



ZENATO®

Publication: Vinous

Place: USA web

Date: 25 February 2021

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In “Vinous Favorite: 2016 Zenato Ripassa Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso,” Eric Guido features the following as a Vinous favorite:

ZENATO Ripassa Valpolicella Superiore 2016 – 91 points

“Black raspberries, sweet violets, tobacco and hints of licorice form a dazzling bouquet on the 2016 Ripassa. This is silky-smooth, with a dark fruit persona. It’s persistent and balanced, as hints of nuanced tannins and tart wild berries create a slightly grippy finale.”

Vinous – February 25, 2021

In “Valpolicella & Soave: The Times, They Are A Changin’,” Eric Guido reviews the latest releases from Valpolicella & Soave. Among them:

ZENATO Sergio Zenato Amarone Classico della Valpolicella 2015 – 95 points

“The 2015 Amarone Classico della Valpolicella Sergio Zenato Riserva is a massive and towering expression that straddles both savory and sweet with a heady display of plum sauce and crushed raspberries complemented by mentholated herbs, licorice and balsamic spice. There are depths of fresh red and black fruits that gain a polished feel as they coast across velvety textures, while vibrant acidity adds verve, further contrasted by a bitter twang of baker’s chocolate. There’s so much going on here that you hardly notice the 2015’s formidable structure up until the very end, where hints of cumin and ginger linger under an air of violet florals. I believe this opulent beauty deserves an official “Wow.” Drink the 2015 now for its primal intensity and extroverted fruit, or put it away for upwards of a decade. It’s a gorgeous Amarone Riserva.”

ZENATO Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2016 – 94 points

“Zesty, vibrant and exotic, the 2016 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico makes a serious impression with its unique bouquet of dried roses, lime zest, cherry sauce, plums and a dusting of crushed violet candies. It’s silky and pliant in texture, motivated by juicy acids, with a mix of ripe strawberry, pomegranate and cranberry sauce, as balsamic spices and hints of almond come forward toward the close. There is so much going on here, as the 2016 resonates on wild berry fruit and sweet inner florals. This may be a more opulent expression of the vintage, but it’s built to last, and sure to win a lot of fans.”

ZENATO Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2015 – 93 points

“Dark, floral, elegant and surprisingly savory, the 2015 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico makes itself known as crushed stone gives way to a dusting of confectioner’s sugar, dried flowers, black cherries, plums and hints of licorice. This is velvety yet cool-toned and spry, with a staining mix of red and black fruits contrasted by sweet spices, as bitter hints of espresso bean and round tannins collect toward the close. A twang of balsamic-tinged blackberry and violets echoes through the long-drawn-out finale. Youthfully structured and still a bit reserved, but there are layers of primary, complexities to keep the experience highly enjoyable today. That said, the best is yet to come.”

ZENATO Ripassa Valpolicella Superiore 2016 – 91 points

“Black raspberries, sweet violets, tobacco and hints of licorice form a dazzling bouquet on the 2016 Ripassa Valpolicella Superiore. This is silky-smooth with a dark fruit persona that’s beautifully lifted by salty acids and minerals, which create a juicy expression. It’s persistent and balanced, leaving the palate aching for more, as hints of nuanced tannins and tart wild berries create a slightly grippy finale. What a beautiful wine and - dare I use the term? - “Baby Amarone.”

ZENATO Valpolicella Classico Superiore 2017 – 89 points

“The 2017 Valpolicella Classico Superiore impresses with a dark, rich display of black raspberries mixed with savory herbs and hints of brown spice. It’s silky in feel with tart red and hints of blue fruits, as notes of mocha, licorice and tobacco develop toward the close. This is packed full of character, and although it shows a bit of the warmth of the vintage, balance is maintained throughout. When all is said and done, the 2017 is a wonderfully satisfying glass of Valpolicella.”