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2021 Pio Cesare Barbera d'Alba- Alba, Piedmont, Italy

An historic village situated right in between the famous regions of Barolo and Barbaresco, Alba is also the name for the larger wine region surrounding the village. "Alba" is a catch-all phrase, and includes the declassified Nebbiolo wines made in Barolo and Barbaresco, as well as the Nebbiolo grown just outside of the regions' borders. Barbera, planted alongside Nebbiolo in the surrounding hills, is referred to as Barbera d'Alba. Pio Cesare has been producing wine for more than 100 years and through generations. At Pio Cesare, there has always been a conviction that great wine can come only from the finest grapes and the winery's output has always been limited through adherence to the highest standards. Pio Cesare limits its production by using only the most mature and healthy grapes. Today, the estate is managed by Pio Boffa, great-grandson of Pio Cesare. The Barbera grapes grown in the Barolo area give full structure, plummy and complex flavor, with spicy and ripe fruit, blackberry aroma and a hint of toasted tobacco. This classic Barbera has a very well-balanced acidity and really represents the traditional character of the Barbera grape. Lovely and fresh, with crushed raspberries, blueberries and crushed stones. This wine has medium body with fine tannins and a bright finish. 91 PTS JS

Pairings: A proven pairing with braised beef dishes, ragù and pasta, or a winter stew. A spiced porchetta is an excellent pairing. Try meaty white fish, like turbot or monkfish.

2020 Filigare Chianti Classico Riserva "Maria Vittoria" DOCG- Chianti, Italy

Le Filigare is the name of the hill where the estate is located, in the heart of Chianti Classico, between Siena and Florence. The property includes two villages: Le Filigare located in Barberino Tavarnelle and Le Macine in the municipality of Castellina in Chianti. Nature has endowed the Le Filigare area with the right ingredients: a medium clay rich soil, combined with the perfect position (between 450 and 550 meters above sea level) where the influences of the winds of the Tyrrhenian Sea mitigate the cold winters and the scorching summers. All this ensures an excellent production of wine. Their winemaker Dr. Alberto Antonini, is one of the most esteemed winemakers and among the five best in the world according to Decanter. This wine is a tribute to Maria Vittoria, the mother of the winery's founder, who inspired the family's passion for winemaking. It is 90% Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo, and 5% Colorino. The wine is powerful ruby with a slight purple tinge. It is intense with a vivid nose, full of blackberry, plum and some chocolate. Dense tannins with fine texture characterize the palate, showing good drive, with dark fruit, lingering long and juicy on the finish. 93 PTS JS

Pairings: It is a perfect pairing for hearty meat dishes, aged cheeses, pizza and flavorful pasta dishes.