

2-Pack: The Land of Kings: a side-by-side of single vineyard Barolos

\$150 for the Pair; Regularly \$126 & 147 respectively

It is hard to imagine the World of Wine without Barolo, realm without it's King. Let's be honest, why would one want to imagine such a world? We know we surely don't. In the grand scheme of things, Barolo is a relative newcomer; not the land, not the grape, and certainly not the people, but the "official" designation: the region was established in 1933. Barolo gained DOC status in 1966. DOCG was granted in 1980; it was one of the first regions to receive the classification. The MGA – Menzione Geografica Aggiuntiva - system that recognizes and demarcates single vineyards was finalized in 2010. Prior to the middle of the 19th century, the Nebbiolos of what is now Barolo were vinified in a sweet, fruity style – hard to fathom, we know. We're heading into the land of legend now which, as we all know, is shaky ground. In short, the Count of Cavour didn't like sweet wine so, in an effort to gain favor, enterprising winemakers hired Champagne maker Louis Oudart to help them vinify their Nebbiolos in a dry style (the Piedmontese' adoration of Champagne makes all-the-more sense). The rest, as they say, is History.

The "cru" system of Barolo has a lot in common with that of Burgundy, in that Villages and Vineyards are classified and named on wine labels. Similarly, though villages and vineyards may have cachet, the designations do not carry quality in and of themselves, they simply connote that a region or parcel creates a distinct Barolo. There are eleven villages within the DOCG of Barolo, each with unique MGA classified vineyards. Our Two-Pack features wines from the villages of La Mora, from the Cerequio vineyard, and Verduno, from the Monvigliero vineyard.

The Village of La Morra is in the northern-central part of the region. It has the most acreage of Nebbiolo under vine and the highest number of wineries of all the villages of Barolo. The wines of La Morra are known to have a rounder and gentler (relatively speaking) tannin structure. The vineyard of Cerequio is a natural amphitheater and is home to some of the oldest soils in the region.

The wines of Verduno, located in the northwest of the Barolo zone, typically display ripeness with hints of spice and have denser tannins. Monvigliero is the most prestigious vineyard within Verduno.



Poderi Luigi Einaudi Monvigliero 2018 (regularly \$147)

Fun fact: Luigi Einaudi was the first democratically elected president of Italy. Luigi was a farmer first, politician second; he bought the estate in Dogliani in the 1890s and dedicated his life to it – it is said that he never missed a harvest. Paolo Sardagna, Luigi' great grandson now helms the estate. The rows in Monvigliero are a new acquisition for the Einaudi winery. This cuvée is the first vintage they produced – it was released, with a special "art label", in 2022 for the winery's 125 anniversary. The hand-harvested grapes are vinified in concrete prior to an extended aging in large oak barrels. The final wine displays beautiful elegance and refinement with delicate aromas and a firm but well integrated tannin structure.

Michele Chiarlo Cerequio 2020 (regularly \$126)

Michele convinced his father to let him attend winemaking school after he graduated high school. He never looked back. Michele founded his winery in 1956; he continued to grow the estate which now owns 110 hectares of vineyards across the Langhe, Monferrato and Gavi regions. From the beginning, Michele was an advocate of the value of the wines of Piedmont and Italy as a whole; he was assured that the wines of the region could stand side by side with the great wines of the world. As it turns out, he was right! His Cerequio is powerful and bold with textbook perfect notes of tar and roses.