

Davide Carlone

In his late teens, Davide Carlone (born 1968) worked a 1ha, old-vine Boca vineyard that was one of only three hectares still in existence. In this tiny appellation that once flourished, little remains of the once prolific vineyards that thrived pre-phylloxera. To understand how the landscape of Boca and neighboring Lessona, Gheme and Gattinara appeared in that era, simply replace these now mostly wooded hills with the vast vineyard extensions of the Langhe today. In fact, in that era the tables of Nebbiolo production were reversed with Upper Piedmont as the epicenter.



As local as local gets, Carlone –who has never been on a plane– has held tight to the tales of times past. Since the late 80’s, he has moonlighted to keep Boca alive, clearing woods and planting more and more Nebbiolo and Vespolina—a passion that predates those of a determined Swiss wine merchant and colleague who began to resurrect Le Piane in the late 1990’s.

Crafting natural wines, Carlone has been the guiding light of Boca, offering advice and growing for others while the appellation slowly gained traction. Today, he keeps a bit more of his grapes and finished wines for himself. The Croatina spends over a year in cask and the Boca nearly four, with minimal racking. Both Croatina and Nebbiolo are utterly unique expressions when grown in Boca, in part because the soils and bedrock are primarily volcanic porphyry, which is an appellation specific trait because the hills of Boca are the remnant of a once active volcano.

Boca DOC



Varietal/Blend: 85% Nebbiolo / 15% Vespolina
Farming Practices: practicing organic
Elevation / Exposure: 390–450m / SSW
Soil: clay with volcanic porphyry
Vine Training: double Guyot
Harvest Technique: by hand
Year Vines Were Planted: back to 1970
Yeast: ambient
Fermentation: spontaneous fermentation / 30–35 days maceration
Maturation: 3 months in stainless steel / two years in 25 hL Slovenian oak botti / 3 years in bottle
Vegan: yes
Sulfur: 80ppm total
Alcohol: 13%
Fined: cold stabilized
Filtered: no
Country: United States
Region: Piemonte
Subregion: Boca DOC
Vineyard: sites in and around Traversagna di Prato Sesia and Montalbano di Boca
Vineyard Size: 2 ha. (4,500 vines per ha)