



THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR QUALITY



Renzo Seghesio • Monforte d'Alba, Barolo

Nebbiolo and Barbera run-through Renzo Seghesio's veins, just as they did for his father, Francesco. They are natives of Monforte d'Alba, the commune in Barolo known for producing commanding expressions of Nebbiolo. The family, since 1900, has owned Cascina Pajana, a smaller division of the Ginestra Cru, made famous by Barolo big boys. Renzo studied winemaking in Alba and was a follower of Piedmont's renaissance man Giuseppe Pinot-Gallizio, an accomplished painter and chemist as well as a scholar of archaeology and botany. Inspired by Giuseppe, Renzo continued his studies at the University of Turin and received a degree in biology. Returning to Piedmont in the 1960s, Renzo's intent was to bottle wine from his family's parcels, rather than sell the fruit. He succeeded in 1968, making his first wine in his family's garage in 1968, a special kind of "OG" (Original Garagista).

With a patriotic passion for the people and land of Monforte, Renzo served as mayor of the village for 25 years, furthering his connections with winemaking families, artists, and musicians. Within that time, he mapped all the Crus of Monforte, establishing their traditional boundaries as well detailing their soils and exposures. He also spearheaded the construction of the Mieczyslaw Horszowski Amphitheater. The open-air amphitheater, named after the late Polish-American pianist, is a cultural treasure of Monforte and attracts world class musicians. After performances, it's typical for musicians to stop-by Renzo's house and pick-up some bottles of "Ars Vivendi" which appropriately translates to "The Art of Living."

As a young winemaker Renzo understood that his father's vines were located within one of the finest vineyards in Barolo, Ginestra. There are more than 165 designated Crus in Barolo. A few of them you have heard of, most of them you have not. In the early 1970s, there was a ranking of the Crus, giving well-deserved status to sites like Brunate, Cerequio, and Monprivato. Then in the 1980s, talented cartographer, Alessandro Masnaghetta created his iconic colorful map of Barolo and picked his favorite "Superiore" Crus. In both personal hierarchies, though, Ginestra was overlooked, overshadowed by all-star terroir. Long overdue for a four-star review, Ginestra received published praise in 2014. A respected writer and Italian wine critic merited 10 Crus, including Ginestra, as "exceptional," the highest honor which states, "Vineyards that consistently produce distinctive wines of a very high level, irrespective of the quality or the style of the year. These sites perform well in vintages of all kinds: cold, hot, rainy, dry and always show their personality."

With its sensational slopes of calcareous-clay and yellowish sandstone, Ginestra's mainly south and southeast exposure is an Eden for optimally ripe and stealth Nebbiolo and Barbera. Fierce terroir allied with Renzo's virtuoso self yields a wine nothing short of "Superiore." The Renzo Seghesio wines are stories of unselfish collaboration. We cannot end without mentioning Renzo's sons, Frederico and Raffaele, who have been gracious and professional since our first handshake. We also nod, Gianfranco, the vineyard manager of Cascina Pajana who is a stubborn purist. And Walter Porasso, our colleague and friend who made decades of wines in the cellar of Gianfranco Bovio. Welcome to Monforte, Walter... we think you're going to like it here.

The Wines of Renzo Seghesio

Roero Arneis "San Bernardino"

Barbera d'Alba Superiore "Ginestra"

"Roè" Nebbiolo d'Alba

"Ruri" Nebbiolo Langhe

Barolo "Ca' d' Nalin"



Walter Porasso, Renzo Seghesio, Raffaele Seghesio, Jean-Franco (cellar hand), and Brenda (APS Italy)