



Prosecco DOC Veneto



TASTING NOTES



VINEYARD & VINIFICATION

Vineyard Location Prosecco DOC, Veneto
Maturation Summary In barrels for months and bottled for months





REGION

VENETO

Home to the iconic cities of Venice and Verona, Veneto is also Italy's second most prolific region in terms of wine production. Whites like Pinot Grigio and Prosecco, in particular, are made en masse in the lowlands proximate to the Adriatic. Beyond this, however, Veneto is also home to world-class estates and wines that couldn't be made anywhere else (not least of all the renowned Amarone della Valpolicella). From coastal flatlands to subalpine hills, a vast diversity of microclimates gives this wine region a unique edge. There are an impressive 28 DOCs and 14 DOCGs, with Prosecco, Pinot Grigio, Soave, and the red wines of Valpolicella all calling the Veneto home.

Beginning on the edge of Lake Garda, this NE region has 7 provinces: Belluno, Treviso, Venezia, Verona, Vicenza, Padova and Rovigo. Its northern boundary is protected from harsh weather conditions by the Dolomites, and cooler conditions in the north are well-suited to white varieties like Garganega (the main grape in Soave). In contrast, the warmer Adriatic coastal plains and river valleys near Lake Garda are where the renowned Valpolicella, Amarone, and Bardolino reds are produced.

It is believed that Veneto is one of the oldest wine-producing regions in the world, dating back to the bronze age. Its main port, Venice, has long served as a point of entry for new varieties, and departure for its products. Italy's very first school for oenology was founded in Conegliano in 1885, and today Europe's most important wine fair, VinItaly - with a draw of some 200,000 people - takes place each spring in Verona.

PROSECCO DOC

Like the Trevenezie designation, the Prosecco DOC transcends regional borders, in this case including a large swath of (central and NE) Veneto along with the whole of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. Named after the village of Prosecco outside Trieste, today Prosecco DOCs can come from 9 different provinces across the 2 different regions. (Gorizia, Pordenone, Trieste, and Udine in Friuli, or Belluno, Padua, Treviso, Venice, and Vicenza in the Veneto.) Across the board, wines must be made using at least 85% Glera - the grape also informally known as Prosecco - with grapes such as Chardonnay, Pinot Bianco and Pinot Grigio also permitted. These additions, along with specific terroir, can certainly change the character of Prosecco, but generally speaking one can expect notes of crisp apple and pear, along with jasmine and acacia blossoms on both nose and palate. With riper fruit, peach and melon also sometimes enter the equation. Aromatics are enhanced by the (largely) cool, subalpine climate, soils rich in calcium carbonates, and also by vine training techniques; pruning with the Guyot system (or double-arched cane), for example, can also help in the production of aromatic fruit.

With the establishment of the DOC in 2009, the guidelines for making Prosecco finally firmed up after decades of IGT fluidity. Yields were officially lowered, leading to a rise in quality, along with an increased focus on terroir. Today, the appellation is actually smaller than Champagne in terms of hectares (23,000 vs. 34,000), although it produces 20-25% more wine. (In recent years, the Prosecco DOC has exceeded 450 million bottles.) Sparkling and semi-sparkling wines account for an amazing 99% of the zone's total production, with still wines eking out an existence at just 1%!

LA BREZZA