

ODDERO



wine-searcher

WINE-SEARCHER.COM – 18 APRILE 2018

Barolo and Barbaresco Set to Shine



© Tom Hyland/Wine-Searcher | *The latest releases have producers brimming with confidence.*

As producers prepare to launch the latest vintages of these Piedmont giants, **Tom Hyland** sneaks a peek.


Over the next few months, the 2015 Barolos will be released, and given that this was not a year that resulted in powerful wines, many observers will pass these wines off as ordinary – if there is such a thing as an ordinary Barolo.

The truth is that 2015 is an average to above average vintage, with wines of very good varietal character and harmony; given that the wines can be appreciated at an earlier stage than usual should be a welcome opportunity for wine buyers looking for [Barolos](#) to consume over the next few years, while their bottles of 2010, 2012 and 2013 are aging in their cellars.

"We think 2015 is a very good vintage, with a lot of character. It was a good winter with a lot of snow, and then a lot of rain in the spring. But then it was very hot and

ODDERO

dry in the summer," says Paolo Manzone, proprietor/winemaker at his [eponymous estate](#) in Serralunga d'Alba.

 At [Poderi e Cantine Oddero](#) in La Morra, proprietor Cristina Oddero also noted the above average heat during that summer. "July was a warm month with very few rains, and low humidity, while the first part of August was also warm," she remarks. She recalls that the second half of August featured lower temperatures and more humidity, while "sunny days and fresher mornings" characterized September. "We had constant temperatures during October, with not much rain and harvest operations ended successfully."

These warm temperatures resulted in an early harvest; Oddero notes that picking of the single vineyards (such as Brunate, Villero and Rocche di Castiglione) was eight to 10 days before that of the 2016 vintage. Franco Massolino, proprietor/winemaker at the eponymous [family estate](#) in Serralunga notes that while the above average heat did produce ripe fruit, "there was still good acidity and correct pH".

These conditions produced wines with many positive attributes. "In general the idea of the 2015 harvest is very, very strong," says Manzone. "Strong, dry tannins, but after the aging of 24 months – in our case 26 months in oak – the wine has a softer character than you expect. You expect a strong character, but the wines are balanced and soft. This is very unusual for the expectations of the harvest, after a dry summer, we expected dry, strong tannins.

"Generally speaking, the 2015 Barolos are wines with an excellent concentration, and with a charming balance between power, tannins and elegance. These are wines with very good drinkability and with good longevity. I think the vintage 2015 is an enjoyable and pretty appreciable expression of Barolo."

Regarding comparisons with recent vintages, Massolino says: "While I think that every vintage is unique with its own style, I think 2015 could be comparable to the 2011 vintage." For Oddero, it is "hard to compare the 2015 harvest with others ... It was a warm and dry season, but the 2015 Barolos don't have the sensations of a very warm vintage like 2003 and 2007, as there is more balance."

There are many pretty offerings of 2015 Barolo that display attractive fruit and floral perfumes and notable varietal character; two notable examples are the [Marcarini Brunate](#) and the [Francesco Rinaldi Cannubi](#). Each offers impeccable balance and

ODDERO

charm, are approachable now and should peak within a decade. Most 2015 Barolo are not structured for 25 years or more of cellaring, but then again, not every Barolo from every vintage is meant to be like that. So enjoy these two wines – and dozens more like them – with dinner tonight and over the next several years.



© Tom Hyland/Wine-Searcher | *Winemaker Alessandro Ceretto gets to grips with a 2015 Barolo.*

Note that there are some deeply concentrated Barolos from 2015 that will improve for 12-15 years or longer. Among the best are these wines:

[Poderi Oddero Brunate](#) Morel cherry, strawberry jam and red poppy aromas. Medium-full, this is textbook Brunate with its lovely floral perfumes, supple tannins and superb balance. Ultra impressive!