



2020 GOES DOWN EASY | There's something special about the 2020 Barolo. It's been a long time since Italy's famous wine region has produced such beautifully approachable nebbiolos. — [JAMESUCKLING.COM](https://www.jamesuckling.com) 🇮🇹



VARIETALS:
100% Nebbiolo

**#7 BAROLO
IN 2020
VINTAGE
REPORT**
[JAMESUCKLING.COM](https://www.jamesuckling.com) 🇮🇹

BAROLO ORNATO DOCG 2020

Piemonte, Italy

The Pio Cesare family's unique winemaking method stresses minimal intervention to produce wines of particularly supple flavor expression. A ceaseless devotion to the individuality of each of the region's wines informs Pio Cesare's choices in the cellar: shorter maceration, separate lot fermentation, judicious selection for barrel and large cask aging, and bottling schedules determined by the ideal structure of each wine. This allows Pio Cesare to craft wines of varying weight, ageability and drinkability as determined by the vineyard rather than market fashion.

First launched with the 1985 vintage, Barolo Ornato was Pio Cesare's original single-vineyard bottling. Great structure, power, concentration, with a very long life. Produced in small quantities.

WINEMAKING

This is a single-vineyard Barolo from very ripe grapes of three different plots of the famous Pio Cesare family's Ornato estate in Serralunga d'Alba, one of the top vineyards in the Barolo region. It is fermented in stainless steel with skin contact for 30 days and aged in oak botti for about 30 months, and a small amount in French oak for the first 12 months.

98
POINTS
[JAMESUCKLING.COM](https://www.jamesuckling.com) 🇮🇹

This is very focused with lots of ripe tannins in the center palate. Very velvety and fine-textured with a pointed character. Medium to full body. Aromas of plums and spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg to the fruit. Bitter citrus. Chewy at the end. Taut muscles. Sophisticated. Needs four or five years to come around. Best after 2030.

96
POINTS
Decanter

Ornato has been the Pio Cesare estate's cru since 1985. In 2020, the grapes were harvested on 5 October, after the heavy rainfall. Mineral and smoky, with intense violet notes alongside cherry kernel and rhubarb, it's full of graphite flavour and almost zestiness on the palate, supported by tight-knit tannins. Polished and thick on the finish. "Compared to 2019, we used gentler extractions in 2020," explains Federica Boffa, now in charge at Pio Cesare.

95
POINTS
Wine Spectator

This is firm and tightly wound, with thick, refined tannins setting the stage for cherry, eucalyptus, tobacco and iron flavors, while dusty, mouthcoating tannins infuse the finish. Patience required for the fruit to emerge. Best from 2029 through 2050.

95
POINTS
WINE ENTHUSIAST

This Barolo from the Ornato vineyard offers enticing aromas of ripe black cherry, cinnamon-spiced cake, candied blood orange zest, and a hint of fresh bay leaf. The palate is exceptionally well-balanced, with a precise, linear structure that showcases flavors of juicy blackberry, dark chocolate, and a touch of vanilla. The wine's impressive length and depth are evident in the long, satisfying finish. Drink 2026-2044.

94
POINTS
JEB DUNNUCK

The 2020 Barolo Ornato expresses a wonderful floral profile on the nose, with loads of fresh roses, red raspberries, dried strawberries, white pepper, and fennel. It displays a more linear approach compared to the Mosconi (which has broader shoulders and more structure), with fine tannins, snappy acidity, and a bright lift on the finish. It is elegant and a touch nervous at this stage and will benefit from another year in bottle. Drink 2025-2037.

For more experienced Barolo enthusiasts, the trio of 2019, 2020 and 2021 closely resembles the three turn-of-the-century vintages - 1999, 2000 and 2001 - in their austerity, roundness, and completeness, respectively.

[JAMESUCKLING.COM](https://www.jamesuckling.com) 🇮🇹



Represented by Maisons Marques & Domaines | @mmmdusa