

Unfiltered

The great combo that is wine and ice hockey, French winemakers show their love of rugby, a wine with a good cause and an Italian goes old-school in his vineyards

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Courtesy of Giorgio Rivetti

*And you think your job stinks
sometimes....*

- Giorgio Rivetti, owner of [La Spinetta](#) in Barbaresco and [Campé della Spinetta](#) in Barolo, has been putting in hours of overtime on his Barolo estate. He's left the tractor in the shed and strapped himself behind a plough and Pippo, his newly acquired horse. Rivetti said that his vineyards needed a boost after up to 15 years without fertilizer and, for the last six months he has been collecting nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous-rich horse manure to plough into his vineyards. "Then I thought, 'Why not do the thing properly?' That's when we bought Pippo." Half Argentinean (on his father's side), Rivetti said he's been around horses all his life. "The first thing my father did after emigrating to Piedmont was to buy horses to work the estate he bought. He thought they were faster and stronger than the oxen generally used at the time. I think he was right." After up to six hours a day trundling up and down his vineyards and the

prospect of up to three to four years before he finishes the job on both his estates, Rivetti is starting to feel the effects. "It was killing my back at first," he said, "but it's getting better now. Besides, it's good exercise and I've lost a couple of pounds! It's fun too." So, giddy-up, Pippo! Unfiltered wonders what sort of mileage he's getting out of his horse, but with diesel prices currently running at around \$6 a gallon in Italy, Pippo is bound to be less expensive than his John Deere tractor.