

## Notes From The Cellar "NFTC" Newsletter

Feb 24, 2010

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### **Barolo deal of the year: 93 point from 2004 at less than 1/2 price**

While the year has only started, today's offer will be hard to beat. I have been searching for something on the level of the 2004 Rinaldi & Paitin offers from last year, which were the most popular Barolo offers we ever had. If you didn't fill your cellar with wines from this great vintage here is another chance.

### ***"Grasso has produced a bevy of sensational efforts over recent vintages"* Robert Parker**

With success, fame, and better wines, the 2004 vintage unfortunately also reached a high water mark for prices. When the wines were released a little over 2-3 years ago it seemed that the sky was the limit. The economic slowdown has resulted in unique opportunities for the nimble, but these opportunities will not be here forever. Barolos are known to be some of the world's finest wines to age. While you can enjoy this great wine today (decanting recommended) This also is a perfect opportunity stash away a wine which will continue to evolve for another 10-15 years. That's why it has made our Cellar Selection designation. At less than the original suggested release price this is an easy call.

**\$\$\$ Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$**

### **"Cellar Selection":**

## **SILVIO GRASSO "Pi Vigne " Barolo 2004**

**\$40-/bottle, or \$38-/ bottle- with our cash discount** (checks are ok)

While this family has been producing Barolo since 1927, in 1980, bottling started under the Silvio Grasso label. Incidentally this was also the year when the vineyards producing the fruit for the Pi Vigne were planted facing a South West exposure; capturing optimal late afternoon sun.

Owner Frederico Grasso has earned a reputation for producing sophisticated modern Barolos notable for avoiding excessive wood aromas, which have plagued other modern producers. The 2004 vintage now considered a classic, and one of the finest in recent years has produced great wines in this estate, partially due to very stringent fruit selection. This resulted in a much smaller production (only 250 cases were produced of this wine in 2004) but the quality resulted in higher ratings than the previous high



mark (a 92 point rated wine) from the 2000 vintage.

**Wine Spectator: 93 points** June 2008. Release Price \$80: Very ripe plum aromas turn to a slightly raisiny undertone. Full-bodied, very thick and chewy, yet polished and velvety-textured. Big and rich, with a long finish. Best after 2012. 250 cases made

Note image from another vintage

## Did You Know?

I am always on the lookout for special pricing on wines from the great vintages. In our last few NFTC's we have managed to secure some wines at incredible prices but they sold out quickly. When there is a small amount of wine left in the system, eventually someone may decide to clean house, and if we are in the right place at the right time, we score big. Unfortunately, quantities are very limited, such is the nature of these deals. While I expect this to be the case today, the good news is that we also manage to scoop similar wines; often only in bottle quantity, which makes little sense to write about here. Stay proactive! -call or e-mail if interested, so we can get you some of these Gems.

**Thanks for all your support and referrals.**

**Tell your friends, share the wine, & spread the good vibe. Cheers!**

*Paul David*, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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