

Comm. G.B. Burlotto



During his seventy-seven years as a winemaker (1850-1927), Giovan Battista Burlotto's accomplishments were rivaled only by those of Biondi-Santi and Vega Sicilia, as G.B. achieved superstardom in a world dominated by French wines. Today, Burlotto has re-emerged as one of Piemonte's great small producers, thanks to the brilliant and highly traditional winemaking of G.B.'s great-great-grandson, Fabio Alessandria.



Giovan Battista pioneered selling Barolo in bottle (not cask or demijohn), predating even Giacomo Conterno's Barolo Monfortino. And as the official supplier to the Royal House of Savoy—which once ruled Piemonte—Battista not only achieved personal fame, but he also made his village of Verduno as renowned as Serralunga or La Morra.



G.B.'s death in 1927 not only took away Burlotto's driving force but also deprived Verduno of its greatest champion. And so, both faded into obscurity in the decades that followed. Throughout its time in the shadows, the estate maintained its great vineyard holdings and traditional outlook.

Today, the winemaking is directed by G.B.'s great-great grandson, Fabio Alessandria. Fabio has brought a renewed energy and focus to the estate and is today crafting some of the Langhe's most singular wines. As a new generation has discovered the magic of traditional Barolo, Burlotto's star has again risen, reclaiming its position as one of Piedmont's most coveted producers.

BAROLO MONVIGLIERO

As it was in G.B.'s day, the most extraordinary Burlotto wine is the magical Barolo from Verduno's Monvigliero vineyard. But what makes Burlotto's wine from Monvigliero so special is not its high altitude, its limestone-rich soil or its 45-year-old vines, but Monvigliero's hypnotic aromatic profile, which is unlike any other Barolo. Its aromas are astonishingly intense and instantly recognizable with a perfume of Provençal black olive tapenade, cedar and truffle that is nothing short of spellbinding. And it could come from no place else on earth. It is the essence of its *terroir*.



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Like his ancestors, Fabio approaches Monvigliero in a way that is both classical and idiosyncratic to extract the vineyard's essential character. At the core of this approach is a gentle crushing of whole grape clusters by foot, an incredible 60-day maceration on the skins and, of course, long aging in large wood botti. While this approach was once common in the Langhe's greatest cellars, it is an approach that is virtually unheard of today, yet its brilliance is revealed in every glass of Burlotto's coveted Monvigliero.



A COMPELLING STABLE OF WINES

While Monvigliero is arguably the jewel in Burlotto's crown, all of Fabio's wines display astonishing purity, having been born of the same winemaking philosophy.



In recent decades, there have been 4 Barolos: **Monvigliero**, **Cannubi**, **Acclivi** (a blend of Burlotto's Verduno crus) and a beautiful **Barolo normale**. A fifth was added when the domaine acquired just over a hectare in **Castelletto** for the 2018 vintage. Castelletto lies on Monforte d'Alba's eastern edge and boasts Formazione di Lequio soils like those found just across the valley in Serralunga's renowned Rionda vineyard. And while each Barolo terroir speaks with a distinctive voice, the common thread Fabio captures is a surreal texture and pristine aromatics.

Fabio produces his fantastic **Langhe Nebbiolo** from the same vineyards as the Barolos, but with shorter wood aging. He demonstrates his mastery of Barbera with his delicious **Barbera d'Alba** and the deeper, more powerful **Barbera d'Alba "Aves."** And his **Dolcetto d'Alba** and **Freisa** are among the best from any producer, both effusively rich and pure. He blends Nebbiolo and Barbera to produce the delicious **Langhe "Mores"**, and crafts two distinctive **Sauvignon Blancs** in tiny quantities.

Finally, the two most unique Burlotto wines are the beautiful red **Pelaverga**—from an ancient variety grown by the family since 1800—and the rare, explosively varietal Nebbiolo rosé, **Elatis**. Like everything else bearing the Burlotto name, they are the essence of a noble winemaking tradition.

