

2021 Valpolicella, Classico, Ca' La Bionda, Veneto, Italy

5th May 2023

“MoneyWeek Review by Matthew Jukes”

We have reached the mid-point of Spring, so in anticipation of warmer weather and Summer looming, I have found you one of the most deliciously gluggable reds I have tasted in years. Valpolicella is a well-known style of Italian red wines beloved by trattorias and pizzerias up and down the country. Few realise just how vast a category of red wines Valpol is. From inexpensive supermarket plonk costing a couple of cents a litre to mind-blowing Amarones at the top of the pile, which would require a quick call to your bank manager to secure funds for a purchase, the range is staggering. La Bionda's version is the definitive Spring/Summer red wine, given it is an ethereal creature; gossamer-smooth, seamless, thrillingly delicious and blessed with a raspberry and red cherry theme. The whoosh of welcoming fruit is inlaid with faint liquorice and wild herb details, ensuring sophisticated palates will find as much to admire here as thirsty beginners. If you are serving spicier fare, chill it a few degrees, and if you are looking for a more robust red to serve with heartier dishes, then L&S has stock of this heroic fellow – **2017 Caburnio, Tenuti Monteti (£20.95, case price £18.75)**. I cannot think of a Super-Tuscan-shaped red that weighs in under £19 with as much swaggering bravado, incredible intensity and grandness of flavour as this beauty. I imagine that some of you may doubt that a wine of this price tag can genuinely deliver the goods, but believe me, this is a fantastic find, and it will take your breath away!

2021 Valpolicella, Classico, Ca' La Bionda, Veneto, Italy (£16.95, reduced to £15.75 each by the case, Lea & Sandeman tel. 020 7244 0522 &).