

## Tasting Highlights: La Spinetta and Campé della Spinetta

**The Rivettis of La Spinetta add riservas to their lineup of terrific Nebbiolos**

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Giorgio Rivetti and his two brothers, Carlo and Bruno, decided from the beginning to issue a limited, magnum-only riserva edition of the Barolo Campè 2000, the first vintage from the family's newly acquired estate, located near the town of Grinzano Cavour in Barolo country. The Campè made its debut to great acclaim, scoring 98 points in a *Wine Spectator* blind tasting. But the Rivettis are still better-known for their single-vineyard Barbarescos and Barberas (produced under the La Spinetta label) which have been firm favorites among consumers since first appearing on the market in the mid-1990s. According to Giorgio, the 2001 vintage was so good that, as well as repeating the riserva bottling for the Barolo, the brothers decided to extend the idea to their three single-vineyard Barbarescos--Vigneto Gallina, Vigneto Stardereri and Vigneto Valeirano. James Suckling, *Wine Spectator's* European bureau chief, rated the non-riserva bottlings of these wines 93 points each. These riservas are made using grapes from older vines (45 years old or more) in higher positions in the respective vineyards, and the wines mature in new oak barrels for nine months longer than the non-riserva bottlings, making a total of 20 months for the Barbarescos and 32 months for the Barolo. The riservas will only be made in top vintages--next up are the 2001 and 2003 Barolo riservas and the 2003 Barbaresco riservas. The four riservas listed below are due for release in January 2006.

Wine	Score	Price
<b>CAMPÈ DELLA SPINETTA Barolo Campè Riserva 2000</b> This is wonderfully perfumed and classy with roses, berries and cherries. Full-bodied, with layers of fruit and tannins that unfold in your mouth, with a velvety texture and a wonderful length. If you missed the first release, get this. It's been aged an additional nine months in barrel. 1,500 magnums made. Best after 2010. 250 cases made. -- J.S.	98	\$310/1.5L
<b>LA SPINETTA Barbaresco Vigneto Valeirano Riserva 2001</b> Very ripe aromas of plum, bordering on prune, with loads of crushed flowers and lightly toasted oak. Full-bodied, with layers of ripe tannins and plenty of ripe fruit. Long and caressing. Juicy wine. 1,000 magnums made. Best after 2007. 165 cases made. -- J.S.	96	\$300/1.5L
<b>LA SPINETTA Barbaresco Vigneto Stardereri Riserva 2001</b> Very perfumed with floral, berry and plum character and just a hint of roses. Full-bodied, with silky and refined tannins and a long, caressing finish. Very pretty. 1,200 magnums made. Best after 2007. 200 cases made. -- J.S.	94	\$300/1.5L
<b>LA SPINETTA Barbaresco Vigneto Gallina Riserva 2001</b> Lovely aromas of berry, plum and hints of new wood follow through to a full-bodied palate, with silky tannins and a long finish. Refined and well done. 1,200 magnums made. Best after 2007. 200 cases made. -- J.S.	92	\$300/1.5L