



primavera

- S E L E C T I O N S -



LOCALITY: Neive,
Barbaresco

WINEMAKER: Francesco
Versio



PIEDMONT

FRANCESCO VERSIO

It's been my pleasure to have known Francesco Versio for a number of years now, having previously represented the wines of his almost legendary employer Bruno Giacosa here in Australia - a great experience in itself. Francesco is a true native of Barbaresco, coming from Albesani, a hamlet nestled just north of and between Neive and the town of Barbaresco itself. After completing his winemaking studies at the University of Turin, and following a brief period at a local co-operative, he joined Bruno Giacosa, initially under the watchful eye of respected oenologist Dante Scaglione. In due course, Francesco assumed the role of chief winemaker at this illustrious estate and continues to hold that enviable position today.



There's no question that this young man (still only in his mid-thirties) is one of the budding superstars of Piedmont in his own right, and his wines seem almost destined to command the same sort of respect and one might say cult following as those of his illustrious employer in the foreseeable future. It is incredibly exciting for me to be representing Francesco's wines, as I see them as being right at the forefront of the next wave of sought-after and sophisticated yet classic wines from this great region with the potential to be right up there with the very best.

THE VINEYARDS

With great foresight, or perhaps a sixth-sense of their yet unborn son's destiny, Francesco's parents wisely purchased two plots of mature vines in the esteemed commune of Neive, home to Giacosa. One holding is in the vineyard of San Cristoforo, the other in Curra. Although contiguous, they show distinctive individual character. San Cristoforo has more limestone, and offers freshness and perfume, while Curra, on sandy alluvial soil, imparts warmth and richness. In fact, it's not unusual for producers to hold back wines from this cru for a year longer than other single vineyard releases as they tend to be bigger and more "backward". To combine them seems natural.

WINEMAKING

For many years the family sold the grapes from these holdings, but eventually the time was right, and Francesco took the next step in his winemaking journey. Using local facilities in Neive, the first Barbaresco under his own label was crafted from the 2013 vintage, an excellent one it must be said. The winemaking is of course influenced by the Giacosa tradition, and fits into that classic Barbaresco style. Interestingly, Francesco has opted to use Stockinger large format oak, crafted in Austria and more and more becoming the choice of discerning, leading edge European winemakers.

THE WINE



2013 Barbaresco 'Curra & San Cristoforo'

All the great Barbaresco descriptors come easily as you try to put this wine into words. The scent of roses, ethereal, black tea, a sense of something woody (but not oak), earthy but not heavy. You could go on and on. But perhaps the most compelling feature is the sublime tannin structure. Fine, supple, persistent, harmonious - it really takes the wine into absolutely super quality territory.