



ZENATO®

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## VINBLADET

# Lugana has growing pains

The water level in Lake Garda is one of the many testimonies to the long drought that Italy has lived through. The excursion boats still carry tourists and locals around the lake, but there are worried mines on land about the situation. And with good reason, as has been shown not least in the Romagna region. Because when the rain finally came, it brought destruction with it. Cities such as Faenza, Imola and Forlì, from which Vinblad et has for a number of years reported from *Vini ad Arte*, are badly affected by floods and mudslides. Something similar has not been reported from the Garda region, but rain does, and it started when Vinblad et took part in a study trip to the white wine district of Lugana and the larger area for wines with the Garda DOC appellation.

Neither Lugana nor the Garda appellation are nondescript leaves in Vinblad et. See the articles "[Seductive white wines](#)" 21/4 2018 and 4/7 2022, "[The time of tourist wines is over](#)" 10/3 2023 and "[Wine's wonderful lightness is found at Lake Garda](#)" 13/3 2023. So here we must focus on the producers who were visited over three days in the southern town of Peschiera del Garda.



Zenato's cellars contain both steel tanks, wooden barrels and - as demonstrated here by Alberto Zenato - amphorae.

### Azienda Zenato

If the saying "small is beautiful" has anything to do with it, then Zenato demonstrates that big can also be beautiful. Not only are the well-maintained buildings and surroundings a feast for the eyes. Including a more than 100-year-old mulberry tree, which attracts admiring glances. The wines are also among the best of the many that are tasted.

Alberto Zenato showed around the large, embarrassingly clean cellars, which contain both steel tanks, wooden barrels and amphorae for the wine from his own 65 hectares of fields in Lugana plus purchased grapes. There is room for 3 million bottles, so the capacity is not yet fully utilized, but the district has growing pains. According to the Consorzio per la Tutela del Lugana, which was formed in 1990, there are now 210 producers with a total of 2560 hectares of vineyards and in 2022 a production of almost 28 million bottles corresponding to 209,181 hl. For comparison, around 38,000 hl were produced in 2006. The success is understandable, because when Lugana's wines are at their best, they are suitably dry and fresh, crisp yet with some body.

Zenato, like almost all Italian producers, produces sparkling wines. Even if quite a lot of people should not do it. However, a 2008 *Classico Zero dosage* stands the distance quite nicely. Still fresh in contrast to the 2009 vintage, which is also being pulled up. Among the still versions of Lugana, the 2020 *Lugana Riserva* is very good, but also quite elitist, since it was only released in 30,000 bottles. The dessert wine *Rigoletto* (Bianco Passito Veneto IGT) is the sweet end to a pleasant visit. Which, another time, will hopefully also include Zenato's other wineries, including Tenuta Costalunga in Valpolicella and Podere Prospero in Bolgheri.