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a wine blog

The Best of Italian Wine: Tasting the Gambero Rosso Tre Bicchieri

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WINE REVIEWS



As a wine writer and critic, I am frequently asked to name my favorite wine. It's an annoying question, like asking an art critic what is their favorite painting, but it invariably comes from an innocent curiosity and enthusiasm, so I try not to roll my eyes when asked. Instead, I demur, and say that while I can't name a single wine, my best answer to the spirit of the question is that if I had to drink the wines from just one country for the rest of my life, that country would, without question, be Italy.

2019 Bortolomiol “Brut Ius Naturae” Prosecco Superiore, Conegliano Valdobbiadene, Veneto, Italy

Near colorless in the glass with just a hint of greenish-gold highlighting its very fine bubbles, this wine smells of white flowers and green apple and citrus. In the mouth, a moderately coarse mousse delivers crisp and clean flavors of green apple and white flowers with a hint of citrus pith. Ethereal and effortless, with just a hint of salinity on the finish to add complexity. 11.5% alcohol.

Score: between 9 and 9.5. Cost: \$21.



2019 Biancavigna “Rive di Soligo Extra Brut” Prosecco Superiore, Conegliano Valdobbiadene, Veneto, Italy

Near colorless in the glass with a hint of green and very fine bubbles, this wine smells of white flowers and star fruit. In the mouth, lime and green melon, wet slate and white flowers have a crisp, lean quality to them. A moderately silky mousse caresses the palate and leaves the mouth feeling refreshed as notes of lime zest and green apple linger in the finish. 11.5% alcohol. **Score: around 9.**

2019 Borgoluce “Rive di Collalto Extra Brut” Prosecco Superiore, Conegliano Valdobbiadene, Veneto, Italy

Essentially colorless in the glass, with very fine bubbles, this wine smells of JuicyFruit gum and salty lemon pith. In the mouth, wonderfully saline flavors of white flowers and seawater are borne on a voluminous, silky mousse. Delicate and very refined, this wine has a subtlety and faint floral quality that is quite alluring. Saline notes of green apple linger in the finish. 11.5% alcohol.

Score: around 9.5. Cost: \$32.



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