



SANDRONE

(Above) The historic Cannubi Cru Vineyards of Barolo, perhaps the most famous hill in Italy, where Sandrone works with several sites.



Valmaggione 2020 Nebbiolo d'Alba DOC, Italy

ESTATE

Sandrone's wines are sometimes described as straddling the modern and traditional styles in the region: elegant, attractive and easy to appreciate right from their first years in bottle, but with no less power and structure than traditional Barolos.

WINE

Valmaggione is the product of Luciano's incredible passion for the Nebbiolo grape variety and its different expressions. Just 15 miles away from Barolo, in the Roero region, Nebbiolo produces a lighter structure and ripe, smooth tannins that are not unlike those of Pinot Noir. This is not a "baby Barolo" or a second wine at all – it is a distinct interpretation of Nebbiolo from a completely distinct geographic zone.

VINEYARD

The grapes used to make this wine are cultivated in one of the historical cru vineyards in the Roero district – Valmaggione – situated in the municipality of Vezza d'Alba. The Valmaggione hill itself is incredibly steep: a 100% grade (45 degrees) in places. The soil is comprised almost entirely of sand from shallow sea and beach deposits – fossils are common.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 100% Nebbiolo
Fermentation: Each block is vinified separately. After destemming and light crushing, the must is covered with CO2 for a gentle warm maceration of approximately a day. Alcoholic fermentation begins about 24-36 hours later from native yeasts. A gentle maceration takes place in upright open-top steel tanks for the first 7-9 days of alcoholic fermentation. Immediately after alcoholic fermentation, which takes around 25 days, malolactic fermentation takes place in 500 liter French oak casks.
Aging: French oak casks (25% new) for 24 months, followed by 9 months of bottle aging.
Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

2020 will be remembered as a year of long, alternating periods of heat and cool, giving rise to a wine that is characterized by both. The year began with a mild, dry winter with few truly cold days. Early March brought continued good weather, unseasonably warm and dry. In April, weather patterns were established that continued nearly the whole growing season: 4-5 days of brilliantly sunny days, followed by 1-2 days of rain. Flowering in late May was under favorable conditions and brought a good crop set. Some real heat arrived at the end of July but was mitigated by the continuing sun-rain pattern and the deep groundwater reserves that had built up. Warm weather continued until mid-September, when a series of thunderstorms cooled off the region. The next few weeks were exemplary, with bright, sunny days and crisp, cool nights. The harvest was easy and the fruit ripened evenly.

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"The 2020 Nebbiolo d'Alba Valmaggione is gorgeous. Crushed red berry, spice, leather, mint and rose petal all grace this exquisite, silky Valmaggione. The aromatics alone are so beguiling, but all the elements are so nicely balanced." - A.G., 11/22

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