



ZENATO®

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Families with a capital "R"

Members of the prestigious Famiglie Storiche association (formerly Le Famiglie Storiche dell'Amarone) do not show their wines during the presentation in the Gran Guardia palace, in the central Piazza Brà, assuming that tasting unfinished wines is pointless. Until recently, it was an open secret that after the official tasting of wines from the consortium, many wine critics made pilgrimages to the legendary Antica Bottega del Vino (owned by Famiglie Storiche since 2010) to taste the current vintages of Amarone produced by the Families. This was the subject of a dispute between the association and the consortium, and the authorities did not welcome journalists' visits to the wine bar. Fortunately, the hatchet has been buried and although Thirteen's wines are still missing from Gran Guardia, no one looks askance at visits to Bottega anymore. On February 2, I also went there to try what family wineries had prepared in the eclectic interiors of the new *chambre séparée* in the *Scudo di Francia* alley.

The association includes a group of the leading, most recognizable and largest producers from Valpolicella: Tommasi, Tedeschi, Zenato, Allegrini, Masi, Speri, Guerrieri Rizzardi and Tenuta Sant' Antonio. There are also less noisy, but excellent wineries: Begali, Brigaldara, Musella, Torre D'Orti and Venturini. The current president of Famiglie Storiche is Pierangelo Tommasi. During the February tasting, the Families presented one label of wine from the 2011-2020 vintages, which, let me add, were very diverse in terms of quality and climatic conditions. Nevertheless, these wines from historical producers have now hit the market.

94 Zenato, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Riserva, Sergio Zenato 2017

Essential deep amarone with juicy, ripe fruit and smooth tannins. Well integrated, with a subtle accent of strongly roasted coffee. Powerful but harmonious, long and pure.