

# Italy

## Barolo / Luciano Sandrone

### Barolo Legend Luciano Sandrone

If it wasn't for an allergy to sawdust, Luciano Sandrone may have joined his family in the carpentry business. That would have been a great loss for Barolo. Sandrone, who died in 2023, was a thoughtful and meticulous winemaker who constantly sought excellence and elevated the quality of wines from the region with his Barolos that combined grace and power.

He was among a movement of young modernists called the "Barolo Boys," who introduced innovative techniques to the traditional Barolo production process, including aging in French oak *barriques*, but Sandrone adhered to more traditional methods in the vineyards, and employed 500-liter barrels for aging Nebbiolo to mitigate the impact of new oak.

First and foremost, however, Sandrone was a family man. In 2017, with the release of the 2013 vintage, he changed the name of the Barolo from the family's prized Cannubi Boschis MGA to Aleste, a contraction of the names of his grandchildren, Alessia and Stefano, who also represent the third generation to join the family business. Sandrone's Barolo Aleste 2021 is the best to date.—Bruce Sanderson



### LUCIANO SANDRONE

#### Barolo Aleste 2021

98 points | \$160 | 915 cases made | Red

Though on the quiet side today, this Barolo features aromas and flavors of cherry, black currant, violet, mineral and wild herbs. Perfectly in balance with the bright acidity and refined tannins, leaving a long, detailed aftertaste of fruit, mineral and savory elements. Shows superb intensity from start to finish. Best from 2029 through 2050.—B.S.



### LUCIANO SANDRONE

#### Barolo Le Vigne 2021

96 points | \$147 | 1,915 cases made | Red

Eucalyptus, juniper and tar notes mingle with cherry, raspberry and plum fruit in this dense red. Assertive tannins hold court on the finish, with a light yet not overbearing astringency. It's all driven by beautiful acidity, leaving a lasting aftertaste. Best from 2029 through 2048.—B.S.



### LUCIANO SANDRONE

#### Barolo Aleste Sibi et Paucis 2015

95 points | \$304 | Red

This red is settling into a nice groove, with the cut grass, freshly mown hay and red fruit character of the vintage. Cherry, raspberry, iron and spice flavors are fused to a solid structure, while the complex aftertaste goes on and on. Shows terrific balance and energy. Drink now



### LUCIANO SANDRONE

#### Barolo Vite Talin 2019

95 points | \$606 | 233 cases made | Red

This red reveals the austerity of the vintage, with its linear profile and daunting tannins setting the stage for plum, black cherry, graphite and tar flavors. Dense and with a firm edge, this picks up a hint of chocolate on the finish. Best from 2028 through 2048.—B.S.

