

"Verdicchio has never been more exciting than it is today. Benchmark producers continue to raise the bar; every year, overall quality increases. As I mentioned previously, it's difficult to grasp what the actual landscape of the region is really like, as the hills of Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi are much steeper than one might expect, the Adriatic Sea is much closer, and the ventilating winds from the mountains and the north are a constant. When we add in the varied exposures and sedimentary soils rich in limestone and clay, the result is an ideal location for Verdicchio."

One of the things holding Verdicchio back is also what makes it one of Italy's great wines: its aging capacity. In their youth, Verdicchios are very appealing up front, full of energy, a bit wiry and the perfect pairing for just about any kind of seafood or white meat on a summer day. Still, these attributes don't always communicate true potential. As a result, most Verdicchio is consumed long before the real magic starts to happen, when wines gain in volume and depth over five to eight years, taking on richer personas as notes of almond paste and ripe, green-tinged fruits are perfectly offset by the grapes' inherent high acidity and minerality. When compared to the short list of other Italian white varieties that communicate such importance through aging, such as Trebbiano Abruzzese, Carricante and Fiano, the price for the average bottle of Verdicchio is often an unbelievable value." - Eric Guido



"The Garofoli winery is most closely associated with Verdicchio. This house has mastered both red and white wine production while maintaining an exceptional level of quality, despite its annual output of two million bottles. The historic winery is located in Castelfidardo, within the Rosso Conero growing zone, which has functioned as a hub for travelers and wine export over the past five generations. Here, the estate reds and sparkling wines are produced. These wines made using Metodo Classico (méthode champenoise) have been bottled by Garofoli since 1954, proving Verdicchio's ability to excel in sparkling form. One sip of the estate 2006 Brut Gran Riserva proves they can stand the test of time. Closer to the Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi growing zone is the second winery managed by the Garofoli family, Serra de' Conti. Here, they produce the lineup of still Verdicchios. The iconic Podium focuses on purity without using oak in the aging regimen, and the oft-forgotten Riserva Serra Fiorese, made in a more international style, are worth checking out for fans of the variety."

Garofoli "Podium" Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore DOC 2020 -

The 2020 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Podium is youthfully inward and coy at first, with a dusty florality and hints of cardamom in the glass. Swirling unlocks nuances of sage and rosemary, ginger and hints of smoky cracked stones, yet its fruit, leaning toward apricot, is still quite shy. Today, this impresses more on the palate, deeply savory and mineral in style, with a herbal twang and sour melon which place it firmly into the green fruit spectrum, all brilliantly offset by a saturating salty sensation. The palate is left reeling with spicy tension; the 2020 finishes structured, leaving the cheeks puckered and the mouth watering thanks to a late-arriving bump of zesty acidity. This will take some time to show its best, but it will be time well spent. **93+ points**



Garofoli "Podium" Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore DOC 2019 - At each tilt of the glass, the 2019 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Podium reveals something new. At first, it shows gingery spice, white smoke and yellow flower notes, then it evolves into sour melon, young mango and wet stone aromas. Finally, it turns flinty, with crushed apples and raw almonds. The silky textures are almost glycerol-like, even though it is seemingly weightless in feel. It hovers above the senses while being propelled by vibrant acidity and saturating mineral tones, as ripe orchard fruits and inner florals cascade across the palate. It leaves you with an achingly youthful impression, the combination of structure and lingering notes of bitter grapefruit rind and granny smith apples. **The 2019 Podium is a classic in the making; and while it can be enjoyed today, the best is yet to come. 94 points**

Garofoli "Podium" Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore DOC 2014 - Historical Re-Release.

The acidity and freshness of this recent bottle of Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Podium shows more promise for the 2014, even as its bouquet still shows more maturity and an almost-blue cheese character. I love the mineral twang through the finale. I may have underrated this a bit. **90 points**