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SANDRONE

## DOLCETTO D'ALBA

### Pleasant simplicity

**Langa-style.** Between the Dolcetto vine and the Langa hills there is a pact that has lasted for centuries. Not only because the grape was born on these hills on the right bank of the Tanaro river, but above all for the strong bond that has endured between this grape variety and its eponymous wine and the people who live in these areas. If it is common to look at the hills and track in their crests and slopes the well-defined rows of Dolcetto during the four seasons of the year, it is just as common to look at the wineglasses set on the tables in the houses of the region and find in them the colors and fragrant aromas of the youthful Dolcetto d'Alba.

**Immediate fragrance.** Our eleven Dolcetto parcels are situated on the highest hills of Barolo: they have "white soils" of a high limestone content, with steep slopes and altitudes often exceeding 350 – 400 meters above sea level. Year after year we work these vineyards with quiet passion and harvest their perfectly ripened grapes in the middle of September. After separate vinifications of each parcel, we select the best lots to create an "assemblaggio" wine: assembled according to the Langa tradition. This bottle embodies quality and holds a young and fragrant wine that is equally enjoyable on the daily table as at a party.

- Dolcetto d'Alba DOC
- Dolcetto 100 %
- Spontaneous fermentation from indigenous yeasts
- Maceration and fermentation in open steel tanks
- Aged in bottle for 3 months before release
- Vineyards in the villages of:
  - Monforte d'Alba: Cascina Pe Mol and Castelletto
  - Novello: Ravera and Rocche di San Nicola
  - Barolo: Rivassi
- Alcohol: 13 %
- Recommended drinking time: 2021 – 2026

## Tasting notes

The 2020 Dolcetto d'Alba shows the varied facets of the 2020 growing season, with both warm- and cool-season characteristics. The aromas of ripe plums and blackberries rise from the glass, modulated by spicy elements and a distinct mineral note. On the palate, the wine is enveloping, round and drinkable, elegant, rich yet balanced and showing good acidity on the finish. There is a distinct aspect of fresh red grapes, surrounded by blackberry and blueberry flavours. The moderate, ripe tannins give the wine a sense of completeness and mid-weight structure. It finishes with bright acids and elegant lingering tannins.

## Evolution of the vintage 2020

2020 will be remembered as a year of long, alternating periods of heat and cool, giving rise to a wine that is characterized by both.

The year began with a mild, dry winter with few truly cold days. While January was mostly sunny some snow and rain finally arrived in mid-February. The end of February saw a rise in temperatures indicative of a precocious spring.

Early March brought continued good weather, unseasonably warm and dry, and we rushed to finish the winter work. By mid-March, the weather had cooled considerably, and the rate of vegetative growth slowed significantly.

In April, weather patterns were established that continued nearly the whole growing season: 4-5 days of brilliantly sunny days, followed by 1-2 days of rain. This gave plenty of water to the plants but complicated the treatments schedule. The extra humidity brought on serious infections of Peronospora in the region. Luca's long experience allowed us to keep ahead of the disease and we saw no significant damage in 2020. Flowering in late May was under favourable conditions and brought a good crop set.

Some real heat arrived at the end of July but was mitigated by the continuing sun-rain pattern and the deep groundwater reserves that had built up. Warm weather continued until mid-September, when a series of thunderstorms cooled off the region. The next few weeks were exemplary, with bright, sunny days and crisp, cool nights. The harvest (14/09-21/09) was easy and the fruit ripened evenly.