



SANDRONE

(Above) The historic Cannubi Cru Vineyards of Barolo, perhaps the most famous hill in Italy, where Sandrone works with several sites.



Barolo ALESTE 2017

Barolo DOCG, Italy

ESTATE

Sandrone's wines are sometimes described as straddling the modern and traditional styles in the region: elegant, attractive and easy to appreciate right from their first years in bottle, but with no less power and structure than traditional Barolos.

WINE

A combination of the names of Luciano Sandrone's grandchildren ALEssia and STEfano, ALESTE is the new name for Luciano's first wine, the Barolo Cannubi Boschis, which garnered early acclaim with the international trade and press. This single-vineyard wine is typically dense and concentrated, but shows incredible harmony and balance.

VINEYARD

The vineyard is one of the great cru sites in Barolo, synonymous with richness and complexity. Sandrone's ALESTE Barolo is grown on the soil of Cannubi Boschis from which it displays the characteristics of wines from this village: profound aromatic complexity and comparatively softer tannins in relation to vines grown in Monforte or Serralunga. The "Boschis" subzone of the Cannubi has a particularly good exposure to the south and southeast in a small bowl or "conca" that helps hold the warmth in the early morning. Its soils are sea deposits of calcareous clay, not very deep, with good drainage.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 100% Nebbiolo

Fermentation: Each vineyard is vinified separately, and after destemming and light crushing, the must is covered with CO₂ for a gentle warm maceration of approximately a day. Alcoholic fermentation begins about 24-36 hours later from native yeasts. A gentle maceration takes place in upright open-top steel tanks for the first 9-10 days of alcoholic fermentation. Immediately after alcoholic fermentation, which takes about 28-30 days, malolactic fermentation takes place in 500-liter French oak casks.

Aging: French oak casks (25% new) for 24 months, followed by 18 months of bottle aging.

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

"Warm and dry" are the best words to briefly and clearly describe the 2017 vintage. Alleviating the heat were the excellent diurnal temperature shifts that brought cool air during the night, which provided a little relief to the vines even in the hottest days of July and August.

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WINE ENTHUSIAST

"A romas of menthol, pressed rose, wild berry and grilled herb are front and center in this stunning wine along with a whiff of forest floor. Combining structure and finesse, the savory, full-bodied palate delivers juicy Marasca cherry, blood orange and licorice before an espresso finish. Firm, refined tannins provide tight support." - K.O., 7/2021

96

James Suckling

95

Vinous

95

Wine & Spirits