

Sarah Heller MW's top Chianti Classico wines by score in 2025



Badia a Coltibuono Chianti Classico Riserva 2020

Tasted a year on, Badia's classic Riserva maintains its balance of refinement and generous perfume. The nose opens with black tea and Solomon's seal, joined by red cherry fruit of a striking primary purity. On the palate, gentle wafts of rose petals mingle with the fruit with a pleasing petrichor savour. A rounded lip of glycerol eases the entry, allowing each flavour to unfurl in turn. The tannins are springy and well-lubricated, their edges filed down over 24 months in French and Austrian casks, while bright acidity washes the finish clean.

95



Badia a Coltibuono Chianti Classico Riserva Cultus 2019

The Riserva Cultus, conceived by Roberto Stucchi Prinetti to highlight the diversity of native grapes in Chianti Classico, seems to be going through a more subdued phase, tasted a year on. Aromatic finesse remains, with a nose that is polished and cedary, reflecting its maturation in both barriques and botti, offering tones of palo santo and styrax layered over leather, fine tobacco and dried red cherry fruit. On the palate, however, the acidity feels less energetic than hoped, the transparency of the fruit revealing a savoury quietness at the core. The tannins are still a pleasure, suedelike in texture with a firm yet gentle grip.

95