

## CASTELLO DI AMA

### *Wine Enthusiast Chianti Classico Article & Reviews by Kerin O'Keefe March - April 2020*

#### **10 Top-Scoring Chianti Classicos for \$35 and Less** **March 11, 2020**

From the rolling hills of central Tuscany comes arguably one of Italy's most famous wines, Chianti Classico. The Chianti Classico Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita (DOCG) is surrounded by the larger [Chianti DOCG](#) and while both produce Sangiovese-based wine, there are some [very important differences](#) between the two appellations.

Chianti Classico bottlings, which always carry an emblem of a black rooster, must be made from at least 80% [Sangiovese](#) grapes (10% more than Chianti) and the producers cannot use any white grapes. Chianti Classico also uses different aging tiers for its wines. Annata, or standard, wines must be aged for at least one year; Riserva wines for at least two years; and Gran Selezione for at least 30 months.

These pedigreed reds don't have to be pricey affairs. Here are our latest Chianti Classico reviews that prove you can find excellent quality at attainable prices.



#### **2017 Castello di Ama Chianti Classico Ama**

Rose, mature red berry and wild herb aromas mingle with a balsamic whiff of eucalyptus. The delicious, polished palate boasts a restrained elegance, delivering juicy Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and white pepper alongside refined tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced and lends just enough tension. Drink through 2023.

**(Editor's Choice, 95 points)**



## *Wine Enthusiast Reviews by Kerin O'Keefe - April 2020*

### **2016 Castello di Ama San Lorenzo Chianti Classico Gran Selezione**

A blend of 80% Sangiovese, 13% Merlot and 7% Malvasia Nera, this opens with aromas of black- and red-skinned berry, pipe tobacco, tilled earth and a whiff of new leather. Elegant and taut, the palate shows tension, verve and finesse, delivering juicy Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice and hints of French oak. It's balanced, with polished, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2021–2036.

**(Cellar Selection, 96 points)**

### **2016 Castello di Ama Vigneto Bellavista Chianti Classico Gran Selezione**

Aromas of black-skinned fruit, dark spice and sunbaked soil mingle with whiffs of camphor and forest floor on this enticing blend of 80% Sangiovese and 20% Malvasia Nera. The elegant, structured palate delivers black plum, ripe black cherry, star anise and crushed mint while firm, polished tannins provide support and finesse. It's well balanced, with bright acidity, while an earthy hint of game gives the finish depth. Drink 2023–2036.

**(96 points)**

### **2016 Castello di Ama Vigneto La Casuccia Gran Selezione**

Mature black-skinned berry, rose, tilled soil and a balsamic whiff of eucalyptus shape the nose. The bright, elegant palate has energy, tension and depth, delivering ripe wild cherry, red plum, licorice and crushed botanical herb. Taut, fine-grained tannins lend polished support while fresh acidity keeps it balanced. A gorgeous wine. Drink through 2031.

**(Cellar Selection, 97 points)**