

GAJA

2022 DARMAGI, LANGHE DOP

WINERY

Located in Piedmont in northwestern Italy, the GAJA winery is widely considered to be one of the greatest estates in the world, producing coveted and collectible labels.

WINE

It was Giovanni Gaja, Angelo's father, who involuntarily named this wine, because when Angelo planted Cabernet Sauvignon instead of Nebbiolo, his first comment in Piedmontese dialect was Darmagi! (What a pity!).

VINEYARDS

Planted in 1978 in the heart of Barbaresco village, Darmagi demonstrates the Langhe's capacity to produce a fine wine from an international variety. Excellent sun exposure with a balance of clay and silt that creates optimal soil drainage.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2022 vintage will be remembered as a defining year for the Langhe, marked by an unprecedented drought with no historical comparison.

Winter was exceptionally dry, with only a light snowfall on December 8, followed by 113 consecutive days without precipitation. Budbreak was consequently delayed, beginning after March 30. April brought continued dryness, but welcome rains arrived in May, supporting bunch development.

June and July brought intense heat, and green harvesting in July proved essential in managing vine stress and ensuring

even ripening. Fortunately, two timely rainfalls on August 7 and 17 provided critical relief and refreshed the vineyards.

The first half of September remained warm, but starting on the 15th, temperatures dropped and diurnal temperature shifts increased—key for preserving acidity and aromatic complexity. Harvest began on August 19 for white varieties and concluded on October 9 with Nebbiolo.

This was one of the most closely watched harvests in recent memory. We see parallels with the 2003 vintage—initially met with skepticism, but later celebrated for its exceptional evolution in bottle.

WINEMAKING

Fermentation and maceration, followed by ageing in oak for 24 months.

TASTING NOTES

On the nose, the wine reveals aromas of sweet licorice, juniper berries, elderflower, and blueberries, accompanied by a mentholated finish and a spicy note of pepper. On the palate, the entry is fresh and tense, with firm tannins supported by significant acidity. There are hints of blood and a slight smokiness. The finish showcases notes of graphite and blackberry.



VINEYARD

Region: Piedmont
Appellation: Langhe D.O.P.
Vineyards: Barbaresco
First Vintage: 1982

WINEMAKING

Varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon
Aging: Aged in oak for 24 months

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Alcohol: 14%

