

# HOWARD RIPLEY WINES

## 2019 ITALY PORTFOLIO OFFER



NOVEMBER 2019

NEW RELEASES

CURRENT RELEASES

Crissante Alessandria | Fratelli Alessandria | Diego Conterno Vini | Bruna Grimaldi |  
Giuseppe Mascarello et Figlio | Roagna | La Sala | Cantina Tibaldi

Last year we stopped ogling and took the plunge: seven Piedmontese growers (and one Tuscan) were added to the portfolio.

The synergy with our existing collection of Burgundian and German estates is clear: single varietals, made by small producers from specified vineyards.

But really it's what's in the bottle: a new generation of growers in the Langhe has taken over who have combined tradition with an understanding of modern winemaking methods. In doing so they have shed their reputation for anodyne whites and cruel, tannic reds in favour of balanced fine wines with scented fruit and smooth elegance. It is an exciting time.

Year two of our venture into Italy, and thanks to your support, it's going gangbusters.

Here is our modest portfolio, complete with new releases, mostly 2015 Barolos, which, contrary to expectations, are turning out to be balanced, seductive wines with a long life ahead of them. Most have arrived and are ready for delivery.

## Crissante Alessandria – La Morra

Crissante follows a typical story of the region: farmers who sold their grapes before deciding to make and bottle their own wine, here starting in the late fifties. The estate is now well established, famous for its single-vineyard bottlings, all from La Morra. The wines are scented, fleshy and rich with particular finesse.

### -Current Releases-

**2015 Nebbiolo d'Alba**  
£96 | Case of 6 - 75cl

There is rich strawberry fruit with a hint of rose in this ripe, soft wine that has density, elegance and a fresh finish.

**2014 Barolo La Morra**  
£144 | Case of 6 - 75cl

A first release of grapes from three vineyards in La Morra: Roggeri (east-facing with clay-rich soil), San Biagio (south-west facing with sandy soil) and Berlotti, in Santa Maria, each fermented separately, blended, then aged for two years in large botte. There is mouth-filling dense, scented cherry fruit, juicy ripe tannins and a soft fresh acidity and a hint of mineral that carry the fruit through to a long finish.

**2013 Barolo Roggeri**  
£162 | Case of 6 - 75cl

The cool clay-rich three-hectare vineyard surrounding the winery gives fresh, very pure red cherry fruit with sweet floral aromas, powerful but elegant tannins and a fresh salty finish.

**2013 Barolo Capalot**  
£180 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Capalot is a natural amphitheatre facing south, with sand and clay soils. It gives an elegant wine, completely at ease, showing soft strawberry and blackcurrant fruit, a fine tannic structure, some tea-leaf notes and salty minerals coming through on the long fruity finish. Quite lovely.

**2013 Barolo Galina**  
£198 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Just below Capalot on the same hillside, the tiny Galina vineyard has a higher clay content, and is home to some nearly 100-year-old vines. It is very elegant and fine, and showing some new wood. The fruit is on the darker side – more black cherry than strawberry – and there is a fine pure mineral streak to complement the silky tannins. The finish is rich, long and fruity.

## Fratelli Alessandria - Verduno

Verduno is the Chambolle of the Barolo region: the wines are soft, pure and accessible, and deceptively forward. The wines here are made by Vittore (the tall bearded chap), who arrived in 2001, under whose direction the estate is now one of the region's most sought-after.

### -New Releases-

**2017 Langhe Nebbiolo  
'Prinsiot'**

£192 | Case of 12 - 75cl

Made partly from declassified Barolo fruit, which shows in the classy, vibrant, raspberry and floral notes tinged with smoke and spice, underpinned by silky fine tannins.

**2015 Barolo**

£187 | Case of 6 - 75cl

This silky little number is packed with pure, very fresh cherry and crushed strawberries, and lifted by intense but delicate floral flavours and ends on a smooth spicy note. Very Chambolly.

**2015 Barolo  
San Lorenzo di Verduno**

£270 | Case of 6 - 75cl

An extension of the great Monvigliero vineyard, but slightly warmer and with whiter sandier soils, San Lorenzo gives an intense, richly structured with finely balanced, pure red fruit with a touch of floral, a juicy middle and a warm finish.

**2015 Barolo Gramolere**

£291 | Case of 6 - 75cl

From Monforte, and although made in exactly the same way, is very different in style to the Verduno wines: it is rich, dark and weighty, with power and some austerity to the fine tannins, but still pure and vibrant, showing dark cherry fruit, some gamey flavours and lots of freshness.

**2015 Barolo Monvigliero**

£350 | Case of 6 - 75cl

A very, very lovely wine from the heart of the vineyard. It is pure pretty and elegant, with intense perfumed delicate fruit, a lovely juiciness in the mouth and a long, fresh, perfectly balanced finish.

## Fratelli Alessandria - Verduno

### -Current Releases-

**2016 Barbera d'Alba  
Superiore 'Priora'**

£108 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Well this is a surprise – a Barbera like no other we've tried: late-harvest fruit from Verduno and Monforte gives a dark, rich and vibrant wine with exuberant sweet black fruit, chocolatey tannins and a long fresh rich finish.

**2016 Langhe Nebbiolo  
'Prinsiot'**

£129 | Case of 3 - Magnum

£258 | Case of 6 - Magnum

From vineyards in Verduno, with the added benefit of 30% of declassified Barolo. It is smooth and delicately scented, with beautifully delineated red fruits – principally raspberry and cherry – great energy and fine persistent tannins. Magnums only, but why not?

**2014 Barolo**

£174 | Case of 6 - 75cl

90% from Verduno, with the remaining 10% from Monforte, adding a little structure to this gorgeously scented wine, full of crunchy vibrant red-cherry and raspberry fruit, spice and smooth, elegant tannins driving to a long finish. Wow.

## Diego Conterno – Monforte d’Alba

Diego Conterno has been making wine on his own in Monforte d’Alba since 2003. His estate comprises 7.5 hectares, 2 of which make up the ‘grand cru’ site Ginestra. He was joined in 2010 by his son Stefano, and that year they bottled the Ginestra separately for the first time. In 2014 they converted to organic viticulture and added a new wing to their winery. The winemaking here is very traditional: static fermenters and ever larger barrels (botte grande) for maturation.

Monforte is known for wines of depth, structure and length – we all know what that can mean – but the painstaking care in the vineyard and gentle winemaking bring out the elegance of the terroir.

### -New Releases-

**2017 Nebbiolo d’Alba ‘Baluma’** As bright and vivacious as ever: crunchy cherry fruit with hints of spice with ripe tannins and a fresh finish.  
£60 | Case of 6 - 75cl

**2015 Barolo Monforte D’Alba** Accessible, delicate and light, with red cherry and hedgerow fruit, and a pure lean tannic structure. The Conterno wines get better every year!  
£149 | Case of 6 - 75cl

**2015 Barolo Ginestra** A perfectly pitched wine of elegance and density, with pure delicate cherry fruit and a cool racy freshness. It is seamless, effortless and very long.  
£191 | Case of 6 - 75cl

## Diego Conterno – Monforte d’Alba

### -Current Releases-

#### **2017 Langhe Nascetta**

£60 | Case of 6- 75cl

Nascetta is a local white variety almost extinct by the mid-nineties, but now undergoing something of a rebirth, with widespread planting. Tasting this it’s easy to see why: the wine is vibrant and fresh, with chalky lime, peach, pineapple and lemon notes, has a clear mineral seam and lifts to a juicy citrus finish.

#### **2017 Nebbiolo d’Alba ‘Baluma’**

£60 | Case of 6- 75cl

Baluma translates as ‘let’s dance’. You can see what they’re going for: there is pretty fresh cherry fruit with notes of spice and balsam oil, balanced by ripe rounded tannins and a lively finish.

#### **2014 Barolo Montforte D’Alba**

£144 | Case of 6 - 75cl

The sort of fine, linear wine you expect from Monforte. The wine is poised, with delicate cool crunchy red fruit, a racy pure minerality, elegant tannins and a long juicy fruit-driven finish. It is best cellared for a while.

#### **2014 Barolo Ginestra**

£186 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Ginestra is a huge vineyard of over 100 hectares, but the Conternos have some of the best bits, comprising poorer grey soils where grapes ripen later than in the rest of the commune. This is another transparent, linear wine, perfumed and fresh, with much more depth and texture than the regular Barolo. The red fruit is cool and crunchy, with notes of smoke and rose petals, and there is a clear mineral spine, very smooth elegant tannins and a long fruity finish.

#### **2013 Barolo Montforte D’Alba**

£144 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Juicy, ripe red fruit with hints of smoke and spice. There is density here, but always an elegance that carries on through to the long finish.

#### **2013 Barolo Ginestra**

£180 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Pure red berry fruit is joined by spicy, smoky notes, and there are fresh flowers in there too. It is ripe, densely textured and very elegant, and the finish is long and spicy.

## Bruna Grimaldi – Grinzane Cavour

The Grimaldis were farmers in Grinzane Cavour who increasingly focussed on grape-growing and the occasional bottling of their own wines in the years after the war. In 1999, the estate took off properly, when Bruna Grimaldi and her husband Franco Fiorni started regular bottling. She inherited vines in Serralunga, notably the Badarina vineyard, and the family have purchased other parcels to complement their holdings. They were joined in 2015 by their son Simone, who is assuming ever more responsibility. The vines have been farmed organically since 2014.

### -New Releases-

#### **2017 Nebbiolo d'Alba**

£66 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Deliciously sweet, soft ripe red fruit with enough structure to carry it through to a long, powerful chocolatey finish. These vines are located on the edge of the Barolo region, from vineyards that sit mid-slope. Tremendous value for the quality.

#### **2015 Barolo 'Camilla'**

£149 | Case of 6 - 75cl

No hard corners here. A blend of fruit from Grinzane Cavour, La Morra and Verduno gives a rich rounded wine, with ripe melting tannins, very floral strawberry and cherry flavours, and a persistent soft finish.

#### **2015 Barolo Badarina**

£203 | Case of 6 - 75cl

A complex, elegant and silky wine given tension by very ripe tannins that cocoon the bright cherry and floral fruit, running through to a long, powerful salty finish.

### -Current Releases-

#### **2014 Barolo 'Camilla'**

£138 | Case of 6- 75cl

From vines in Grinzane Cavour, which provide structure, and a vineyard in La Morra on the border with Verduno, which gives flesh. It is fragrant and full of crunchy red fruits, and the powerful, elegant, almost silky tannins provide great persistence.

#### **2014 Barolo Badarina**

£186 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Two hectares of Badarina high up in Serralunga d'Alba provide the estate's flagship wines. In 2014 no riserva was made, and the grapes all went into the 'regular' bottling, giving this unusual concentration. There is an ethereal scent of rose petals, red and black fruit tinged with fresh herbs and licorice, smooth fine tannins and a long salty mineral finish.

#### **2012 Barolo Badarina Reserva Vigna Regnola**

£276 | Case of 6 - 75cl

The heat of the Badarina vineyard gives a wine of intensity and elegance. The fruit is red, rich and ripe, and there are distinct dried herb notes of rosemary and sage, as well as a hint of menthol on the very long fine finish.

## Guiseppe Mascarello et Figlio – Castiglione Falletto

One of the grand old estates of the region, going back to the late nineteenth century, and renowned since the 1950s for its production of fine long-lived wine. Run since 1968 by Mauro Mascarello and his wife Maria-Teresa, he has been joined by his children Giuseppe and Elena. His flagship is the Monprivato, but the other wines are equally well-made and very exciting in their own right. The winemaking here is traditional – fermentation is in cement and stainless steel cuves, maturation in large oak *botte* – with the goal of bringing out the characteristics of each vineyard.

### -New Releases-

**2017 Langhe Nebbiolo**  
£300 | Case of 12 - 75cl

Picked a few days before the estate's other wines, it is a mini Barolo designed to be drunk now: there is strawberry, plum and a hint of black cherry, as well as tobacco and hay, backed by fine tannins and an appealing fresh finish.

**2015 Barolo Monprivato**  
£525 | Case of 6 - 75cl

If you think 2015 produced hot, alcoholic wines – try this: it is Barolo at its best. There is complex spectrum of fruit, floral and spice elements: redcurrants, roses, a hint of licorice, a gamey note all enveloped in fine ripe tannins. The finish is elegant, saline and exceptionally long.

### -Current Releases-

**2016 Langhe Nebbiolo**  
£300 | Case of 12 - 75cl

From young vines in Monforte and Castiglione Falletto. It has fresh raspberry and hedgerow fruit, with notes of spice and a hint of leather, backed by fine firm tannins and vibrant acidity.

**2014 Barolo Villero**  
£360 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Sandy soils in Castiglione Falletto give a charming, forward style of Barolo. The maceration time is shorter than for other wine, and it is made to drink young, on the fruit. Certainly there is no shortage of that here: it is packed with raspberry, cranberry and redcurrants combined with hay and the rose notes that make Barolo famous, and lively acidity and balancing tannins emerge as it moves to a fresh finish.

**2014 Barolo Perno Vigna San Stefano**  
£360 | Case of 6 - 75cl

From three separate, very small south-east facing plots in Monforte, with a high proportion of clay. This has warm, juicy red-fruit notes, great intensity and smoothness and a long fine fresh finish. Seductive and lovely.

## Roagna - Barbaresco e Castiglione

These are exciting wines, embodying ancient methods and modern know-how. In the past, vine-growing and making was based on tradition, experience, and instinct, with sometime uneven results. The Roagnas have held fiercely on to tradition, but have tempered the instinctive choices of their ancestors with an understanding of the science behind them. The result is refined, very reliable wines that are genuine, pure, and perfectly reflect the soils in which the vines grow.

They eschew the wave of modernity that has swept across Piedmont in recent decades. There is an insistence on old vines farmed organically, sélection massale rather than clones, indigenous yeasts, long post-fermentation maceration (up to two months) and prolonged ageing in old oak. Harvests tend to be more protracted than their neighbours, and the wines are ripe and intense.

Luca Roagna, who joined in 2001, represents the latest generation to work in this historical Barbaresco wine estate, alongside his genial father Alfredo, whose 15 hectares also include vineyards in Barolo. The flagship vineyard Paje was acquired by Luca's grandfather in the 1950s.

### -New Releases-

**2014 Barbaresco Paje**  
£401 | Case of 6 - 75cl

An exceptionally smooth, elegant wine packed with crunchy bramble and cherry fruit, and rich smooth tannins. There is real energy here, and the finish is seamless and persistent.

**2014 Barolo Pira**  
£401 | Case of 6 - 75cl

A rich, densely textured wine with pure red and black fruit, fine chocolatey tannins and a smooth, long finish. Wonderfully expressive of the Pira vineyard, with its ancient soils and micro parcels ranging from limestone marl Roca to blue stone.

### -Current Releases-

**2013 Barbaresco Paje**  
£383 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Cherry, exotic spices, herbs, roses – you name and it's there. In short, an exceptionally complex, vibrant wine with very fine tannins that is a little backward but will reward patience.

## La Sala—San Casciano

La Sala is an historic winery purchased by a successful local boy, Francesco Rossi Ferini, whose family have long owned vines in Chianti. He has invested heavily, and produces a line of more ambitious cuvées as well as this appealing drinker.

### -Current Releases-

#### **2015 Chianti Classico**

£54 | Case of 6 - 75cl

It is made from 90% Sangiovese and 10% Merlot, which adds a round, soft note unexpected in a wine like this. It is packed with red fruit, spice, soft ripe tannins and a fresh finish. Perfect with heartier dishes and the usual fava beans.

#### **2015 Chianti Classico Riserva**

£96 | Case of 6 - 75cl

That bit more complex than the regular Chianti. The fruit is denser, and there are dried fruit and spice notes with a hint of balsamic, along with fine smooth tannins leading to a rich and satisfying finish.

#### **2015 Campo All'Albero IGT Toscana**

£135 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Half Cabernet Sauvignon, half Merlot, and aged for 24 months in barriques, this is a powerful, deep coloured and rich wine, with very elegant smooth ripe red fruit, a refreshing edge of blackcurrant leaf, spiced plum and warming tannins.

#### **2015 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione**

£150 | Case of 6 - 75cl

The limestone soils of the Il Torriano vineyard always provided the estates's best fruit, so from 2015 the wine has been bottled separately. 100% Sangiovese gives dense, smooth and chocolatey notes, melting tannins, lots of power, and ripe, vibrant cherry fruit. The finish is long and satisfying, and promises a great future.

## Tibaldi - Pocapaglia

The Tibaldis had dabbled in wine for most of the last century, but it was two sisters, Daniela and Monica, who went professional and founded this seven-hectare estate in 2014. Pocapaglia lies in Roero, known for its sandy fossil-rich soils, and the focus here is on mineral-driven whites. They also have vineyards for reds on limestone soils close to Verduno, which are softer than those in the Barolo region. The vines are farmed organically, and the wines fermented with wild yeasts in stainless steel, and aged in large *botte*.

### -Current Releases-

#### **2017 Langhe Favorita**

£54 | Case of 6 - 75cl

The Favorita, also known as Vermentino, is from a vineyard facing north-west, which keeps it fresh and bright. The bunches are not destemmed before pressing, giving a rich, phenolic wine with exotic peach fruit, vibrant citrus acidity and a powerful mineral seam that drives to a long salty finish.

#### **2017 Roero Arneis**

£54 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Arneis has smaller bunches and thicker skins than Favorita, and gives a richer, riper, more scented wine, with melon and lime fruit, a powerful salty minerality and a pleasing fresh herbal note on the long smooth finish.

#### **2017 Roero Arneis Bricco del Passere**

£66 | Case of 6 - 75cl

From a north-west-facing vineyard on top of a hill, where the sand has a reddish hue. Whole bunches give a sweet herbal note with an edge of menthol, and there is rich ripe lime, melon and apricot fruit with an edge of orange peel. The distinguishing feature is a melting elegance: the fruit is flawlessly integrated, the powerful salty minerality is smooth and fine, and the finish is fresh and long.

#### **2016 Nebbiolo d'Alba**

£72 | Case of 6 - 75cl

From the other side of the hill of Bricco del Passere, facing south this time. Full of energy, bright red cherry fruit, a soft clean middle and a fresh finish.