

Italian Wine Report

by Tom Hyland

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Italian Wine Report represents the opinions of Tom Hyland, who has been reporting on and visiting wine regions throughout Italy for over twenty years.

The photos are mine. In 2020, I was named Wine Photographer of the Year (Category – Places) in the annual Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year competition.

Ratings

Superb (96-100), Outstanding (92-95), Excellent (88-91)

Very Good (84-87, score not given)

Roero

Renato Buganza Roero Arneis 2019

Straw, with beautiful aromas of jasmine, Bosc pear and a hint of honeysuckle. Medium-bodied, this is delicate and relatively straightforward, but there is good acidity, beautiful varietal character and lovely harmony. Enjoy over the next 1-2 years. (90)

Fratelli Rabino Roero Arneis "Coste Anforiano" 2019

Bright yellow with golden tints; aromas of melon, a hint of pineapple and magnolia. Medium-bodied, there is good ripeness, very good acidity, a clean entry and finish and average persistence. Nicely balanced with good varietal character, this is straightforward and meant for early consumption. Enjoy over the next 1-3 years. (88)

Paitin Roero Arneis 2019

Straw/light yellow with a light touch of spritz. Lovely aromas of lemongrass, orange peel and dogwood. Medium-full, this has beautiful freshness, very good acidity, bright fruit, excellent varietal purity and impressive freshness. Beautifully made, I love the delicate nature and charm of this wine. Enjoy now or over the next 3-5 years. (93)

Enrico Serafino Roero Arneis "Poggio di Caro" 2020

Light yellow; aromas of lemon zest, melon and magnolia. Medium-bodied, this has impressive freshness, very good acidity and a round, clean finish with very good persistence. Not overly complex, but straightforward and delicious. 2-3 years. (90)

Marchesi di Barolo Roero Arneis 2019

Straw; aromas of melon, hay and Bosc pear. Medium-bodied, this has good varietal character, and is nicely balanced, but the wine is rather light and simple. Enjoy now and over the next 12-18 months. Very Good

Giovanni Almondo Roero "Bric Valdiana" 2017

Delicate young garnet; aromas of tart cherry (Montmorency), thyme and tobacco. Medium-full with very good depth of fruit, medium-weight tannins, balanced acidity, distinct brown herbal notes in the finish; good persistence. Impressive complexity along with very good varietal character. Although the wine lacks some freshness, this has notable typicity and a sense of place. Give 1-2 years, peak in 5-7. (91)

Roero (continued)

Angelo Negro Roero Prachiosso 2016

Delicate young garnet; striking aromas of morel cherry, thyme, orange zest and a hint of strawberry jam. Medium-full with very good concentration. Ideal ripeness, very good acidity, medium-weight, refined tannins and well-integrated wood notes. Excellent complexity, with notes of oregano and tobacco in the lengthy, beautifully balanced finish, and wonderful varietal purity and typicity. This is wonderfully harmonious now, and will improve for several years, with peak in 10-12 years. (93)

Cascina Ca' Rossa Roero Riserva Monpissano 2016

Delicate garnet; aromas of bing cherry, coriander and tobacco. Medium-full with rich, slightly bitter tannins, good acidity, nicely managed wood notes and a finish with ample fruit and brown herbal notes. This is a bit rough at present, so give this time. I'd prefer a bit more finesse to this wine, as the emphasis is somewhat on power. Peak in 6-8 years. (90)

Marco Porello Roero Riserva "San Michele" 2016

Beautiful young garnet; aromas of morel cherry, rosemary and thyme. Medium-full with a rich mid-palate, excellent ripeness, very good acidity, medium-full tannins and notable persistence. Excellent complexity and typicity. This needs 2-3 years to round out, with peak in 8-10 years. (93)

Cascina Chicco Roero Riserva Valmaggione 2016

Delicate garnet; beautiful perfumes of pink roses, morel cherry and orange peel. Medium-full with very good to excellent concentration; restrained wood notes, medium-bodied, elegant tannins, very good acidity. A lovely Roero with excellent varietal purity and typicity, this displays the beauty of the 2016 vintage along with a gentle hand of the winemaker. This is not a powerful wine, rather this is styled for elegance, charm and finesse. Enjoyable now, this should drink well for 7-10 years. (94)

Malvirá Roero Riserva Trinità 2009

Deep garnet with a light brown edge; aromas of tobacco, dried morel cherry and oregano. Medium-full with very good concentration, good acidity, medium-full tannins and an earthy finish with distinct brown herbal notes. Nearing peak, this is nicely styled, thought the fruit is a bit diminished. Enjoy over the next 2-5 years. (91)