



## 2015 vintage report

Cantina Mascarello Bartolo remains one of the most revered Barolo domaines. Founded in 1919, its reputation was secured by the founder Giulio, then his son, the late great Bartolo Mascarello and since 2005 by his daughter Maria-Teresa Mascarello (pictured), whose first vintage was in 1993.

The 2015 vintage produced thrilling, sunny, gleaming wines. The year kicked off with a very snowy January, giving way to a mild February which led to early budburst. Plenty of spring rain continued right into early June, with localised bouts of hail around Monforte and Novello. There followed a two-month period of intense heat from the end of June to the first half of August. A reasonable amount of water, however, remained in the soil throughout, following the earlier rain and the previous wet 2014 summer, thus preventing undue stress on the vines. Most producers had also learned the lessons of previous vintages and not carried out early leaf-stripping, shading the grapes, allowing acidities to hold up and extend hang-time. The temperature dropped in the latter half of August and, with a week's rain, revived the vines. The moderate, sunny autumn allowed for very healthy Nebbiolo grapes in the first week of October, picked a little earlier than normal to preserve acidity. Vibrant, floral bouquets and opulent energetic fruit are the calling cards of 2015. The accessibility and ripeness of the tannins means these wines can be enjoyed in youth, but their nerve, liveliness and balance allow for good ageing potential too.

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