

2017 Filipa Pato Roleta Russa Bical (William Wouters)

Rating	Release Price	Drink Date	Producer: Filipa Pato
89	NA	2020 - 2022	From: Portugal , Beiras , Bairrada
Reviewed by	Issue Date	Source	Color: White
Mark Squires	28th Feb 2020	Issue 247 End of February 2020, The Wine Advocate	Type: Table

The 2017 Roleta Russa Bical (William Wouters) was aged for two years in large (2,000 liter) neutral Austrian oak vats. It comes in at just 10.5% alcohol. The name is "Russian Roulette" in English. Wouters said that it was a different approach for Bical, and it turned into a wine with "crunchy acidity." As you might expect from the description and the stats, this isn't a fat or very ripe wine, yet I would add that it somehow coats the palate beautifully. It reminds me of how Mosel Rieslings with very low alcohol levels still seem to project good mouthfeel. This feels bigger than it is. Mostly, though, it projects freshness and fun, with the wood coloring the Bical just a bit (and perhaps helping the wine flesh out a bit). The acidity creates some tension. There is a touch of tartness. This is a great food wine, easy to drink and refreshing. It would go well by itself on a warm day as well. It is a style I like a lot. If you're looking for sweet and rich, well, that's not this. How long will it last? Well, there isn't a long track record. It has good acidity to help preserve it. It seems like it should be fine for a few years. After that, let's take it in stages. I won't be surprised if it does better, but let's see. It runs around 20 euros in Portugal.

Sweetness: Dry

Type: Table

Variety: Bical