

SHANGRI-LA MAGIC FROM AO YUN, AND A BOJO ROCKSTAR COMES OF AGE: WEEKLY TASTING REPORT (MARCH 15-21)

Thursday, March 23, 2023

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In Tuscany, Tastings Editor Jo Cooke continued to rate wines from the Italian region of Veneto, which is best known for its Valpolicella reds and Soave whites. Highlights from the past week's tastings included two Amarones from Zenato, one of the region's top producers: the [Zenato Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2018](#) and [Zenato Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Sergio Zenato Riserva 2017](#). Both wines come from Zenato's vineyards, in the heart of the Valpolicella Classico designated zone.

The Riserva 2017 is made using the local grape varieties corvina and rondinella, selected from the oldest Zenato-owned vineyards in the village of Sant'Ambrogio and aged in Slovenian oak casks for four years before release. It's a stunning wine, offering a wide array of aromas that seem to grow and grow in the glass followed by a superbly structured palate and endless length. It's undoubtedly one of the region's top reds, showing the highest level of quality consistently year after year.



Zenato made two full-bodied, dense and focused Amarones that we rated for this report.

The Amarone 2018 is another standard bearer for quality, from the same vineyard area. This is also from corvina and rondinella grapes, but two additional permitted red varieties for Valpolicella reds – oseleta and croatina – are blended into the mix. It's aged for three years in large Slavonian oak casks, and is another example of superb winemaking, exuding harmony, character and warmth.

As is the case with most Amarones, these wines are high in alcohol – 17 percent for the 2017 Riserva and 16.5 percent for the 2018 non-Riserva, but don't let that put you off. If these figures weren't written on the label you would probably never guess.

– Zekun Shuai, Senior Editor; Stuart Pigott, Senior Editor; Jo Cooke, Tastings Editor

The list of wines below is comprised of bottles tasted and rated during the past week by James Suckling and the other tasters at [JamesSuckling.com](#). They include many latest releases not yet available on the market, but which will be available soon. Some will be included in upcoming tasting reports.

Note: You can sort the wines below by country, vintage, score and alphabetically by winery name. You can also search for specific wines in the search bar.