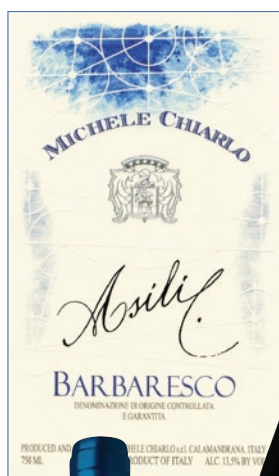




The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine



This is an especially successful set of new releases from Michele Chiarlo. The Barolos and Barbarescos are particularly of note, as they have never been more refined.

92 Points Michele Chiarlo Barbaresco Asili 2006

An expressive, deeply floral bouquet melds seamlessly into a core of deep, dark red fruit as the 2006 Barbaresco Asili opens up in the glass. The wine blossoms onto the palate with terrific richness and density, qualities that weren't easy to come by in this vintage. Today the 2006 Asili remains quite primary, so a few years of bottle age seem prudent. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2024.

90 Points Michele Chiarlo Barolo Tortoniano 2005

The estate's 2005 Barolo Tortoniano offers lovely depth in an essentially mid-weight style. Crushed raspberries, flowers, licorice and spices are melded together in a finely-knit frame of notable elegance. This beautifully balanced, accessible Barolo should continue to drink nicely for another decade or so. A long, refreshing finish makes it difficult to resist a second taste. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2021.

92 Points Michele Chiarlo Cannubi 2005

The 2005 Barolo Cannubi impresses for its density and follow-through on the palate, where layers of ripe cherries and sweet spices come to life in a gorgeous display of class and elegance. This generous yet mid-weight Barolo offers outstanding balance and plenty of style. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2025.

93 Points Michele Chiarlo Barolo Cerequio 2005

The 2005 Barolo Cerequio is darker and richer than the Cannubi, but it, too, reveals plenty of elegance in its dark cherries, plums, spices, cocoa and roasted coffee beans. Aromatics, fruit and structure are all deftly balanced in this delicious medium to full-bodied Barolo. As is often the case with this bottling, the voice of Cerequio comes through in spades. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2025.

— Antonio Galloni October 31, 2009