

## Azelia, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy

- The Barolo you want to drink
- Incredible value from owners of top cru vineyards including famed Bricco del Fiasco
  - 'Azelia can hold their own with the very best of the region' Robert Parker

### The Producer

Known as "The King of wines and wine of Kings" Barolo has long been established as one of Italy's finest appellations, yet sometimes the wines can be austere and tannic.

Through a century of winemaking, Azelia has mastered a style that balances classic structure with lovely perfume and softness, creating wines that are an absolute pleasure to drink. Remarkably, Azelia continues to be unbeatable value to the consumer, even as collectors fear Barolo may escalate out of the realm of affordability.

Azelia is owned by the family of Luigi Scavino. It was founded by his great grandfather, Lorenzo, in 1920 who was the first to bottle wines from the family's vineyards. The small family estate in Castiglione Falletto has acquired over four generations some of the region's finest vineyards including the famed cru Bricco Fiasco. The family farms 16ha of vines in the communes of Castiglione and Serralunga on both Helvetian and Tortonian soils. Most of the vines were planted in the '40s and are only replaced as each vine dies with selection massale from each vineyard.

While the wines of the '90s were considered part of Marc diGrazia's 'Barolo Boys' modernist movement today the focus is intensely on the work in the vineyard. Old vines and rigorous green harvesting in the vineyard along with organic farming techniques ensure that little intervention in the winery is necessary. They employ integrated pest management and no chemical fertilizers. The soil is tended with cover crops and organic treatments.

The modern equipment allows Luigi the control and freedom of using native yeast and no filtering/fining. The result is wines that are expressive of their sources yet balanced and approachable on release, and after many years of aging. The same level of attention is given to each wine in the line from the Dolcetto to the Barolo Fiasco.

While Azelia may fly under the radar its wines have not escaped attention. Robert Parker described the wines, "wines from (Luigi) Scavino's estate, Azelia, can hold their own with the very best in the region. The wines combine power and elegance with a level of virtuosity matched by few in the region...there can be no doubt that the overall balance and sense of proportion of these wines is excellent." (Wine Advocate, #167, Oct 2006).

### The Wine

With the seductive grip and perfume we love in great Barolo combined with a "drink-me-now" approachability, Azelia Barolo is hard to resist. The wine comes from two distinct sites -- one in Castiglione Falletto (near Barolo and La Morra) where Tortonian soils present a perfumed, round and soft profile; the other is in Serralunga d'Alba where Helvetian limestone provides structure and ageworthiness. The wine is fermented on native yeasts in temperature controlled steel tanks before aging for two years in large neutral oak. If its irrefutable deliciousness weren't enough, Azelia Barolo is an amazing value.



**Region:** Piedmont

**Appellation:** Barolo DOCG

**Vineyards:** Castiglione Falletto and Serralunga d'Alba

**Altitude:** 250-370 meters

**Soil:** mix of Tortonian and Helvetian limestone and clay

**Varietals:** 100% Nebbiolo

**Vine age:** 45+ years

**Trellissing:** Guyot, 3,400 vines per hectare

**Production:** 3000 cases

**Vinification:** hand-picked, fermented in stainless steel rotofermenters for 20 days, racked by gravity

**Aging:** 24 months in large neutral casks 12 months bottle aging prior to release

**Tasting Notes:** perfumed and rich with ripe juicy red fruits, exotic spices and broad mouthfeel. Fine fruit tannins are balanced with bright acidity and a long mineral driven finish.