

AZIENDA AGRICOLA MUSELLA Amarone della Valpolicella Riserva

We've discovered a modern-day Garden of Paradise at Azienda Agricola Musella, not far from Verona. This inspiring biodynamic estate is a regional treasure, with some 1,000 acres of wild forestland, fruit and olive trees, and hillside vineyards dedicated to native grapes Corvina, Corvinone and Rondinella. Since 1995, the Pasqua Di Bisceglie family has worked to return this grand estate to its noble viticultural past. Musella's biodynamic credentials are serious. Certified by Demeter, the family works tirelessly to ensure that the natural beauty and health of their 60 vineyard acres remains in balance. Today, Musella wines are the true benchmarks for naturally made Valpolicella and Amarone.

WINERY: Azienda Agricola Musella

WINEMAKER: Enrico Raber

ESTABLISHED: 1995

REGION: ITALIA • Veneto • San Martino Buon Albergo

APPELLATION: Amarone della Valpolicella DOCG

BLEND: 70% Corvina and Corvinone, 20% Rondinella, 10% Oseleta

VINEYARDS: The estate manages three vineyard areas, named 'Monte del Drago,' 'II Perlar' and 'Palazzina.' All face west/southwest, and sit at altitude. Soils are varied: Monte del Drago combines white clay with "tufo," a type of gritty, porous limestone; II Perlar has iron-rich, red clay soils; and Palazzina offers red clay and tufo.

AGE OF VINES: 20-50 years

WINEMAKING: Hand-harvested. A selection of the healthiest grapes are dried (appassimento) on platforms in a naturally ventilated loft for three-four months. Grapes are crushed; then fermented on indigenous yeasts at low temperatures in tank. Aged in French oak casks and 'botti,' from 700L to 3.5HL, for 24 months; then a minimum of 12 months in bottle.

TASTING IMPRESSIONS: Aromas of cinnamon, black cherry jam, light vanilla, licorice. Velvety and refined; flavors of tangy cherries and plums.

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Grilled pork sausages; red-wine based beef stew with herbs; aged sheep's cheeses; dark chocolate (70%)

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