

## BARBARESCO RABAJA 2018

*Recensioni e premi - Press and awards*

**WINE ENTHUSIAST – 96 pts., November 2021 Editors' Choice** “Fragrant and loaded with finesse, this stunner opens with enticing scents of rose, violet, perfumed berry and camphor. Smooth and extremely elegant, the vibrant, savory palate features juicy red cherry, blood orange and crushed raspberry while star anise and mineral notes suggesting rusty nail—and that’s a good thing—add depth. Bright acidity and lithe tannins lend balance and seamless support. It’s all about elegance and energy.”

**TERROIR SENSE by IAN D’AGATA, March 19th, 2021 95 pts** Bright and clean, with minerals, mint and flowers complicating notes of raspberry and other red berries. There’s a hint of citrus fruit here that is usually more typical of Rabajà wines at 5 years of age or more, but that in my experience appears sooner in cooler years (and sure enough, here it is!). Very clean, very juicy and smooth, there is a sneaky concentration that is remarkable for the vintage, though this is quite accessible already now. I was not surprised when Cortese told me he almost opted to age it longer and turn it into a Barbaresco Riserva. In ultimate analysis, I think he made the right decision, but I can certainly see why this beauty tempted him to go the Riserva route. Readers might want to make a note to latch onto any bottles of this beauty they can find, because it is a Barbaresco Classico that punches way above its weight category. Drinking window: 2026-2045

### GUIDA VINI D’ITALIA GAMBERO ROSSO 2022 - 3 BICCHIERI

**JAMES SUCKLING – 95 pts.** “Already exuding complexity on the nose. The red fruit is colored with a variety of nuances, from dry earth and mild spice to flower petals and light citrus notes. Medium-bodied with well-integrated tannins that sink into the fruit mid palate but re-emerge right at the end to give a firm finish. Despite that, the fruit drive is relentless. Needs time to even out. It will gain more breadth, too. Exceptional Barbaresco that highlights the excellence of the terroir here. Try from 2024.

**ANTONIO GALLONI - VINOUS –october 22, 2020 93 pts** - “The 2018 Barbaresco Rabajà is surprisingly accessible for a wine that tends to be much more backward in the early going. Spice, blood orange and star anise give the aromatics tremendous expansiveness. On the palate, the 2018 is pliant and sweet, with lovely purity in its red-toned fruit. I am intrigued to see how it develops in bottle.”

**WINE ADVOCATE – Italy, Piedmont: Brain Fog – 2017 Barolo, 2018 Barbaresco & More,” – 93+ pts** “Giuseppe Cortese’s 2018 Barbaresco Rabajà is fresh and vibrant with a tonic, almost electric personality. The wine shows the kind of freshness you get from mineral-rich soils that translate to both the bouquet and the palate. There are points of sour cherry and bramble with rusty nail and some tart orange zest. This release of 17,000 bottles is probably the most successful wine from this estate that I have reviewed over the years.”

**DECANTER- DWWA 2021- 93 pts.** Super-concentrated black and red plum with a spicy cardamom and vanilla note. The structure is massive, but with well-rounded tannin.

**Jancis Robinson- Barbaresco 2018: ready already by Walter Speller. 17+ PTS of 20** Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Subdued and a little closed with a hint of leather. Supple and ripe fruit balanced by lots of coating tannins. Perfect balance and multi-layered with great length. Lots of appeal and can already be approached.

**MatthewJukes- Piemonte report- 17+/20** This is a lovely wine with a volley of ripe fruit on the nose and a medium-weight, but exceedingly long finish. It is all in the balance at this estate and I am very impressed with the control and calibre of fruit in this rewarding wine.

**WEIN PLUS: 92 pts.**

**FALSTAFF- Barolo-Barbaresco 2021 competition: 91 pts**