



## BENEVELLI PIERO

Country: Italy  
Region: Piedmont  
Appellation(s): Barolo, Dolcetto d'Alba, Langhe Nebbiolo  
Producer: Massimo Benevelli  
Founded: 1978  
Annual Production: 3,750 cases  
Farming: Traditional  
Website: [www.barolobenevelli.com](http://www.barolobenevelli.com)



It was in 1978 that Piero Benevelli started out with five hectares of vines in Monforte d'Alba and focused on the traditional grapes of Piedmont: Nebbiolo, Dolcetto, and Barbera. His son, Massimo, started his training in the vineyard at age 14 and quickly learned the core principle that still guides him today—to make great wine, you must first have great grapes.

The young Massimo Benevelli has developed into an extremely talented Piemontese grower. He exhibits a total command of the production process, from vine to bottle. When tasting his production during various stages of aging—in barrel, tank, and bottle—there is a consistency, a touch, an intangible quality that is the mark of something great. His wines show character, soul, and originality.

The Benevelli holdings are mostly concentrated in the southeastern-facing hillside cru of “Ravera” in the deep southeast of the Barolo zone. The wines from Ravera have the distinction of combining the structural strength of neighboring Serralunga d'Alba with the concentration and richness of Bussia and the other crus further north. Massimo’s Baroli are approachable young but like any great Barolo, reveal their true potential after at least five years or more in bottle. His Dolcetto and Langhe Nebbiolo are true Piemontese delights as well—classic and full of pleasure.

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area</u>
Langhe Nebbiolo	Nebbiolo	7 – 10 years	Dark brown marl, red marl	1.5 ha
Dolcetto d'Alba “Vigna la Costa”	Dolcetto	1986	Limestone, grey and white marl	3 ha
Barbera d'Alba Bricco Ravera	Barbera	25 years old	Grey marl and bluish limestone	1.5 ha
Barolo “Ravera”	Nebbiolo	1960	Grey and white marl	2 ha
Langhe Freisa “Alla Mia Gioia”	Freisa	25 years average	Red sand, blue marl	.6 ha

\* “ha”=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres



## BENEVELLI PIERO (continued)

### VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

- All vineyards are in the commune of Monforte
- Hand harvested
- Wines are fermented in 50 hl stainless steel tanks with temperature controls
- During fermentation the wines are pumped over 3 times a day

#### **Langhe Nebbiolo:**

- Cold maceration for 24 – 36 hours
- During first 7 – 8 days of fermentation, pump-overs at least 3 times a day
- Elevage in stainless steel tanks for 5 - 6 months
- Aged 3 months in bottle before release

#### **Dolcetto d'Alba "Vigna la Costa":**

- During alcoholic fermentation the temperature is kept at 26-28°C
- Delestage halfway through the alcoholic fermentation
- Maceration lasts 7 days
- Elevage in stainless steel tanks for 6-7 months
- Aged 3 months in bottle before release

#### **Barbera d'Alba Bricco Ravera:**

- Indigenous yeasts only
- Initial fermentation lasts 8-10 days
- Before bottling wine ages for 6 months in old barrels, then 6 more months in large Slovenian oak barrels
- Aged in bottle for 3 months
- Neither fined nor filtered

#### **Barolo "Ravera":**

- Delestage every other day during alcoholic fermentation
- Submerged-cap maceration lasts 20-25 days, depending on the vintage
- Aged in second-passage *barriques* for one year, then in 10-year-old oak *botti* (40 hL, 20 hL, and 15 hL) for 15 months
- Aged 8-10 months in bottle before release



KERMIT LYNCH *WINE MERCHANT*

## BENEVELLI PIERO (continued)

### **Langhe Freisa “Alla Mia Gioia”:**

- A slightly sparkling red wine
- Cold maceration for 24 hours
- During first 7 – 8 days of fermentation, pump-overs 2 times a day
- Fermentation in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks
- Aged for 3 months in stainless steel tanks
- Brief bottle fermentation for 3 months