

Ca' La Bionda

There's a lot to like about the new releases from Ca' La Bionda. The traditional Amarone and single vineyard Ravazzol continue to impress with a combination of energy, depth and savory character. The same is true of the Ripasso.

However, what Ca' La Bionda is really about is Valpolicella. Winemaker Alessandro Castellani firmly believes that Valpolicella could be the Burgundy of Italy.

While most of the world thinks of Valpolicella as a fruity wine with near-term appeal, Ca' La Bionda aims to deliver a wine with a ten-to-twenty-year lifespan. There's no *appassimento* used in the Valpolicella lineup; residual sugars all finish below one gram per liter, while maturation takes place entirely in neutral 30-hectoliter barrels.

The winery and vineyards are all located in Marano di Valpolicella within the Classico zone, with elevations spanning 150 to 300 meters and most on steep inclines. As I drove along the restored stone walls and terraced vineyards, Nicola Castellani (Alberto's brother and partner) pointed out how the stones used in each section show the difference in soil types from one parcel to the next. This, in many ways, is the inspiration behind their single-vineyard wines. Ca' La Bionda, along with a handful of other estates, represents the future of Valpolicella.

From Veneto: A Constant State of Evolution (Feb 2024) by Eric Guido

2019 Corvinone

Color: Red

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Drinking Window: 2026 - 2032

Eric Guido, December 2023

A beguiling blend of crushed wild berries, violets and lavender meets complicating hints of white pepper as the 2019 Corvinone blossoms in the glass. Soothingly round and vividly fresh, this impresses with its rose-tinged red and blue fruits, along with a core of crunchy mineral tones and juicy acidity that holds it all together. The 2019 leaves the palate stained in primary concentration as fine-grained tannins tug at the cheeks, leaving the mouth watering for more. Hands off of this youthful darling—it will require patience to show its full potential.