



Italy, Piedmont: Barolo, Barbaresco & More (New Releases)

featuring Virna

reviewed by Monica Lerner

June 2019

2016 Virna Barbera d'Alba "La"

The 2016 Barbera d'Alba La opens to an inky dark appearance with thick aromas of blackberry syrup, cassis and dark spice. The wine is smooth and velvety in terms of mouthfeel with loosely knit texture and soft tannins. Try it with meatloaf and a dark, wine-based mushroom sauce. The fantasy name "La" refers to the Barbera grape, which is feminine. **(89 points)**

2015 Virna Barolo Cannubi

The 2015 Barolo Cannubi shows the silky softness and ripeness that comes through in this celebrated vineyard cru, especially in the warm vintages. Cannubi is usually one of the first vineyard parcels to ripen in the Barolo township. This is a balanced and elegant wine that focuses on finer aroma details of wild berry, cherry, spice, tar and licorice. Accompany this Barolo with a tasting platter of bresaola, culatello, coppa and mild cheeses. **(93 points)**

2015 Virna Barolo del Comune del Barolo

The 2015 Barolo del Comune del Barolo offers dark fruit flavors with berry fruit, rose hip and grilled herb. There is a delicate side to the wine that you recognize in the fine and pretty quality of the primary aromas, but this hot-vintage expression also delivers power and ripeness that you feel on the finish. Give this wine a year or two to find even footing. About 25% of the blend comes from the Sarmassa vineyard with 75% from the Preda cru. **(92 points)**

2015 Virna • Barolo Noi

Rating

91

Release Price

\$35

Drink Date

2020 - 2035

Reviewed by

[Monica Lerner](#)

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[Issue 243 End of June 2019, The Wine Advocate](#)

The Virna 2015 Barolo Noi shows dark ripeness and saturated fruit that is characteristic of this hot vintage. This wine is built with thick tannins and lots of dark blackberry fruit packed tight at its core. The tannins are firm and evident and also underline the heat and dryness of the summer season in 2015. The fruit is slightly vinous and raw. A year or two in the cellar would do it good, or else pair it in the near-term with baby back ribs. The Barolo Noi is a blend of Nebbiolo from various townships, including Monforte d'Alba (the San Giovanni vineyard), La Morra (Berri and Biolo), Verduno (Castagni) and Novello (Cerviano-Merli and Sottocastello di Novello). Some 20,000 bottles were produced.

The official name of this producer is Azienda Agricola Virna di Borgogna Virna, but I'm keeping the listing as "Virna" in our database for simplicity's sake. In fact, the estate is currently undergoing a label redesign, and the name Virna will be presented with greater clarity.

2016 Virna • Langhe Nebbiolo II

Rating

89

Release Price

\$25

Drink Date

2019 - 2023

Reviewed by

[Monica Lerner](#)

Issue Date

28th Jun 2019

Source

[Issue 243 End of June 2019, The Wine Advocate](#)

The 2016 Langhe Nebbiolo II is a dark and expressive red wine with a bright and very pretty quality of fruit. This vintage is known for its brightness and directness, and those are two qualities you get in this wine. You also get simplicity and the kind of easygoing drinking profile that makes this wine a good option for your favorite pasta dishes. The wine name "II" pays homage to Nebbiolo's masculine side. Some 7,000 bottles were made.

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