



Working on a dream

My brother Fabio in 2010, during one of his runs through our beautiful hills, was stopped by an old farmer of our village who showed him a plant of table grapes of which he could not identify the variety, asking him if he could recognize it.

Intrigued by this very good and particular grape, we decided to plant a small vineyard with three varieties of Piedmontese table grapes that had almost disappeared: Barbarossa (the one indicated by our acquaintance), Luglienga and Verdeis.

From this episode arose in Fabio and me the desire to realize a desire that had been smoldering in us for some time: to recover old varieties of native wine grapes that had been lost or were at risk of extinction.



Trails in the Monferrato Hills



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The stakes within which to move that we imposed on ourselves were :

- Find a white grape variety and a red grape variety.
- They had to be autochthonous varieties cultivated, or that had been cultivated, in Piedmont.
- Above all, they had to have the potential to produce wines of great quality, capable of satisfying the characteristics that today's market demands.



Panorama from our vineyards



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A decisive help to our research came from the Piedmont Region which, thanks to a far-sighted work of preservation of bio diversity, carried out by the CNR Institute of Plant Virology in Grugliasco, has created a vineyard-database near the castle of Grinzane Cavour in which are preserved all the varieties of table and wine grapes that have been, or are still, cultivated in Piedmont and that could be identified. We also went several times to the Bonafous Experimental winery in Chieri, managed by the University of Turin, and thanks to their splendid availability we had the chance to taste many wines obtained with microvinifications from grapes recovered by the Piedmont Region, it seemed they had the potentiality to give the best wines.



CNR experimental vineyard images



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From this research process lasted 3-4 years and supported in the final decision by my son Vittorio, who in the meantime had started to work in the winery, and by oenologist Mario Ronco, our external consultant as well as Fabio's friend and schoolmate, the choice fell on Slarina, a red grape, and on Baratuciat, a white grape. Both of these varieties were almost completely abandoned since the "National Catalogue of Vine Varieties" showed only more than 2 hectares of Baratuciat and about 4/5 of Slarina.



Slarina



Baratuciat



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In 2016 we planted about 1 Ha. of Slarina and in 2019 1 Ha. of Baratuciat with a big financial and time commitment for our possibilities. We also began to increasingly characterize our winery as strongly focused on the native grape varieties of our area with a view to preserving bio diversity.



Vineyard "Bargero" Slarina

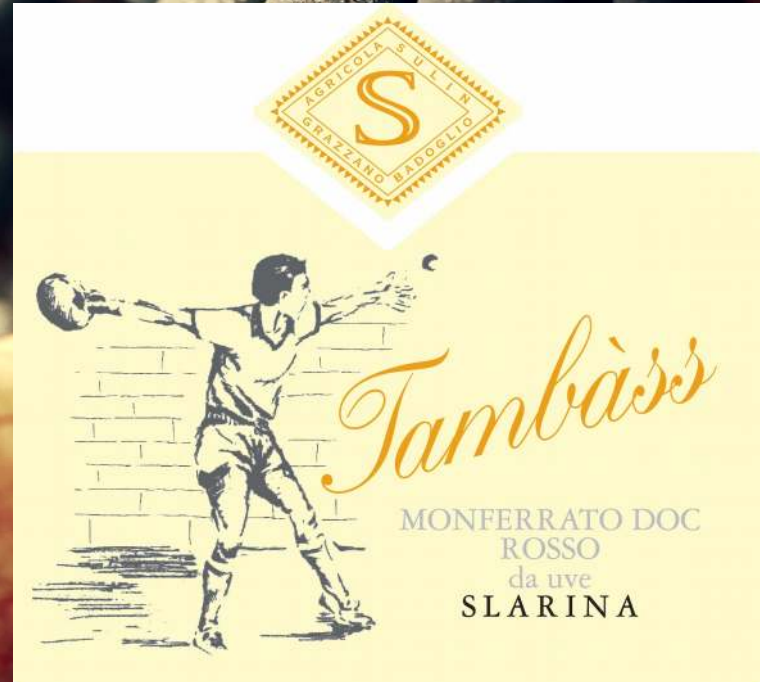
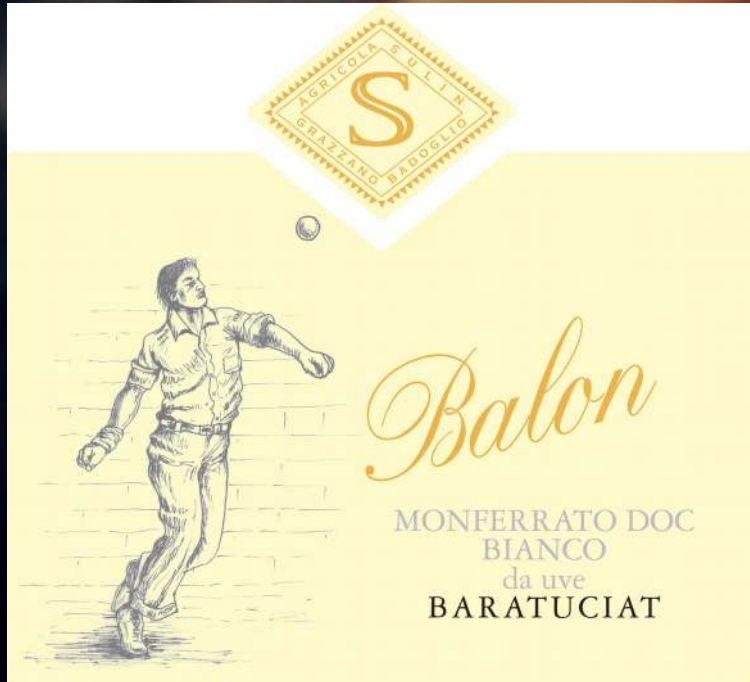


Vineyard "Francesco" Baratuciat



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We specially created a line of labels called "Antichi Giochi" (Ancient Games), in which every autochthonous wine is matched to an old game which was played in Monferrato. Just like games represent tradition and memory in sports, these wines are a memory of ancient aromas, tastes that come back from the past.





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In 2018 we harvested the first vintage of Slarina and decided not to put it on sale but to use all the wine obtained to make several tests, in large barrels, tonneaux and in steel in order to realize which was the most suitable processing. The same thing we did with a small quantity of Baratuciat which we obtained with the 2020 harvest.



Grape harvest in baskets



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What fascinates us the most is to explore almost unknown enological territories because there are practically no other wines and experiences about these two varieties from which we can get indications. That is why all the work in the vineyard and in the cellar is a continuous discovery, a continuous trying and modifying.

All these sacrifices and hard work are widely rewarded by the qualities and potentialities that are starting to emerge from the two wines and by the wonderful feeling of seeing a project grown from one's own work.

Even the many appreciations we continue to receive from our customers, more and more, who tasted and bought our wines are the best confirmation that the choice we made will give us wonderful satisfactions.



Fracchia Mauro



Fracchia Fabio



Fracchia Vittorio