



Monte Maletto “Sole e Roccia” Carema DOC

Winery: Monte Maletto
Category: Wine – Still – Red
Grape Variety: 100% Nebbiolo
Region: Carema/ Piemonte / Italy
Winery established: 2015
Feature: practicing organic
Awards: 95 Vinous (2021)



Product Information

Soil: 70% sand, with glacial stones of serpentine and gneiss and a small portion of chalk.
Elevation: 350 to 500 meters (1,148 to 1,640 feet)
Age of vines: up to 75 years old
Vinification: Hand-harvest in middle of October. 70 % destemmed fruit. Spontaneous fermentation with 35-40 days maceration. Matured for at least 18 months in 2nd and 3rd passage barrique before being bottled, unfiltered. At least 6 more months bottle aged before its release.
Yield: 5,000 kg/hectares
Tasting Note: On the nose bright black fruit with floral aromas of violets. A distinct aroma of rocks and stones. On the palate the wine is silky and lighter, but still with plenty of integrated tannin.
Vinous: *“The 2021 Carema Sole e Roccia is a classy, elegant wine that expresses all the natural youthful austerity that is typical in Carema. Sweet, dried fruit, tobacco, incense, mint, dried flowers and licorice are beautifully delineated in this classy, understated red. Tis is a terrific example of the appellation.”* AG
Production: 1,800 bottles
Alc: 13.5%.

Producer Information

The town of Carema, population 800, is located an hour’s drive north of Turin, tucked up underneath the Vallee d’Aosta border. Gian Marco Viano worked as a sommelier in Glasgow and London before coming home to Carema. With a few other young folks, he has devoted his life to restoring an appellation whose abandoned terraces were a nearly forgotten dream.

The Nebbiolo-based wines of this area would already be rare due to the denomination’s tiny size, only 16 hectares (39.5 acres) in total. In truth, the winemaking culture here nearly disappeared, due to the vagaries of post-war economic change combined with the difficulty of farming the steep-terraced vineyards, which surround Carema in a natural amphitheater. Just five or six other producers farm 1 or 2 hectares each. Their heroic restoration work has saved this completely unique terroir--the grapes are trained on pergolas!--from oblivion.

The pergola training--once a way to combine agriculture with viticulture in order to utilize every inch of the terrace’s hillsides--are not the only unique aspect of this terroir. The soils are nearly 70% sand, with glacial stones of serpentine and gneiss and a small portion of chalk. The pH of the soil is very acidic, quite different from the Langhe. They are contrasted from the Alto Piemonte subzones such as Bramaterra, whose volcanic soil brings rusty notes and bigger tannins, though perhaps fans of the sandier Lessona could find some comparison. In total, the Carema wines are minerality-defined: you can feel the stones. Another distinction is tannins that are extremely elegant, delicate and refined.