

Francesco Versio Langhe Nebbiolo DOC

Winery: Francesco Versio
Category: Wine – Still – Red
Grape Variety: Nebbiolo
Region: Neive/ Piemonte/ Italy

Vineyard: In the Currà and Starderi MGAs, in the commune of Neive

Winery established: 2013 Feature: sustainable/ organic

Awards: 16/20 Jancis Robinson (2023)



Product Information

Soil: Limestone, with various concentrations of sand

Age of wines: younger vines of his famed Barbaresco vineyards

Vinification: Hand-harvest. Fermented with native yeasts in temp-controlled stainless steel, with maceration lasting up to 30 days depending on the vintage. Aged mostly in large Slavonian neutral casks (Botti and tonneaux) and cement tanks for up to 13 months.

Tasting Note: An authentic Langhe Nebbiolo. Ruby red color. Aromas of forest berries, mint and black tea. A medium-bodied and elegant red wine with grippy tannins, freshness and a mostly red fruit aromas.

Production: 9,000 bottles

Alc: 14.5%

Producer Information

Francesco Versio is the son of a teacher from the Albesani hamlet just outside Neive village. He trained at Bruno Giacosa, becoming the winemaker there in his early 30's, and has also made wine for Luigi Oddero. Francesco's grandfather rented out his two small Neive plots until 2012, when Francesco began to make his own wine. The first bottling was just 20 hectoliters, which he sold to buy a steel tank and a Stockinger botte grande.

Both of the family plots face southwest, overlooking Barbaresco village. The plot in San Cristoforo cru (.45 hectare/ 1.1 acres) was planted in 1969. Its elevation is higher than the .3 hectare (0.75 acre) plot in Currà, and its soil is more calcareous, making for a fresh wine with a powerful structure. The Currà plot contains more sand, leading to a softer elegance in the wine. In 2014, Francesco focused for a few years on San Cristoforo so that he could re-plant the Currà, using Nebbiolo clones Lampia (60%), Michet (30%), and Picotener (10%). In recent years, Francesco has introduced wine from a vineyard in Starderi, a calcareous zone in western Neive with warm sun modulated by the proximity of the river Tanaro. In addition to Francesco's classic and brilliant Barbaresco from these interesting and sought-after crus, he has also produced, since 2017, a terrifically fresh Dogliani. To Francesco, Dolcetto should be as fresh as possible, a wine that is easy to understand, in honor of the fruit and also the history of Dolcetto as a wine on the family table on a sunny Saturday afternoon.