

Kyle Phillips's Italian Wine Review

The authoritative consumer newsletter about the wines of Italy

7 dicembre 2010

Elvio Cogno Cascina Nuova Barolo DOCG 2006

Tasted May 2010

Deep almandine with black reflections and almandine rim. The bouquet is fairly intense, with cocoa and coffee grounds mingled with spice and sweetness, and some leaf tobacco too. Not much in the way of fruit, though there are some floral accents. On the palate it's ample, with rich berry fruit supported by delicate acidity and fairly rich tannins that have a smooth peppery burr and flow into a clean bright berry fruit finish. It's quite young, but displays considerable depth and will age very well over the next 8-10 years. Something to seek out and set aside; it will improve markedly.

2 stars

Elvio Cogno Cascina Nuova Barolo DOCG 2006

Tasted October 2010

Deep black almandine with black reflections and almandine rim. The bouquet is fairly muted, with moderate berry fruit supported by delicate spice with some cedar accents. On the palate it's fairly rich, with graceful cherry fruit supported by lively berry fruit acidity and by tannins that have a warm splintery burr and flow into a warm berry fruit laced finish; It's more interesting on the palate than the nose, and though I wouldn't call the palate ready either -- the tannins are still quite rough -- I think it will do nice things with time, becoming elegant in a middle of the road key, and age well for a decade or more. In short, patience.

2 stars

Elvio Cogno

Elvio Cogno Ravera Barolo DOCG 2006

Tasted May 2010

Deep black almandine with black reflections and orange rim. The bouquet is penetrating, with cedar and a fair amount of spice, but not much in the way of fruit. It's not quite like sniffing a sawmill, but in that direction. On the palate it's ample and soft, with fairly rich cherry plum fruit supported by savory accents and mineral acidity and warmth, and by smooth well polished tannins that flow into a clean fresh berry fruit finish. I'd have liked more depth to it.

1 star

A few months made a big difference:

Elvio Cogno Ravera Barolo DOCG 2006

Tasted October 2010

Fairly deep almandine garnet with black reflections and orange in the rim. The bouquet is fairly rich, with elegant rosa canina mingled with sour cherry fruit and some leaf tobacco, and also fairly intense minerality, while it is supported by lively sour berry fruit acidity that gains depth from some mineral accents. Quite a bit going on, and very young. On the palate it's full, with bright slightly jammy cherry fruit -- there's a touch of sweetness to it, and this

is the vintage -- supported by brisk almost brambly acidity and by tannins that are still quite young, and lay a brambly burr over the tongue, flowing into a sour cherry finish with tannic underpinning. It's very young, and needs at least a year, or better two, to get its bearings and come together. When it does it will be powerful, in a rich ripe but not overripe fruit driven key that is a little sweeter than usual, and will work very well with grilled meats or hearty stews, Expect it to age well for 10-15 years.

2 stars

Elvio Cogno Bricco Pernice Barolo Riserva DOCG 2005

Tasted October 2010

Lively black almandine with black reflections and almandine rim. The bouquet is fairly intense, with cedar and some spice supporting a fair amount of alcohol, and moderate fruit. Nice balance. On the palate it's full, and quite ripe, with fairly intense plum fruit supported by mineral more than fruit acidity, and by tannins that are warm and flow into a clean rather bitter plum berry fruit finish. It's fairly direct, more direct than I would expect a Riserva to be, but it is a 2005, which was a cool wet vintage, and it displays considerable grace and finesse. A fine interpretation of a difficult vintage.

2 stars