

Reading the Labels of Elio Altare



The Fine Wine Geek
www.finewinegeek.com

Elio Altare

- The official name for the winery of Elio Altare is “Azienda Agricola Cascina Nuova Elio Altare”
 - “Azienda Agricola” means that this is a winery that grows its own grapes. All its wines are estate-bottled.
- Elio Altare was one of the earliest leaders of the “modernist movement” in Barolo.
- One of Altare’s innovations involved making a Nebbiolo wine from a Barolo vineyard which stepped outside the legal bounds of what can be called “Barolo”.
- So Altare makes two wines using the vineyard name “Arborina”, one of which is a Barolo, one is not.
- This has been a source of some of the confusion which we hope will be resolved in this presentaion.

Altare's Basic Barolo



Barolo

Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita

Imbottigliate all'origine nell'Azienda Agricola

Cascina Nuova - Estate Bottled

Elio Altare - Viticoltore

Frax. Annunziata - La Morra - Italia

RED WINE

PRODUCT OF ITALY

750 ml e

I.C.R.F. CN961 ALCOHOL 14.5% BY VOL.

L 17-07-09

CONTIENE SOLFITI CONTAINS SULPHITES ENTHÄLT SULFITE

- Often referred to as “Altare Barolo La Morra” which is not correct.
- The Altare winery is in the town of La Morra, but in Barolo there is no notion of a village designation (as in Burgundy).
- Also, this wine contains grapes from Castilgione Falletto as well as La Morra.
- It should be referred to as “Altare Barolo Normale” or “Altare’s Base Barolo”.

Single-Vineyard Barolos: Cerretta

- The Cerretta vineyard is in the village of Serralunga.
- This is Altare's newest Barolo bottling.
- It was first bottled on its own in the 2005 vintage.

Vineyard name:



Single-Vineyard Barolos: Brunate

- Altare's parcel in the Brunate vineyard is in the village of La Morra.
- This was first bottled separately in the 1995 vintage.
- It was not bottled in 1997 or in 2002.

Vineyard name:



Single-Vineyard Barolos: Arborina

Vineyard name:

VIGNETO



ARBORINA

- “Vigneto Arborina” refers to the Arborina vineyard in the village of La Morra.

“Barolo” clearly indicates that this is a wine that conforms to the standards for Barolo, including 2 years of ageing before bottling.

Barolo
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L 22-08-08

CONTIENE SOLFITI CONTAINS SULPHITES ENTHÄLT SULFITE

Non-Barolo Arborina Nebbiolo

- Here, “Arborina” still refers to the Arborina vineyard in the village of La Morra.



Vineyard name:

“Langhe” and not “Barolo” indicates that this is a wine that does NOT conform to the standards for Barolo.

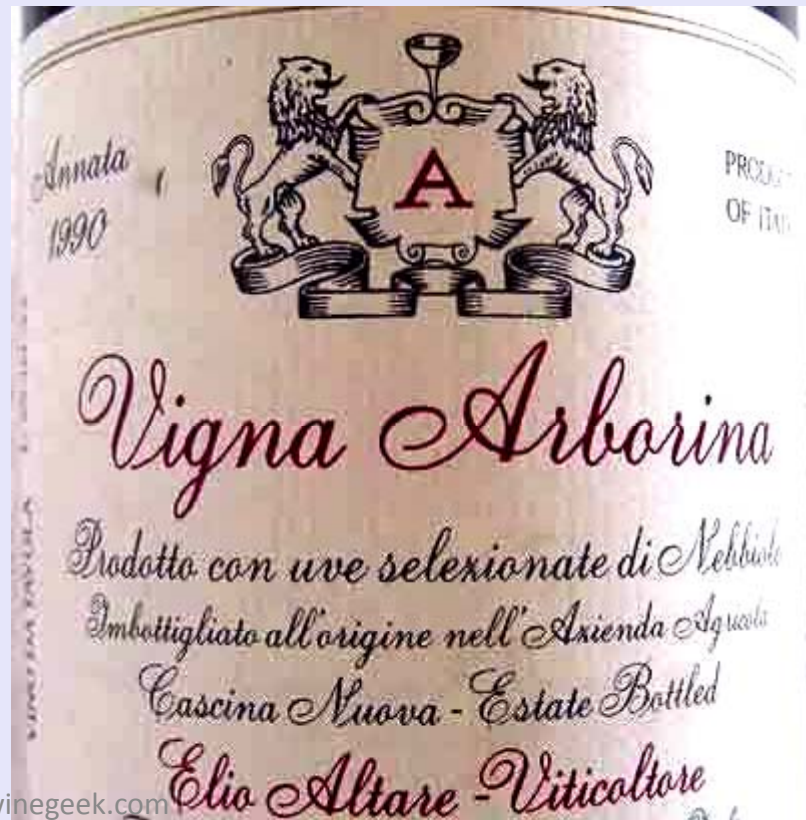
Non-Barolo Arborina Nebbiolo

- The primary reason that this wine does NOT conform to Barolo standards is that it is aged for 18 months and not the 2 years required for Barolo.
- It is, however, aged in new French barriques for 18 months.
- From the first vintage in 1986 until 1998, this was called “Vigna Arborina”:
- Now it is just “Arborina”:



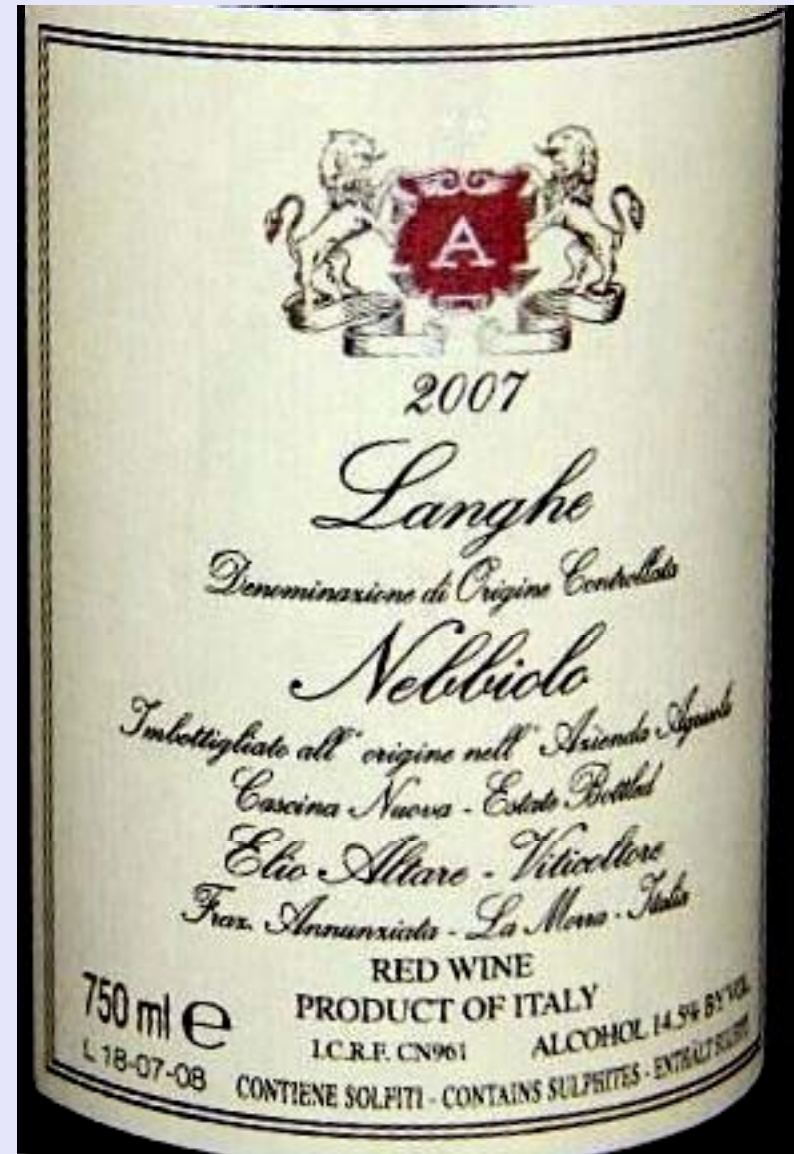
Arborina®
LANGHE

DENOMINAZIONE DI ORIGINE CONTROLLATA



Altare Langhe Nebbiolo

- Altare's most basic Nebbiolo.



Dolcetto d'Alba



- 100% Dolcetto grapes from La Morra and Dogliani.
- Matured in stainless steel tanks for 10 months.

Barbera d'Alba and Larigi Rosso

Both 100% Barbera.

Barbera d'Alba



DOC Barbera d'Alba.

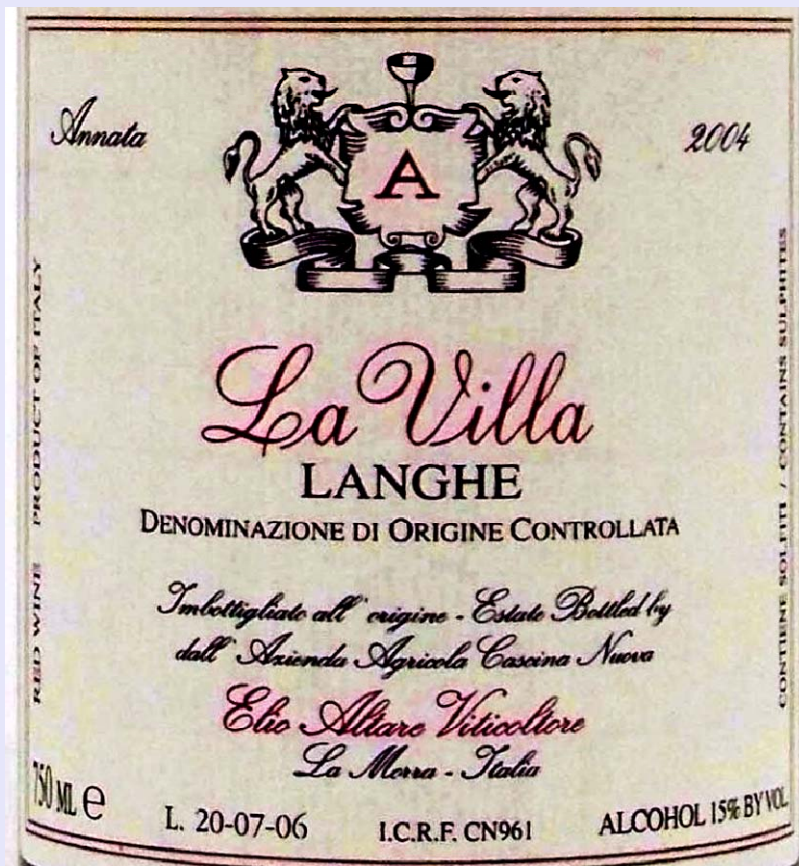
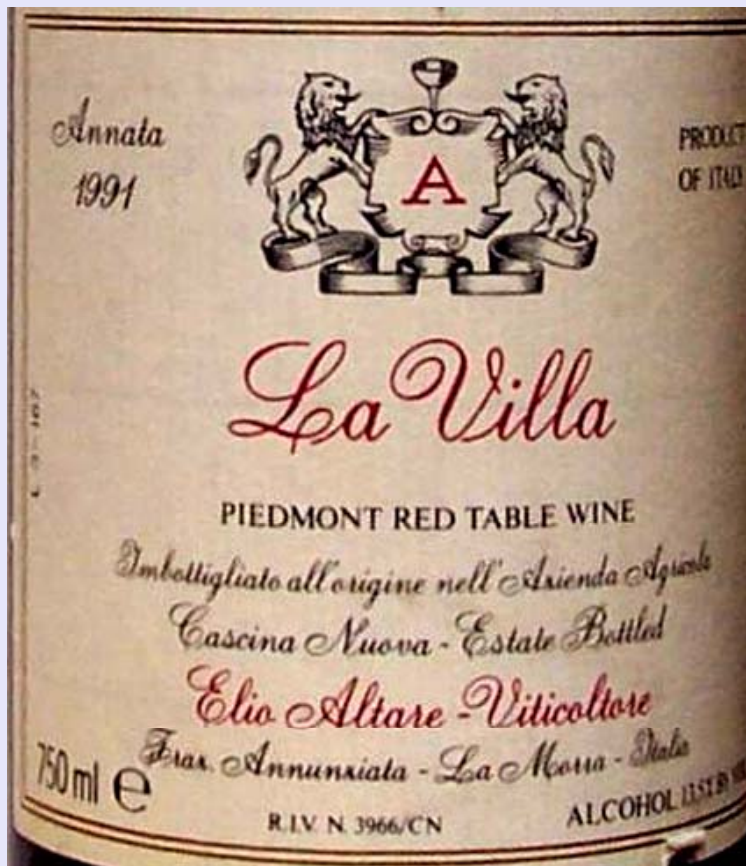
Larigi



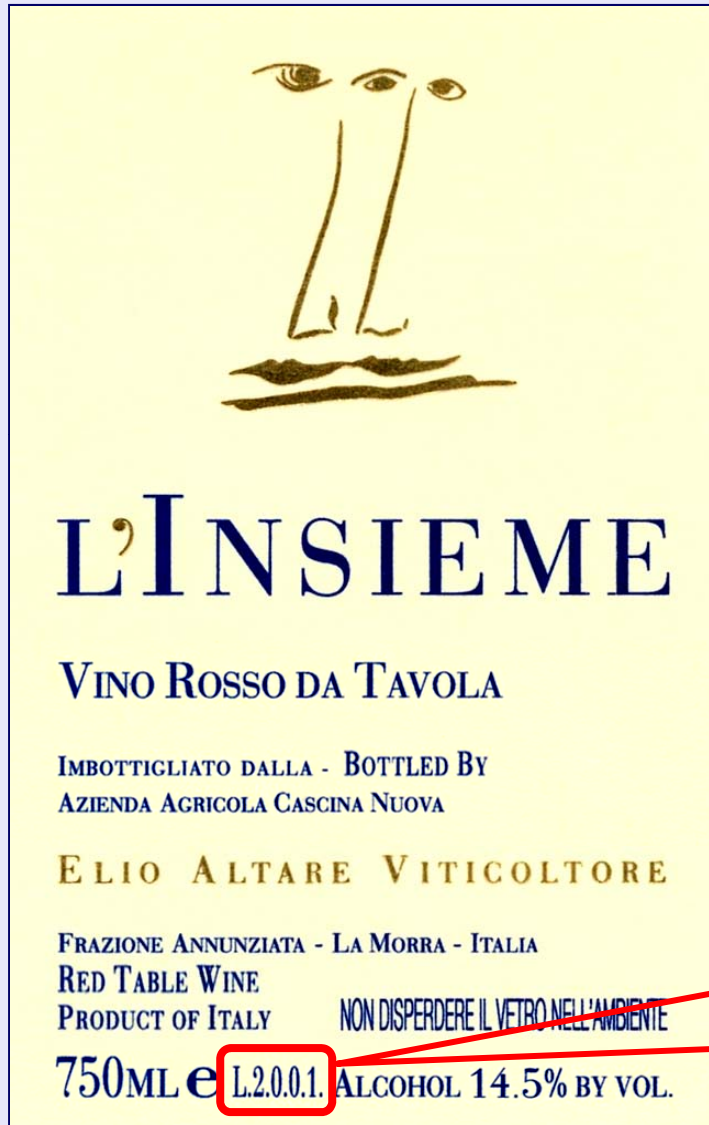
- Previously "Vigna Larigi".
- Aged in 100% new French barriques 18 months.
- DOC Langhe Rosso.

Altare Blends: La Villa

- 60% Barbera, 40% Nebbiolo.
- Aged in 100% new French barriques 18 months.
- Labeled “DOC Langhe”.



Altare Blends: L'Insieme



- Joint charitable project of 7 Barolo producers including Altare.
- “Insieme” means “together” in Italian.
- Each producer makes his own blend of Cabernet, Nebbiolo, & others.
- Altare’s is 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Barbera, 20% Nebbiolo, 10% Dolcetto, 5% Syrah, 5% Petit Verdot
- Altare’s is aged in (80% new) French barriques 15-18 months.
- Labeled “Vino Rosso da Tavola”.

Because of non-standard blend, vintage is not allowed. Code number with periods is used instead.