

The PICKS

FEATURE WINES

Produttori del Barbaresco 2021 Barbaresco

Chipping away at these Top 100 wines... this week, #7 of the year, Produttori del Barbaresco 2021 Barbaresco from Piedmont, Italy. To me, Barbaresco is one of those Italian wines that kind of goes under the radar, overshadowed by its more famous neighbor, Barolo. Don't underestimate Barbaresco, though, as they also produce some of the best Nebbiolo in the world. In the 19th century, wine producers in Barbaresco actually made a bid to join Barolo but were rejected, and thus the winemaker cooperative now known as Produttori del Barbaresco was born, focusing exclusively on the Nebbiolo grape. This is "a vibrant, well-defined red, offering rose, cherry, strawberry, white pepper and mineral flavors. Sleek and elegant, this firms up on the linear finish. Balanced and approachable now yet would benefit from a bit more time to knit together. Excellent length. Best from 2027 through 2040." Now you know Barolos are the king of Italian wine and can bring that kind of price tag, but "Barbaresco defies the odds and remains incredibly well priced but also very much Barolo's equal in terms of quality, complexity, age ability, and simple winemaking precision." Take home #7 for \$57.99, an excellent gift for the wine-lover or Italophile in your life.

WINE PICK

Qupé 2022 Syrah

Qupé 2022 Syrah from California's Central Coast is the pick this week, \$22.99 a bottle. In researching this bottle, I learned that Qupé Vineyards was recently acquired by an old friend of ours, Andrew Murray. (And by friend, I mean we like his wine.) According to Murray, "The 2022 vintage was a classic and nearly perfect vintage for the Central Coast Syrah... Qupé has been crafting cool-climate Syrah from the Central Coast for over 40 years. We know where the best fruit comes from and we leverage our long-term relationships to have our vineyard partners farm specific sites to our very strict requirements – low yield, clean, unblemished fruit, all certified sustainable. We want this wine to speak of its cool-climate origins, while showcasing the diversity of the Central Coast." With 90+ points, this bottle will give you blackberry, blueberry, cassis, and a bit of vanilla and coffee, finishing off with that classic Syrah peppery spice. It's been a minute since we had a domestic Syrah at this price point (and the last one was probably by Andrew Murray...), so don't miss out on it.