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2014 Zenato Valpolicella Superiore, Verona, Italy

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This 'Superior' Valpolicella red comes in a pretty dark red color, really, quite nearly black to the core and a bright but dark red to the rim.

The nose strikes by its dominant spicy and fruity aromatic notes.

Ripe dark cherry and strawberry jam fight with a chili-like and peppery spiciness for who's the loudest. They're both intense, and in the end, they do sing together to make this wine loud to the nose. It seems some discrete oak has added some savory clove aroma, touches of vanilla and caramel, enhancing with depth and a salivating sweet/savory touch.

Just as pungent and aromatic, the palate bursts with intent and flavor intensity.

The chili and black pepper spices are outstanding features, while they're mellowed down by ripe plum, close to prune-like notes, blackberry jam and sour cherry.

Dry with grippy and mineral acidity, it still feels opulent and rounded by solid body. Tannins are quite soft and velvety, though they're been given an edgy feel by the crisp acidity.

Overall

An expansive (but not this expensive!) Italian red like we love them, bursting with heaps of contrasting flavors, huge spiciness, and exuberant fruit flavors. Its juiciness gives it plenty of personality.

A wine you would never, at any moment, get bored of tasting. There is so much going on at every sip it's a wonder to explore and taste.

An experience I much recommend to have then!

