



Valmaggione 2017

Nebbiolo d'Alba

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.

Grape Variety: 100% Nebbiolo

WINEMAKING

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: The wine is aged in these casks for 12 months, followed by 9 months bottle aging. Around 1,400 cases are produced in a typical vintage.

VINTAGE

The 2017 Valmaggione is characterized by a nose of red fruits with licorice and cola. The wine is delicate and shows great typicity of the vine. In the mouth, there is an initial burst of sweetness framed around the expressive red fruit. Excellent tannin and acidity help balance the vibrant and ripe red fruit flavors of cherries and cranberries. This is a generous, open and sweet expression of the Valmaggione. The finish is balanced and ripe, ending with a distinct mineral note.

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WINE ADVOCATE

"With scorching heat and little rain overall, there was reason for worry during the 2017 growing season at large, but in the Roero zone by the banks of the Tanaro river, the hilly Valmaggione vineyards received more rain than other parts of Piedmont, so these grapes did not suffer as much. Lovely notes of red rose and some herbal tones appear on the nose of the 2017 Nebbiolo d'Alba Valmaggione, coupled with balsam, spice and rosemary."