

GERARDO CESARI **Ripasso Valpolicella, Classico, MARA**

“Mara”, the name of a maternal grandmother, is a classic Valpolicella Superiore di Ripasso. It is a wine of experience and tradition. Few wines are capable of expressing their history, their territory and their production technique so distinctly. It is produced with a method that is so special as to place it among the most curious and interesting of wines. This Valpolicella is refermented in the month of January on dregs of Amarone, from which it acquires part of its body and fragrance.

Production

The “Ripasso” technique has a history of use in Valpolicella, and consists of refermenting the wines of the same year’s vintage or that of previous years on fermented dregs of the dried grapes used to produce Amarone. Essentially, this serves to strengthen the Valpolicella, which is made from a blend of grapes consisting of about 70-75% Corvina Veronese, 20% Rondinella and 5% Molinara, and make it more robust, drawing what is left from these noble dregs. The refermentation lasts 15/18 days and the Valpolicella wine that has thus been “made over” acquires colour, structure, fragrance and tannins, as well as about 1-1.5 percent more in alcoholic level than the original wine. After it is finally racked off in February and March and has undergone its malolactic fermentation, the wine is left to mature for about 12 months in barrels of Slavonian oak (80%) and French oak tonneaux (20%). Ageing is completed by resting in bottles for almost 6 months.

Organoleptic description

Already from the first olfactory examination the characteristic notes of ripe fruit, fruit preserve and cherries can be perceived. Its incredible persistence is striking: it lingers on the palate, where it opens in all its power with a warm, elegant body.

Pairing and serving

Best matched with game, grilled and stewed meats. Serve at a temperature of 18-20°C. Uncork at least two hours before pouring.

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Gerardo Cesari Mara Valpolicella Ripasso 2016

Rated 91, David Lawrason, WineAlign, September 04, 2018

"This is a very fine, complex, even-keeled, indeed poised ripasso that doesn't let alcohol or sweetness take over. There is generous stewed cherry and a hint of raisin on the nose set nicely amid forest pine, leather and chocolaty/marzipan notes. It is full bodied, smooth yet buoyed by very good acidity. Alcohol at 13.% is very in-tune. Some minerality on the finish and the length is excellent."

Gerardo Cesari Mara Valpolicella Ripasso 2015

Rated 91, James Suckling, June 25, 2018

"Aromas of blueberries and raspberries with hints of vanilla. Medium to full body, juicy tannins and a pure finish. Drink now."

Cesari Mara Valpolicella Ripasso 2015

Rated 89, Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, January 2, 2018

"Aromas suggest black-skinned berry, cooking spice and underbrush. The succulent palate delivers black cherry, black pepper and a hint of bitter almond. Enjoy through 2022."

Cesari Mara Valpolicella Ripasso 2015

Rated 89, Michael Godel, WineAlign, August 31, 2017

"Cesari's Mara Ripasso give thanks and praise to a vintage full of ripe fruit and clearly capable of standing alone. The contact with Amarone over several weeks only adds to the fruitiness and the silky texture. Oak cask aging is a six to 12 month process for the Mara but I'd be surprised if this spent much more than a half year in wood. It's so clean, punctual and seems to avoid any sense of milkshake thickness or almond nut bitterness. Traditional and expected yes but the clarity and modernity is impressive, even if the intensity stays short of exciting. It's Ripasso after all so what you've got is what you get. Drink 2017-2020."

Cesari Mara Valpolicella Ripasso 2015

Rated 88, David Lawrason, WineAlign, August 30, 2017

"This is a deeply coloured, youthful ruby hued ripasso with soft, ripe aromas of black cherry, vanilla and vague foresty spice. It is full bodied, plush and almost velvety on the palate, with generous fruit, but not a lot of complexity. Tannins are fine, and the length is good to very good. Very pleasant but missing some intensity."

Cesari Mara Valpolicella Ripasso 2014

Rated 88, Lindsay Groves DipWSET, March 30, 2017

"A wonderfully flavourful ripasso with black cherry, blackberry, stewed red fruits and sweet spice notes. Dry and medium bodied with good concentration, bright acidity and moderate tannins. Well defined and great value, providing more complexity and stuffing compared to similarly priced ripassos."

Cesari Mara Valpolicella Ripasso 2014

Rated 88, Steve Thurlow, WineAlign, May 9, 2016

"This is a ruby red with fragrant aromas of prune and blackberry fruit with some floral and spice notes. It is midweight to full bodied and juicy with a firm tannin finish. Soft balancing acidity make it very drinkable. Try with bbq meats. Best 2016 to 2019."