (718) 263-4094

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2001 Fontanabianca Barbaresco Sori Burdin

RATING:	91 points
PRODUCER:	Fontanabianca
FROM:	Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy,
VARIETY:	Nebbiolo
DRINK:	2006 - 2016
ESTIMATED COST:	$36
SOURCE:	WA, #167 Oct 2006

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A noticeable step up from the 2000, Fontanabianca's 2001 Barbaresco Sori Burdin (from a vineyard in Neive) defines hedonistic and decadent Barbaresco at its very best. A rich burnished ruby in color, it opens with a nose that is fresh, complex and penetrating, with a persistent mentholated note. On the palate the wine is seamless, dense, and packed with opulent fruit. A super effort. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2016. Importer: Premium Brands, Forest Hills, NY; tel. (718) 263-4094

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2003 Fontanabianca Barbaresco Sori Burdin

RATING:	89 points
PRODUCER:	Fontanabianca
FROM:	Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy,
VARIETY:	Nebbiolo
DRINK:	2008 - 2015
ESTIMATED COST:	$56
SOURCE:	WA, #167 Oct 2006

The estate's 2003 Sori Burdin displays a dark, translucent color, along with a refined yet potent nose, and generous notes of macerated cherries, minerals, menthol and alcohol. Rich and weighty, it offers excellent length and a strapping personality that will require a few years for its powerful tannins to settle down. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2015. Importer: Premium Brands, Forest Hills, NY; tel. (718) 263-4094

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2003 Fontanabianca Dolcetto d'Alba

RATING:	88 points
PRODUCER:	Fontanabianca
FROM:	Dolcetto d'Alba, Piedmont, Italy,
VARIETY:	Dolcetto
DRINK:	2004 - 2005
ESTIMATED COST:	
SOURCE:	Italy Report, #G1 Dec 2004

2003 Fontanabianca Dolcetto d'Alba—Pola's Dolcetto is usually one of the top wines, and this 2003 is no exception. Classic all the way, this aromatic wine displays plenty of spices and rich dark blue and black fruit. Although showing the concentration typical of the vintage, this Dolcetto is not at all heavy or overly alcoholic. 88 point/drink now-2005 Aldo Pola makes a solid group of wines from his 12 hectares in Neive. Pola has again turned out a superb edition of his top wine, Barbaresco Sori Burdin. I arrived at the estate as the Nebbiolos were fermenting and the heady, intense aromas filling the winery were simply beyond description.

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2005 Fontanabianca Barbaresco

Fontanabianca
A Nebbiolo Dry Red Table wine from
Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate # 179 Oct 2008	Antonio Galloni	91	Drink: 2009 - 2019	$55 (55)

The 2005 Barbaresco is a pretty, perfumed wine redolent of dried flowers, spices, menthol, tar and small red fruits. It shows terrific delineation and clarity in a focused yet expansive style. Although the tannins build on the finish, the wine remains poised and polished throughout. The Barbaresco used to be an average wine here, but the 2005 signals what is hopefully a sustainable move upwards in terms of quality. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2019.

Proprietor Aldo Pola has made remarkable strides in recent years. The use of new French oak has come down quite a bit, and as a result the wines show much more varietal character than has been the case in the past. These are the finest wines he has made to date.

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2006 Fontanabianca Barbaresco Sori Burdin

Fontanabianca
A Nebbiolo Dry Red Table wine from
Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate # 185 Oct 2009	Antonio Galloni	90+	Drink: 2010 - 2020	$69 (69)

The 2006 Barbaresco Bordini Sori Burdin offers up sweet roses, spices, tar and licorice in an expressive, medium-bodied style. The Sori Burdin reveals more weight, depth and definition than the Serraboella yet it, too, remains a fairly accessible Barbaresco. The finish is long, pure and harmonious. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2020.

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2006 Fontanabianca Barbaresco Serraboella

Fontanabianca
A Nebbiolo Dry Red Table wine from
Neive, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate # 185 Oct 2009	Antonio Galloni	88	Drink: 2010 - 2016	$55 (55)

Fontanabianca's 2006 Barbaresco Serraboella is one of the more medium-bodied wines of the vintage. Dark cherries, plums and spices emerge from this Barbaresco, with good length and fine overall balance. The tannins remain a touch firm, as the wine doesn't quite have enough plumpness to provide maximum balance. I would choose to drink the Serraboella on the young side as the potential for upside seems limited. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2016.

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2005 Fontanabianca Barbaresco Sori Burdin

Fontanabianca
A Nebbiolo Dry Red Table wine from
Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate # 179 Oct 2008	Antonio Galloni	93	Drink: 2010 - 2020	$72 (72)

The estate's 2005 Barbaresco Sori Burdin is a darker and more brooding wine than the Barbaresco. A generous, expansive wine, it flows with layers of dark fruit, smoke, tar, licorice and sweet toasted oak. The tannins are firm, but beautifully integrated in this very pleasing wine from Fontanabianca. It is a commendable effort. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2020.

Proprietor Aldo Pola has made remarkable strides in recent years. The use of new French oak has come down quite a bit, and as a result the wines show much more varietal character than has been the case in the past. These are the finest wines he has made to date.

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2007 Fontanabianca Barbaresco Sori Burdin

Fontanabianca
A Nebbiolo Dry Red Table wine from
Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate # 192 Dec 2010	Antonio Galloni	93	Drink: 2012 - 2024	$58 (58)

Fontanabianca's 2007 Barbaresco Bordini Sori' Burdin, the estate's flagship, is more vibrant in its color, aromas and flavors than the Serraboella. Ripe dark red fruit, French oak, flowers, licorice and spices all come together beautifully in this sumptuous, full-bodied Barbaresco. A polished, creamy finish rounds things out in style. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2024.

Fontanabianca is one of Piedmont's under the radar producers. The Barbareschi in particular merit far more attention than they generally receive.

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2007 Fontanabianca Barbaresco Serraboella

Fontanabianca
A Nebbiolo Dry Red Table wine from
Neive, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate # 192 Dec 2010	Antonio Galloni	91+	Drink: 2014 - 2024	$46 (46)

The 2007 Barbaresco Serraboella is a rather firm wine with little of the open, radiant fruit that is typical of the vintage. Then again, Serraboella is a part of the Barbaresco zone where wines can be unusually austere when young. With some coaxing red cherries, menthol, spices and crushed flowers emerge in a powerful, focused expression of Nebbiolo. If this opens up a bit it may very well merit a higher score. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024.

Fontanabianca is one of Piedmont's under the radar producers. The Barbareschi in particular merit far more attention than they generally receive.