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Ca' La Bionda

From *Veneto: The Land of Opportunity (Mar 2023)* by Eric Guido

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2021 Bianco Casal

92

Color: White

Drinking Window: **2024 - 2031**



Eric Guido, December 2022

The 2021 Bianco Casal is impossible to ignore, blossoming in the glass with a beguiling blend of crushed oyster shells and smoke that gives way to apricot and sesame. It fills the palate with silky textural fruits quickly complicated by saline minerals and savory, exotic spices swirling throughout. The mouth is left watering as the 2021 finishes lightly structured yet full of tension, leaving behind green apple and lemon oil notes that linger on and on. This is a drop-dead gorgeous Bianco Casal, an equal-part blend of Trebbiano di Soave and Garganega from vines over seventy years old.

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2021 Valpolicella Classico

90

Color: Red

Drinking Window: **2022 - 2025**



Eric Guido, December 2022

Remarkably pretty in the glass, the 2021 Valpolicella Classico tempts the senses with a whiff of crushed stone before evolving into an aromatic blend of violets, lavender and blackberry. This is softly textured and quite mineral in style, with a beautiful purity of fruit and rosy inner florals. The 2021 finishes classically dry with gentle tannins that add lovely punctuation.

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2020 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Casalvegri

91

Color: Red

Drinking Window: **2022 - 2025** ^

Eric Guido, December 2022

Perfumed in the glass, the 2020 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Casalvegri blossoms with a blend of dusty rose, dried strawberries and stone hints. This model of purity and elegance is silky and refined with crisp red fruits and sweet inner spice. The 2020 finishes with a gentle tug of tannin, sour citrus and clove while perfectly resetting the palate. This charming vintage of Casalvegri may not be as long-lived as the 2019, but it impresses with its sheer drinkability.

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2019 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso

88

Malavoglia

Color: Red

Drinking Window: **2022 - 2026** ^

Eric Guido, December 2022

The 2019 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso Malavoglia is dark and even a bit murky in the glass, mixing crushed rock with steeped plums and savory herbs. It greets the palate with a pleasant inner sweetness contrasted by salty mineral tones as ripe red fruits cascade throughout. The 2019 finishes lightly structured and long, lingering on notes of raspberry and clove. The balance within is fantastic, but the bouquet gives me pause. This was tasted from two separate bottles with identical results.

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2017 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico

92

Color: Red

Drinking Window: **2025 - 2034** ^

Eric Guido, December 2022

The 2017 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico is youthfully understated in the glass, with nuances of sweet spice and mint complementing a hint of dusty cherry. This exceptionally pure and energetic style holds its power in reserve while impressing with a blend of vividly ripe red fruits motivated by brilliant acidity. Its minerality comes through in the finish, along with gently grippy tannins and inner rose tones. The 2017 tapers off potent yet incredibly fresh. Even with how pretty this is today, a few years of cellaring are recommended.

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2017 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Ravazzol

94+

Color: Red

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2035



Eric Guido, December 2022

The 2017 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Ravazzol entices with a delicate mix of dried strawberries, rose petals, worn leather and crushed rocks. This smooths over the palate with silky textural fruits and exotic spices. Pretty inner florals form toward the close. There's a bit of a candied quality to the finish, perfectly balanced by residual acids and youthfully grippy tannins, as the 2017 tapers off, leaving a staining of primary concentration that lingers. Ca' La Bionda did a fantastic job of dealing with the conditions of this dry, warm vintage.

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2015 Recioto della Valpolicella Classico Le Tordare

88

Color: Sweet Red

Drinking Window: 2023 - 2027



Eric Guido, December 2022

The 2015 Recioto della Valpolicella Classico Le Tordare is understated with dusty rose and medicinal cherry, slightly marred by a hint of acetone. That said, the combination of ultra-ripe red fruits, exotic spices and zesty acidity makes it a total pleasure on the palate. The 2015 finishes incredibly fresh, more like juice than wine, leaving raspberry and mint lingering. Unfortunately, this vintage of Le Tordare will not be for everyone due to the bouquet.

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