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Meeting Barolo Winemaker Paolo Manzone

By Marisa D'Vari | April 29th, 2014 | Category: News | No Comments »

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WINEMAKER PAOLO MANZONE WEARI

Last night I met two very exciting and energetic gentlemen from Italy ... Paolo Manzone, the very gregarious enologist from Serralunga d'Alba and his very well traveled and well spoken sales director Francisco Paolo Luisi who I met before.

The evening was an exploration into the world of Barolo, though it all began with a tasting of Dolcetto d'Alba "Magna" DOC which is what everyone drinks while they wait for the Barolo to mature. It was very fresh and can pair well with a variety of dishes. New was the Langhe Rosso "Ardi" which is a mix of Dolcetto and Barbera. The vines are over 30 years old and the wine was rich and complex with good acidity and deep berry flavors. The Nebbiolo d'Alba "Mirine" DOC was almost the quality level of a true Barolo but from the village of Sipio in the heart of Piedont. Very herbaceous and spicy on the nose with a familiar rose scent of a true Barolo.

Now the serious wines. Barolo needs years of bottle age to really enjoy and the flight of young Barolos have great potential. The flight began with the Barolo "Paolo Manzone" DOCG 2009 which is described as having been made in the "modern style" with stainless steel fermentation and matured in French oak tonneaux for 24 months.



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Following this was the 2007, 2008, and 2009 Barolo "Serralunga" DOCG, which comes from 15 year old vines on the south facing slope of a hill near the village of Serralunga. Fermentation is also in stainless steel vats, yet the maceration on the skins goes on for 12 days after which it is matured in large French oak barrels.

I really enjoyed meeting Paolo Manzone ... he is so vivacious and fun! A small producer, he has personal dedication to make the very best wine he can, and I loved his idea about combining Dolcetto and Barbera. The wines all are characterized by incredible balance, so that not one single element (acidity, tannins, etc) stands out and the soils/exposures really help the fruit ripen well.

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