



2016 BRICCO DEI MERLI BARBERA D'ALBA DOC

THE STORY

Merli is the name of the hill where this vineyard is located; Bricco (meaning "hill") indicates that this vineyard is located at the very top of the hill.

2016 VINTAGE NOTES

The 2016 vintage was certainly one of the longest-lasting in recent years. After mild temperatures in January and February, we had a drop of temperature in March accompanied by plenty of rain. The "late" drop of temperature slowed the vegetative cycle. Spring began with a considerable amount of rain with average temperatures. This vegetative delay continued until the end of the summer, which also began slowly but extended until the end of September.



VINEYARDS

Varietal Composition:	100% Barbera
Sources:	100% estate vineyards located on the top of the hill; Novello village; Ravera area
Area:	3.5 hectares (8.65 acres)
Exposure:	South-southeast
Altitude:	300 meters (984 feet) above sea level
Soil Composition:	Limestone/clay
Vine Age:	1 hectare (2.47 acres) is newly planted; 1 hectare is 20 years old; 0.5 hectare is 15 years old; 1 hectare is 30 years old
Vine Density:	4,500 vines/hectare (1,821 vines/acre)
Cultivation:	Vertical trellising, Guyot pruning, 100% organic (not yet certified)

VINIFICATION

Fermentation:	100% in stainless-steel fermentors with 9-12 days skin contact, temperature controlled, with automatic pump overs; 100% with indigenous yeast
Malolactic Fermentation:	100% in steel fermentors
Aging:	1 year barrel-aging in used, 25-hl (660-gallon) Slavonian oak; bottle-aged for 6 months. Bottled without filtration
Cases Produced:	1,000 (12/750ml)
Cases Imported:	250
Alcohol:	14.5%

TASTING NOTES

Intense deep red with purple reflections. The nose is complex with aromas ranging from dry apricot and plums to fresh flowers with hints of sweet spices. The palate is full-bodied and round. The bright acidity creates a perfect balance. The aftertaste is long with a salinity that is typical for the soil of Ravera.

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