

Decanter Feb/2012

Ladies of the Langhe

Times must be changing in Italian wine – there are more and more women managing family estates. Traditionally limited to administrative roles, women are increasingly taking responsibility in both vineyard and winery. Nowhere is this more evident than the Langhe, home to Barolo and Barbaresco.

Ian d'Agata meets the women behind six leading estates

Elisa Scavino

Paolo Scavino

AT THE WORLD-RENOWNED Paolo Scavino estate in Castiglione Falletto, Elisa Scavino, a viticulturalist at heart, increasingly helps her father Enrico to make the wines too. Older sister Enrica, in charge of PR, laughed when asked about Elisa getting more involved: 'I love her, but honestly, I don't know how my father manages: she's manically attentive to detail!' Enrico agrees: 'She's quite a character, arguing non-stop over things. But I am so happy to be working with my daughter that I count my blessings every day.'

Those blessings come at a price. Though Elisa is respectful of her father's immense experience, it's clear she'd like to do some things differently. For one, making a wine with longer skin contact, something the estate, one of the original modernists, was quick to let go. 'I don't want to change everything, and I don't want to turn us into traditionalists, but I would like to try longer maceration times, letting the fermentation temperature creep upwards.' But Enrico isn't convinced. Yet.

One to try: Paolo Scavino, Bric del Fiasc, Castiglione Falletto 2007 ★★★★★ 17.5

€62.17 **Justerini & Brooks**

Complex, spicy, oaky. Grippy tannins and lively acidity lift rich red fruit and earth flavours. Classy and classic but needs patience. **Drink:** 2016–2032. **Alc:** 14.5%

