



comunicazione

Antonio Galloni vinous

Tommasi

There was no shortage of standouts during this year's tasting at Tommasi. The inaugural vintage of the Valpolicella Classico Superiore De Buris takes the category to a whole new level. Fruit for the De Buris hails from high elevations in La Groletta, in Sant'Ambragio. The long-awaited 2015 Riserva Co' Florian (there was no 2014) is a wine for the ages and easily the most impressive example I've yet tasted, while the 2019 Amarone shows the radiance and depth of the vintage. The gastronomic Valpolicella Classico Superiore Rafael isn't a blockbuster, nor should it be, and is a wine that I'd bring to the table any night of the week. Last but not least, the Lugana range continues to improve, with the Lugana Le Farmaci representing amazing value and the Riserva pacing well ahead of most of its peers. Tommasi remains family-owned and operated, and while they have grown by leaps and bounds, expanding into Lombardy, Sicily, Basilicata, Puglia, Tuscany, Friuli and Orvieto, quality remains exceptionally high.

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

Reviews

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2022 Lugana Le Farmaci

Release Price: \$20

Color: White

90

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2027 ^

Eric Guido, December 2023

The 2022 Lugana Le Farmaci is remarkably fresh, with a vivid blend of green apples and minty herbs complemented by sweet spice. This opens with a pleasant inner sweetness offset by crunchy mineral tones, displaying an attractive mix of candied citrus and ripe green melon. It finishes with medium length and youthful tension as a salty flourish calls the taster back to the glass.

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2020 Lugana Riserva Le Farmaci

Color: White

93

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2030 ^

Eric Guido, December 2023

The 2020 Lugana Riserva Le Farmaci lifts from the glass with a tropical flourish of citrus and flowers, as hints of nectarine and sweet spice form the core of its seductive bouquet. Soothingly round and supple, this finds lovely contrasts through a core of sour lemon-lime and saline minerals, coming across as ripe in style yet perfectly refined. The 2020 tapers off classically dry, with tremendous length. What a beauty. The Lugana Riserva is refined in a combination of stainless steel and 25% French barriques.

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2021 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Rafael

Release Price: \$20

Color: Red

91

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2027 ^

Eric Guido, December 2023

The 2021 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Rafael is wonderfully fresh, with a perfumed blend of dried roses, violets and chalk dust giving way to wild blueberries. This sweeps across the palate, lifted and refined, with silky textures and juicy red berry fruits that swirl throughout. It tapers off classically dry, with a gentle staining of tannins and a bump of acidity that keeps the taster looking back to the glass for more.

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2020 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso

Release Price: \$25

Color: Red

93

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2029 ^

Eric Guido, December 2023

The 2020 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso opens with a rich blend of autumnal spices and dried black cherries, complemented by a dusting of cocoa. This smooths over the palate with glycerol textures and ultra-ripe wild berry fruits, contrasted by a core of zesty acidity. It tapers off with tremendous length and potency, leaving a staining of primary concentration and a coating of sweet tannins that frame the experience well, without slowing its momentum—a testament to the importance of the Ripasso category.

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2017 Valpolicella Classico Superiore De Buris

Release Price: \$90

Color: Red

94

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2030 ^

Eric Guido, December 2023

The 2017 Valpolicella Classico Superiore De Buris is remarkably pretty, with a burst of crushed black cherries and minty herbs complicated by hints of sweet smoke. This is a model of purity, with sleek textures and racy acidity ushering in masses of red berry fruits that slowly saturate. It leaves the mouth watering as a tinge of sour orange lingers under an air of blue and purple florals, and silty tannins add a pleasant grip. The Valpolicella Classico Superiore De Buris is a beauty, produced without any *appassimento* and aged entirely in 30-hectoliter Slavonian oak. This is a whole new level for Valpolicella.

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2019 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico

Release Price: **\$80**

Color: **Red**

95

Drinking Window: **2025 - 2038** ^

Eric Guido, December 2023

The 2019 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico entices with a darkly alluring bouquet of crushed stones and dusty violet florals, accentuating notes of blackberries and hints of candied orange. This is sleek and racy in style, with lifted textures and polished red and blue fruits that flow across a stream of lively acidity. Remaining remarkably fresh through the finish, it tapers off with a confectionary air, leaving a resonance of violet pastille and crunchy tannins to linger on.

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2015 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Riserva Ca' Florian

Release Price: **\$130**

Color: **Red**

96

Drinking Window: **2026 - 2040** ^

Eric Guido, December 2023

The 2015 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Riserva Ca' Florian is a total pleasure on the nose, as a rush of sweet cinnamon, clove and vanilla bean embellishes dried black cherries and hints of cocoa powder. Deeply textural and dense, this excels with a silken wave of decadent red fruits offset by a bitter twang of dark chocolate. Brisk acidity maintains an energetic feel as the 2015 finishes structured and classically dry, with hints of spiced citrus and violet inner florals that linger on and on. This is a Riserva Ca' Florian for the ages. Of note, there was no 2014 produced.

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