

## Vietti - Winery of the Year



Luca Currado

**Founded:** 1919  
**Winemaker:** Luca Currado  
**Acres owned:** 86.5  
**Annual Production:** 17,000 cases  
**Estate grown:** N/A  
**Owner:** The Vietti Family  
**Known for:** Traditionally made nebbiolo from Piedmont's top crus  
**Importer:** Dalla Terra, Napa, CA  
**Website:** vietti.com

The Vietti family traces its winemaking roots back to the 19th century, but it wasn't until 1919 that Mario Vietti first started bottling wine and selling it under his family's name. Though he produced only small quantities and sold primarily in Italy, he took the initiative of putting wine production at the forefront of the family's farm. In 1952, Alfredo Currado, Luciana Vietti's husband, took the reigns. Under his direction, the Vietti winery became one of the first producers in Piedmont to export to the US market, as well as one of the first to vinify grapes from single vineyards, a practice that is now commonplace. Alfredo can also take much of the credit for the survival of the arneis grape. Sometimes referred to as "the father of arneis," Alfredo was one of only two producers (the other being Bruno Giacosa) to bottle the variety during the late 1960s and early 70s, efforts that saved what is now Roero's most noted white from extinction.

Though Vietti has been a progressive winery, they certainly don't bow to fashion. The house style under Luca Currado, Luciana and Alfredo's son, is classic Piemontese. Their nebbiolo and barbera tend to be pure expressions of the grape, without excessive influence of barrique; they are pretty and elegant while beguiling and hard to pin down given their complexity.

This is exemplified in the 2005 Barbaresco Masseria and 2004 Barolo Rocche. The Masseria, from fruit grown on 40-year old vines in a cru near Nieve, feels full and rich with sweet cherry fruit and the flash of oak spice. The wood begins to meld with fruit tannin's earthiness, turning toward savory tobacco and cedar notes. This sleek and vibrant wine develops for days, the fruit becoming gentle and subtle.

Perhaps more widely known, the 2004 Rocche, from their vineyard in Castiglione, is everything you expect from Barolo. Approachable and feminine at first, this wine's sweet flavors of bright cherry and rose meet with savory dried mushrooms and dense tannins as it begins to flaunt the structure inherent in Barolo. - *W.M.W*

### TOP-SCORING WINES

#### 92 '05 Barbaresco Masseria



#### 92 '04 Barolo Rocche



#### 91 '06 Barbera d'Alba Scarrone



# Wine & Spirits

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