

# RIZZI

**E**rnesto Dellapiana is known to say: “I have a crazy love for the earth”. This phrase embodies his life; from his birth in Alba, Italy in 1940 through his current stewardship of his family’s nineteenth century estate, Cascina Rizzi, in the Treiso zone of Piedmont.

After spending his early childhood playing on the hills of Treiso at the Rizzi farmhouse, Ernesto completed a degree in Economics and managed the family’s Turin-based paper business before returning to his love of the earth in 1973.

His initial years after returning to Cascina Rizzi involved starting his family: son Enrico was born in 1978, four years after daughter Jole arrived in 1974 which was also the year the Rizzi estate first began winemaking under its own name.

Ernesto’s passion for the land of the Langhe and winemaking drove him to reclaim the historic lost family property of the Cascina Boito in 1984, the purchase of the Villa Manzola farm in 1997, and further acres of vineyard land in Treiso, Neive and Neviglie through 2016.

Almost directly south of the town of Barbaresco lie the classic rolling hills of Treiso, a land steeped in Piedmont history. The Rizzi estate, one of the largest and most interesting in the Barbaresco area, is comprised of 40 total hectares primarily in this famous Trieso zone. From elevations between 200m and 430m, twenty hectares of Nebbiolo produce elegant and sophisticated wines from the vineyard crus Rizzi (from which a Riserva Vigna Boito is also born), Pajore, Nervo, Manzola, Giacone, and Bricco di Neive. An additional 20 hectares of the estate produce Langhe Nebbiolo, Dolceto D’Alba, Barbera D’Alba and Moscato D’Asti from vineyards in the nearby zone of Neviglie.

The Dellapiana children followed in their father’s footsteps, first with their educations at the University of Turin and then in joining the family winery operations. While daughter Jole is engaged in the financial management of the company, son Enrico’s degree in Viticulture and Oenology in 2004 allows for his management of all agricultural and winemaking aspects of the estate.

“Transparency of terroir and fruit clarity are my goal” states Enrico emphatically. The estate’s current sustainable practices are designed with an objective to produce wine completely respectful for the traditions of the zone and supporting Enrico’s desire to transfer as much character and personality of the terrain and varietal into each bottle produced. Enrico strives to make wines that are “alive”; clean, pure and not oak. His wine’s offer approachable fruit flavors and controlled tannins for appreciation when they are

young. A focus on balance and structure will allow these wines to age gracefully for decades.

His creative passions shine through in both his winemaking and artistic sensibilities. He is both a talented winemaker and a painter; Enrico both designs the Barbaresco Rizzi Riserva Boito labels for each vintage and also handpaints each individual label for the limited magnum production of this special wine.

It is impossible to visit this very special zone of Barbaresco without traversing the impressive, steep, vine-clad hills of Treiso and partaking in the warm hospitality of their peoples. Their protection of this idyllic environment and the validation of the region and its estates are essential guidelines for the continued growth and work of the Rizzi winery and the Dellapiana family.



**W**INES

Dolceto D’Alba  
Barbera D’Alba  
Langhe Nebbiolo  
Moscato D’Asti

Barbaresco “Rizzi”  
Barbaresco Rizzi Riserva “Boito”  
Barbaresco “Pajore”  
Barbaresco “Nervo”