

# Piedmont



## Ca' Rome'

*Location: Barbaresco, Province of Cuneo*

Ca' is short for "Casa": home. In fact, you wouldn't take **Romano Marengo's** for a winery at first. From the road, the house seems to exude a quiet air of comfort and family life. It is right at the top of a Langhe hill, surrounded by an endless vista of gently sloping country; a beautiful, restful home to grow children in, or to grow old in. Then you walk up to the villa, turn the corner to its southern façade, and you see them. Terraced



Nebbiolo vines, beautifully kept. The cool, clean air around you tingles with that brisk, zesty smell of must and oak you find wherever great wines are made: the Langhe hill we stand on is called **Rabajà**, Barbaresco's historical cru! Here, after three decades of selecting fine wines, Romano set up a winery of his own in **1980**.

The vineyards' total surface is now a little over **17 acres** (7 hectares), comprising two Barbaresco crus (Rabajà and **Rio Sordo**, famous for its finesse) and another belonging to **Barolo** territory: **Serralunga**, renowned for structure and magnitude. In spite of the winery's steady increase in size and importance, when you speak to Signor Marengo and his family (notably wife **Olimpia**, son **Giuseppe "Pino"**, an oenology graduate who assists him in styling the range, daughters **Paola**, in charge of p.r. & marketing, and **Maria**), you will find that first impression of Ca' Rome' — its quiet, country-home air, made for leisure and family life — had some truth in it, after all. You feel Romano grew his children and his wines with the same sterling discipline, the same sense of excellence and impeccable standards.

You don't just visit the Marengos: you're welcomed into the family. You look at the tasting room walls and see photos and post cards, smiling faces and warm words of thanks.



More Marengos?, you ask; relatives and friends? It turns out they're clients and business associates. No impersonal, large-scale estate, this: the heart of the Marengo winery is its simplicity and sincerity. Ca' Rome' is home to classic red viniculture and to the very finest quality, in life as in wines.

In the course of the year 2002, the Marengo family **enlarged the cantina**, building two new, subterranean areas. One of them is now the barrique cellar, while the other houses the Slavonian oak barrels and a section where wines (listed below) are bottle-aged.

**BARBERA D'ALBA "LA GAMBERAJA" DOCG:** *This single-vineyard Barbera sojourns in oak (partly 25-hl. barrels, partly barrique) for approximately 1 year, resulting in a deep ruby wine of ample, persistent bouquet, superb structure and balance.*

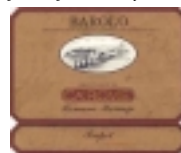
**ROSSO DELLE LANGHE "DA PRUVÉ" DOCG:** *From select Nebbiolo grapes of the Barbaresco vineyards (60%), and Barbera (40%), vinified separately and racked into barrique and barrel, then blended after 6 months. The blend ages a further 18 months in this same orchestration of barriques and barrels, previous to bottling and 12 months' bottle age.*

**BARBARESCO DOCG:** *Elegant, structured, with finely integrated wood (one year in Slavonian oak barrels and French barriques, 10-12 months' bottle age) and forward appeal.*

**BARBARESCO "SÖRÌ RIO SORDO" DOCG:** *The name means from the "sunny side" (sörì in Piedmontese) of Rio Sordo, a cru well known for elegance. True enough, this noble red has the richness and concentration of an ideal southerly exposure, with the signature finesse of its terroir. Aged 1 year in oak barrels and barriques, 10-12 months in the bottle.*



**BARBARESCO "MARIADI BRUN" DOCG:** *A selection of the finest Nebbiolo grapes, which are left on the vines an extra 15 days for additional concentration. Élevage is 24 months in oak (mostly Slavonian barrels and some barriques), then a further year's bottle age. Maria di Brun takes its name from Romano's mother (who is pictured on the label), and is his flagship Barbaresco: magnificently rich, layered, chewy, elegant and flavorful. Solely released in great years.*



**BAROLO "RAPET" GOLD LABEL DOCG:** *Single-vineyard from the Serralunga cru, renowned for its structure. Full-bodied, complex, utterly classic. Élevage: 24 months in oak, previous to 1 year in the bottle.*

**BAROLO "VIGNA CERRETTA" DOCG:** *From the homonymous single vineyard, planted in 1972 within the Serralunga cru and yielding a tiny crop. Aged 12 months in barrique, then a further year in barrel and another year in the bottle. Extract-packed, blockbuster body, rich, ample bouquet.*