# The verdict

Producers were keen to showcase their bruts, as well as the traditional 'extra dry' sweeter styles, and the quality came through in the consistent scores, reports Andy Howard MW

here were very few disappointments in this interesting tasting, and the anticipated consistency of Prosecco came through as 95% of wines achieved Recommended or higher. The two Italians on the panel are both writers with extensive local knowledge of Prosecco wines and producers. Alessandra Piubello was pleasantly surprised at the quality on show, commenting: 'We don't see so many wines like this back home.'

It was encouraging to see a good number of more highly rated wines, with one even rated Outstanding - a pretty rare beast in my experience. This is not to be dismissive of the quality that can be achieved with the Glera grape and the Charmat method, but more a reflection of the general consistency that the vast majority of producers achieve. So to see some Proseccos here delivering more than the expected level of correctness and typicity was a very positive thing. The panel agreed they would be happy to purchase the top wines, despite their (relatively) high price points.

Prosecco established its position in the market with a softer, easier drinking character than traditionalmethod wines such as Champagne. Whereas the latter is most frequently produced in the brut style (between 7g/I-12g/I dosage), Prosecco established itself in the extra dry

category (12g/I-17g/I). In the past few years. Prosecco producers exporting to the UK have been increasing the proportion of wines labelled as brut. The belief is that these lower-sugar versions exhibit more of a terroir influence, and will also appeal to traditional-method fans.

More than 55% of the wines submitted were brut. The panel clearly felt there was a benefit to the lowersugar addition, with 41% of brut wines achieving Highly Recommended, compared to 32% in the extra dry category. Piubello noted that there was a much higher proportion of brut wines shown at the tasting than she would see back in her home region of Veneto. Whether consumers are comfortable with a higher proportion of brut Proseccos remains to be seen. However, one of the arguments put forward to explain the recent decline in Prosecco sales in the UK is negative publicity around the combination of high acidity and sugar levels. So, perhaps this is a smart move.

Only a handful of Rive wines were submitted but they did not perform as well as anticipated, with only one Highly Recommended - disappointing given the quality of the vineyards, the associated hype, and the importance attached by the Prosecco consorzio to this higher quality level. In its defence, the Rive category is a relatively new one, and one suspects that producers

'The belief is that lowersugar Prosecco versions exhibit more of a terroir influence'

are still finding their way in terms of achieving the best end result.

The high scores achieved by Ca' di Raio. Vincenzo Toffoli and Santa Margherita were encouraging - these are fine quality Proseccos which had all of the classic characteristics, but which were elevated by extra levels of flavour, refinement and complexity. It would be exciting to see more producers with wines at this level.

The slowing of Prosecco sales in the UK could be seen as consumers moving away from a mass-market, highly consistent, yet somewhat unexciting option. If Prosecco can consistently deliver more interesting wines, then Champagne and Cava producers may have to fight even harder to preserve sales.

#### **THE SCORES**

87 wines tasted Exceptional 0 Outstanding 1 Highly Recommended 32 Recommended 50 Commended 4 Fair 0 Poor 0 Faulty 0

**Entry criteria:** Producers and UK agents were invited to submit their latest-release Brut or Extra Dry Conegliano Valdobbiadene **Prosecco Superiore** sparkling wines

#### **THE JUDGES**

#### **Fabio Giavedoni**



Friuli-born Giavedoni qualified as an AIS Sommelier before working for a long time in restaurants and wineries in Bologna. One of two contributing editors of Slow Wine Magazine,

the guide to Italian wines, he has also published two books: Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Un Grande Vino, and Il Piceno e il Pecorino.

#### **Andy Howard MW**



A Master of Wine since 2011, Howard worked as senior wine buyer at Marks & Spencer for six years to 2013. He now runs consultancy Vinetrades Ltd, which focuses on education, investment and

sourcing. A frequent contributor to Decanter, key areas of expertise are Burgundy and Italy, and he has a house in southwest France.

#### **Alessandra Piubello**



Piubello is a journalist and writer from Verona. She reports on many aspects of Italian culture, principally wine and food. Among her numerous activities, she is editor-in-chief

for Queen International and Prince magazines, is co-editor of the Guida Oro I Vini di Veronelli wine guide, and has also written several books.

## **OUTSTANDING** 95-97pts



## Ca' di Rajo, Superiore Extra Dry Millesimato 2017

Decanter average score: 95/100pts Individual judges' scores: Fabio Giavedoni 95 Andy Howard MW 95 Alessandra Piubello 94

#### £19 Anthony Byrne

Established in 1931, Ca' di Rajo is located in the Piave river valley. The estate stays true to a local system of vine-training now known as Bellussera, which has its roots in the 19th century. Permanent branches (or cordons) are trained in a distinctive fan shape that results in a

characteristic rhombus-shaped vineyard design. Extreme care is taken in the vineyard, with grapes harvested by hand at the end of the growing season. As well as a number of Prosecco bottlings, the winery also produces serious red wine under the Raboso del Piave DOC.

Fabio Giavedoni This has a complex nose, intense and elegant, then fruity white peach, rose, grapefruit, tangerine and tons of fresh acidity. The texture is light but with concentrated flavours, spicy, and fine notes of cardamom on the finish.

Andy Howard MW Attractive, clean, a fresh example with lots of vibrant citrus acidity combined with peachy fruits on the palate. Very crisp, acidic and precise. Good complexity, very nice balance, precise finish.

Alessandra Piubello This has a nose of herbs, citrus, grapefruit, staying true on the palate with added complexity and a good length.

Drink 2019-2021 Alcohol 11%

### **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** 90-94pts



#### Vincenzo Toffoli, Superiore Brut Millesimato 2017 93 **FG** 92 **AH** 93 **AP** 93

#### £15.95 Davy's

Complex notes of bergamot, saffron and citrus fruits. Rich and mouthfilling with a fine mousse and persistence, and balance on the finish. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



#### Santa Margherita, Superiore Brut NV 92 FG 92 AH 93 AP 92

#### £15 Alivini

Attractive sweetness on the palate, which at the same time displays drive and focus. Mineral-charged with bright lemon notes and a firm crsipness. **Drink** 2019-2021 **Alc** 11.5%



#### Astoria, CasaVittorino Superiore Brut 2017 91 FG 93 AH 90 AP 90

#### £14.75-£16.25 Gerrard Seel

There's a range of fruit on show, spanning white peach, fresh mango, elderberry and candied tangerine. Richly fruited on the palate while at the same time showing great freshness. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



#### Bisol, Crede Superiore Brut 2017 91 **FG** 91 **AH** 91 **AP** 92

 $\texttt{f}15.75 - \texttt{f}18.99 \; \texttt{Bibendum}, \; \texttt{Cellar Door Wines}, \; \texttt{Exel}, \\$ Millésima, The Drink Shop, Vinvm, Wine Direct Mineral, zest and salinity lend real finesse. Persistent mousse and an attractive bitter note on the finish. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



#### Conca d'Oro, Superiore Extra Dry Millesimato 2017 91 **FG** 90 **AH** 92 **AP** 92

N/A UK www.fattoriaconcadoro.com

An elegant, complex, smooth palate with a very pleasing balance of crisp, citrus-driven acidity and peach and apricot fruit flavours. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



#### Maschio, Superiore Extra Dry **NV** 91 **FG** 91 **AH** 89 **AP** 92

#### £ 11 Morrisons

A full, fleshy example with good ripeness and freshness and an exotic hint of pineapple. Completed with a very long and zesty finish. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11% >>

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## **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued)** 90-94pts



Ruggeri, Vecchie Viti Superiore Brut 2016 91 FG 91 AH 91 AP 92

 $£24.60 - £26 \; \text{Carruthers \& Kent, Enotria\&Coe, Exel,}$ Great Western Wine

Complex on the palate with depth and concentration, allied to some attractive notes of lemon and lime zest. Nuttiness on the long finish. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 12%



Ruggeri, Giall'Oro Superiore Extra Dry NV 91 FG 92 AH 91 AP 90

£15.30-£16.50 Carruthers & Kent, Enotria&Coe, Exel. Great Western Wine

Fresh, bright and zippy with notes of apple and apricot. Good focus and purity with a distinct mineral finish. **Drink** 2019-2020 **Alc** 11.5%



San Venanzio Fortunato. Superiore Brut 2017 91 FG 92 AH 92 AP 90

£14.79 Tannico

Richly aromatic with apple and lemon curd notes. A soft, well-integrated mousse is complemented by notes of lemon sherbet. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



Bellenda, San Fermo Superiore Brut 2017

90 **FG** 87 **AH** 92 **AP** 90

£15-£16.49 Exel, Les Caves de Pyrene A fuller-bodied style, toasty on the nose with luscious pear and good vibrancy on the palate. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



Bianca Vigna, Superiore Brut Millesimato 2017 90 **FG** 90 **AH** 91 **AP** 90

POA Armit

A hint of warm brioche on the nose along with linden, lily of the valley and apple notes. Long. fresh on the finish. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



Biancariva, Rive di Collalto Superiore Brut NV 90 FG 88 AH 90 AP 92

N/A UK www.degliultimi.it

Attractive, complex style with some herbal notes along with fleshy peach, Elegant, persistent and well-balanced. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



Bisol, Jeio Brut, Superiore NV 90 **FG** 90 **AH** 91 **AP** 90

£12.17-£14.99 Bibendum, Exel, The Drink Shop, The Fine Wine Co, Vinvm, Wine Direct

Notes of straw, dried flowers and aromatic herbs. Gentle mousse with delicate, crisp grapefruit nuance. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



Bortolin Angelo, Superiore Extra Dry 2017 90 FG 90 AH 91 AP 89

£19.95 Jeroboams

Bright and focused, with finesse and vibrant acidity. Citrus zest and freshness lead on to a long finish. **Drink** 2019-2020 **Alc** 11.5%



Casa Gheller, Superiore Extra Dry NV 90 FG 90 AH 91 AP 89

POA Continental Wine & Food

Lots of elegance and focus, displaying good balance and a hint of lime zest sitting alongside attractive pear and peach flavours. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11%



Col Sandago, Vigna del Cuc Superiore Brut 2017 90 **FG** 92 **AH** 88 **AP** 90

£15 Bat and Bottle

A fleshy, fresh style that boasts ripe peach fruit on the palate and a bright, persistent mousse. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



Colesel, Prato Scuro Superiore Brut NV 90 FG 91 AH 92 AP 87

N/A UK www.colesel.it

Bright, lively citrus fruits on the nose and palate with notes of tangerine and mineral. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



Collabrigo, Superiore Extra Dry NV 90 FG 88 AH 92 AP 89

£15.99 Harrods, Pedmore Wines

Crisp acidity, fresh citrus, peach and pear notes. A refined mousse with a persistent finish. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11%

## **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued)** 90-94pts



Colvendrà, Bepi Sec Superiore **Brut Millesimato 2017** 90 **FG** 90 **AH** 89 **AP** 91

£17.50 Vine&Cork

Aromas of white flowers and rose petals along with zesty fruit notes. Bright, lively mousse in the glass, with a hint of caramel and sherbet. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



Conca d'Oro, Superiore Brut Millesimato 2017 90 **FG** 89 **AH** 92 **AP** 88

N/A UK www.fattoriaconcadoro.com Generous and mouthfilling with a lifted citrus note, elegant mousse and hazelnut on the finish. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%

producers are still

finding their way to

the best end result'



De Faveri, Superiore Brut Millesimato 2017 90 **FG** 90 **AH** 92 **AP** 88

£17.75 Mille Gusti

Herbal characters complement bright citrus fruit. Lemon and lime acidity with fresh fuit on the finish. **Drink** 2019-2021 **Alc** 11%



Giacomo Montresor, Domenico de Bertiol Superiore Extra Dry NV 90 FG 89 AH 90 AP 91

£14.49 Cellar Twelve, Reserve Wines, The Bottlestop, Thind Wine Merchants

Shows hints of honey and wax on the nose. followed by attractive lemon acidity on the palate. A fine mousse with good persistence. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



La Tordera, Serrai Superiore Extra Dry 2017 90 FG 92 AH 90 AP 89

N/A UK www.latordera.it

Fresh white melon, peach. Palate is fine and elegant with a good balance between sweetness and freshness. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



Le Colture, Gerardo Superiore Brut 2017 90 FG 89 AH 92 AP 88

£25 Corney & Barrow

Notes of biscuit, florality and aromatic herbs. Mineral on the palate with brightness and freshness, Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



Il Follo, Villa Luigia Superiore **Brut Millesimato 2017** 90 **FG** 88 **AH** 92 **AP** 90

N/A UK www.ilfollo.it

A citrus-infused, mineral style with lots of drive and persistence. Further notes of apple, pear and elderberry. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



Le Rughe, Rivaj Superiore Extra Dry NV 90 FG 89 AH 90 AP 90

N/A~UK~www.proseccolerughe.eu

With a restrained elegance on the nose, there are notes of hazelnut on the palate, which shows plenty of acidity to match the sweetness. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



Ruggeri, Quartese Superiore Brut NV 90 FG 91 AH 91 AP 89

£12.55-£16.50 Carruthers & Kent, Enotria&Coe, Exel, Great Western Wine

Well-judged sweetness on the palate is complemented by zesty lemon fruit, along with further savoury notes of hazelnut and straw. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



Ruggeri, Giustino B Superiore Extra Dry 2017 90 FG 90 AH 91 AP 90

£20.25-£21.50 Carruthers & Kent, Enotria&Coe, Exel, Great Western Wine

Bright, lifted on the nose with white flower and herbal aromas. Fresh acidity and balance on the palate. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11.5%



Santi, Superiore Brut Millesimato 2017 90 FG 90 AH 90 AP 90

N/A~UK~www.gruppoitalianovini.it

Significant weight and concentration on the palate, which is rounded, nutty and persistent. Drink 2019-2021 Alc 11% ➤

## **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued)** 90-94pts



#### Soligo, Col de Mez Superiore Extra Dry 2017 90 FG 91 AH 90 AP 89

POA Eurowines

Shows elegance and impressive depth. Crisp acidity lends freshness. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11%



#### Valdellövo, Zero Nove Superiore **Brut Millesimato 2017**

90 **FG** 89 **AH** 91 **AP** 90

#### £15 Cadman Fine Wines

Crisp green apple and subtle floral notes, with a mineral backbone leading on to a complex finish. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 11.5%



#### Zonin, Prestige 1821 Superiore Extra Dry 2017 90 FG 92 AH 88 AP 90

£18.95 zonin

Fresh tangerine and bitter lemon fruit on the nose, firm acidity on the palate lending a zesty quality. Drink 2019-2020 Alc 12%

## **RECOMMENDED** 86-89pts

Score	FG	АН	AP	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
89	90	90	86	Fresh flowers, grapefruit and aromatic herbs. Freshness and lift on the palate with herbal notes on the finish.	12%	2019- 2021	£14.60	Tannico
89	88	90	88	Green apple, pear and herbs on the nose with lively acidity supporting a fine, attractive mousse. $ \\$	12%	2019- 2020	N/A UK	www.andreola.eu
89	91	88	88	Hints of Granny Smith apple and some minerality on the delicate nose. Fresh and crisp on the palate, leading to a long finish.	11%	2019- 2020	N/A UK	www.bellussi.com
89	89	89	89	Acacia flowers, mineral and a hint of honey. Complex on the palate with elegance, vibrancy and a long finish.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£25.85	Mondial Wine
89	87	90	91	Plenty of grip, focus and mineral character. Multi-layered, elegant and long on the finish.	11%	2019- 2021	POA	Wine Rack
89	90	87	89	Floral aromas showing a touch of pear, with acidity giving crispness on the palate.	12%	2019- 2020	£10.99- £12.99	Cambridge Wine Merchants, The Oxford Wine Co
89	87	92	89	Nutty nose along with notes of mandarin, grapefruit and some florality. Well balanced with a crisp, salty edge on the palate.	12%	2019- 2021	N/A UK	www.merotto.it
89	89	88	89	Intriguing nose with notes of lily of the valley, pear and elderflower. A fresh, bright, lively mousse.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£15.50	Define Food & Wine, Mr & Mrs Fine Wine, The Whalley Wine Shop, Vindependents
89	90	87	90	Richly aromatic with pear and apple. Creamy smoothness is matched with a citrus grip on the palate.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£13.99	Vinceremos
89	88	88	90	Elegance and concentration combine with nuttiness to give a classic style.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£17	Alivini
89	91	88	89	Creamy texture on the palate with caramel notes sitting alongside pear. Balanced and long.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£16	Harvey Nichols
89	88	89	90	Citrus fruits on the zesty palate which leads on to a long finish.	12%	2019- 2020	£21	Hay Wines
89	87	90	89	Clean, fresh and elegant with grapefruit zest and impressive concentration.	11.5%	2019- 2021	£16.90	Amathus, Vinvm
88	86	89	89	Full-bodied, rich and rounded on the palate. Citrus acidity combines well with crisp mousse.	12%	2019- 2020	£ 29	Vinoteca
88	90	86	89	Apple blossom and herb-scented. Generous mouthfeel with lemon zest lift.	11.5%	2019- 2020	N/A UK	www.bolla.com
88	88	89	87	Sherbet lemon and lemon verbena give complexity on the nose. Lively on the palate with a soft, rounded mouthfeel.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£16.34	Tannico
88	88	89	86	Quince, hazelnut and an interesting herbal note on the nose. A complex, elegant style with lots of fresh fruit on the palate.	12%	2019- 2021	POA	Continental Wine & Food
	<ul><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>89</li><li>88</li><li>88</li></ul>	89 88 89 91 89 89 89 87 89 90 89 87 89 89 89 89 89 90 89 88 89 91 89 88 89 87 88 86 88 90 88 88	89       90       90         89       88       90         89       91       88         89       89       89         89       87       90         89       87       92         89       89       88         89       90       87         89       88       88         89       91       88         89       81       89         89       87       90         88       86       89         88       86       89         88       80       86         88       88       89	89       90       90       86         89       88       90       88         89       91       88       88         89       89       89       89         89       87       90       91         89       87       92       89         89       89       88       89         89       90       87       90         89       88       88       90         89       91       88       89         89       83       89       90         89       87       90       89         89       87       90       89         89       88       89       90         89       87       90       89         89       87       90       89         89       89       89       89         89       80       89       89         89       89       89       89         89       89       89       89         89       89       89       89         89       89       89       89         89	89 90 90 86 Fresh flowers, grapefruit and aromatic herbs. Freshness and lift on the palate with herbal notes on the finish.  89 88 90 88 Green apple, pear and herbs on the nose with lively acidity supporting a fine, attractive mousse.  89 91 88 88 Hints of Granny Smith apple and some minerality on the delicate nose. Fresh and crisp on the palate, leading to a long finish.  89 89 89 89 Acacia flowers, mineral and a hint of honey. Complex on the palate with elegance, vibrancy and a long finish.  89 87 90 91 Plenty of grip, focus and mineral character. Multi-layered, elegant and long on the finish.  89 87 92 89 Nutty nose along with notes of mandarin, grapefruit and some florality. Well balanced with a crisp, salty edge on the palate.  89 87 92 89 Nuty nose along with notes of mandarin, grapefruit and some florality. Well balanced with a crisp, salty edge on the palate.  89 89 88 89 Intriguing nose with notes of lily of the valley, pear and elderflower. A fresh, bright, lively mousse.  89 80 87 90 Richly aromatic with pear and apple. Creamy smoothness is matched with a citrus grip on the palate.  89 88 88 90 Elegance and concentration combine with nuttiness to give a classic style.  89 91 88 89 Creamy texture on the palate with caramel notes sitting alongside pear. Balanced and long.  89 89 90 Citrus fruits on the zesty palate which leads on to a long finish.  89 80 80 90 Pull-bodied, rich and rounded on the palate. Citrus acidity combines well with crisp mousse.  89 80 80 90 Apple blossom and herb-scented. Generous mouthfeel with lemon zest lift.  80 80 80 Apple blossom and herb-scented. Generous mouthfeel with lemon zest lift.	89 90 90 86 Fresh flowers, grapefruit and aromatic herbs. Freshness and lift on the palate with herbal notes on the finish.  89 88 90 88 Green apple, pear and herbs on the nose with lively acidity supporting a fine. attractive mousse.  89 91 88 88 Hints of Granny Smith apple and some minerality on the delicate nose. 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Balanced and long.  89 87 90 89 Clean, fresh and elegant with grapefruit zest and impressive concentration.  11.5% Balanced and long.  89 80 80 80 Pull-bodied, rich and rounded on the palate. Citrus acidity combines well with crisp mousse.  80 80 80 80 Apple blossom and herb-scented. Generous mouthfeel with lemon zest lift.  11.5% Sherbet lemon and lemon verbena give complexity on the nose. Lively on the palate with a soft, rounded mouthfeel.	89       90       90       86       Fresh flowers, grapefruit and aromatic herbs. Freshness and lift on the palate with herbal notes on the finish.       12%       2019-2021         89       88       90       88       Green apple, pear and herbs on the nose with lively acidity supporting a fine. attractive mousse.       12%       2019-2020         89       91       88       88       Hints of Granny Smith apple and some minerality on the delicate nose. Fresh and crisp on the palate, leading to a long finish.       11%       2019-2020         89       89       89       Acacia flowers, mineral and a hint of honey. Complex on the palate with elegance, vibrancy and a long finish.       11.5%       2019-2020         89       87       90       91       Plenty of grip, focus and mineral character. Multi-layered, elegant and long on the finish.       11%       2019-2020         89       87       89       Floral aromass showing a touch of pear, with acidity giving crispness on the palate.       12%       2019-2021         89       87       92       89       Nutty nose along with notes of mandarin, grapefruit and some florality. Well balanced with a crisp, salty edge on the palate.       12%       2019-2020         89       89       88       89       11triguing nose with notes of lily of the valley, pear and elderflower. A fresh, proper of the palate.       11.5%       2019-2020	89       90       86       Fresh flowers, grapefruit and aromatic herbs. Freshness and lift on the palate with herbal notes on the finish.       12% 2019- E14.60       2021       E14.60         89       83       90       88       Green apple, pear and herbs on the nose with lively acidity supporting a fine, attractive mousse.       12% 2019- N/A UK       2020       N/A UK         89       91       88       88       Hints of Granny Smith apple and some minerality on the delicate nose. Fresh and crisp on the palate, leading to a long finish.       11% 2019- 2020       N/A UK         89       89       89       Acacia flowers, mineral and a lint of honey. Complex on the palate with elegance, vibrancy and a long finish.       11.5% 2019- E25.85 2020       2020- E12.89         89       87       90       91       Plenty of grip, focus and mineral character. Multi-layered, elegant and long on the finish.       11% 2019- 2020- E12.89       2019- 2020- E12.99       POA         89       87       90       87       89       Floral aromas showing a touch of pear, with acidity giving crispness on the palate with on the finish.       12% 2019- 2020- E12.99       2019- 2020- E12.99         89       87       92       89       Nutty nose along with notes of mandarin, grapefruit and some florality. Well balanced with a crisp, salty edge on the palate.       12% 2019- 2020- E12.99       2019- 2020- E15.90         89       89<

## **RECOMMENDED** (Continued) 86-89pts

Wine	Score	FG	АН	AP	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Canevel, Superiore Extra Dry NV	88	87	90	87	Fleshy peach along with milky notes give a rounded feel. Sweetness and acidity very well balanced.	11%	2019- 2021	£17.95	Oakham Wines
Carpenè Malvolti, 1868 Superiore Brut NV	88	87	88	90	Full bodied with ripe peach fruit and crisp acidity, and an elegant tension on display.	11%	2019- 2020	£15.99	Corking Wines, Hallgarten, Strictly Wine, Wine Poole
Ciodet, Labano Superiore Brut NV	88	90	87	88	To asty nuttiness on the nose flows into an intriguing saltiness on the palate.	12%	2019- 2020	£15	Native Wines
Col Vetoraz, Superiore Extra Dry 2017	88	92	87	86	Very rich with ripe peach and mango. Concentration of fruit is matched with a gentle grip from the acidity.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£19	FortyFive 10°, Vini Italiani
Collalto, San Salvatore Superiore Brut 2017	88	89	88	87	Elegant and fine on the nose with white flowers and a hint of minerality. Finishes fresh with a touch of tangerine.	12%	2019- 2020	£11	Thorman Hunt
Garbara, Superiore Brut 2017	88	86	89	88	Mineral charge with a citrus grip and a persistent mousse. Crisp acidity leads to a long finish.	11.5%	2019- 2021	£16.95	Philglas & Swiggot
Giusti, Asolo Superiore Brut 2017	88	89	88	87	Fresh apple, mandarin and grapefruit aromas are replicated on the palate, supported by a creamy mouthfeel.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£23.26	Mondial Wine
L'Antica Quercia, Arió Superiore Extra Dry 2017	88	88	89	88	Soft, fleshy and smooth on the palate with crisp acidity and purity.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£19	Fork N Cork
Le Colture, Fagher Superiore Brut 2017	88	87	91	87	Some attractive floral notes on the nose lead on to a fuller, fleshier style on the palate with citrus fruit freshness.	11.5%	2019- 2021	£15.75	Corney & Barrow
Le Colture, Pianer Superiore Extra Dry 2017	88	87	89	88	Fresh fruit flavours and cleansing acidity combined with just the right amount of sweetness.	11.5%	2019- 2021	£14.95	Corney & Barrow
Mongarda, Superiore Brut 2017	88	88	90	87	Very clean, crisp, lots of purity on the palate. Fine mousse, good persistence with some lingering mineral characters on the finish.	11.5%	2019- 2021	POA	The Modest Merchant
Mongarda, Superiore Extra Dry 2017	88	89	87	89	Elegant and fine with good acidity. Orange and apple characters on the fruity, fresh palate.	11.5%	2019- 2020	N/A UK	www.mongarda.it
Ponte, Superiore Brut NV	88	88	85	90	Complex on the nose with elegance on the palate. Persists long into the finish.	11.5%	2019- 2020	POA	Field & Fawcett
Santi, Superiore Extra Dry Millesimato 2017	88	87	88	89	Lemon, lime and a salty freshness complemented by fresh acidity.	11%	2019- 2020	N/A UK	www.gruppoitalianovini.it
Sommariva, Superiore Brut NV	88	87	89	89	Lemon fruits on the nose and palate. Fresh, bright, lively and quite precise.	11.5%	2019- 2021	£15.45	Vinarius
Valdellovo, Anno Zero Superiore Extra Dry Millesimato 2017	88	89	89	86	The use of Verdiso and Bianchetta add an intriguingly bitter, spicy quality that adds interest.	11.5%	2019- 2021	N/A UK	www.valdellovo.it
Valdo, Oro Puro Superiore Extra Dry NV	88	87	89	87	Elegant on the palate with notes of crisp apple and pear.	11%	2019- 2020	£13.49	Waitrose
Al Canevon, Superiore Extra Dry 2017	87	86	88	88	Ripe peach and citrus-lemon acidity leads on to a clean, fresh finish.	11.5%	2019- 2020	POA	Lady Wine
Andreola, 26° Primo, Rive di Col San Martino Superiore Brut 2017		88	88	85	Elegant, clean and focused with fine acidity and drive on the palate.	12%	2019- 2020	£15	Tannico
Colesel, Fontana Vecia Superiore Extra Dry NV	87	86	89	87	Attractive ripe pear and peach with a touch of minerality to finish.	11.5%	2019- 2020	N/A UK	www.colesel.it
Drusian, Superiore Extra Dry NV	87	86	89	87	Good persistence on the palate combined with lemon acidity and a touch of stone fruit.	11%	2019- 2020	£14.99	EWGA, The Learnington Wine Co
Gregoletto, Monte Corbino Superiore Extra Dry 2017	87	86	88	87	Delicate with notes of lily of the valley, freshness and mineral.	12%	2019- 2020	£17	Alivini
La Farra, Superiore Brut 2017	87	87	89	85	Good depth on the palate with concentration and attractive ripe lemon and peach flavours.	11%	2019- 2021	£14	Corks, Hangingditch, H2Vin, Prohibition Wines, Quintessentially, Terra Wines
Loredan Gasparini, Asolo Superiore Brut NV	87	87	89	86	Dried fruits and toasted notes on the nose. Full on the palate, supported by firm acidity.	11%	2019- 2021	£14.50	3Venice Wine

## **RECOMMENDED** (Continued) 86-89pts

Wine	Score	FG	АН	AP	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Masottina, Le Rive di Ogliano Superiore Extra Dry 2017	87	85	88	87	Hints of lemon fruits with a touch of orange. Fleshy and weighty on the palate with a streak of crisp acidity.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£25	Fields Morris & Verdin
Mionetto, Superiore Extra Dry NV	87	86	87	89	Crisp citrus fruit leads on to a long and complex finish.	11%	2019- 2020	£15	Majestic, Millésima
Sommariva, Rive di San Michele Superiore Extra Dry 2017	87	88	86	88	Soft, bright and fresh with an attractive mousse.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£17.95	Vinarius
Al Canevon, Superiore Brut 2017	86	87	86	85	Delicate aromas of pear, apple and lemon sherbet.	11.5%	2019- 2020	POA	Lady Wine
Bolla, Superiore Extra Dry NV	86	87	87	85	Sweet, fleshy, bright acidity, touch of pithy citrus on the palate to finish.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£13.99	Ocado
Bortolotti, 47 Superiore Extra Dry, NV	86	87	85	87	Admirable persistence on the fresh finish.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£22	Harrods
Foss Marai, Guia Superiore Brut Millesimato 2017	86	86	87	85	A subdued style with attractive peach flavours.	11.5%	2019- 2020	£27.51	Mondial Wine
La Gioiosa, Superiore Brut Millesimato 2017	86	88	85	84	Tangerine, candied citrus and a lot of pear. Round on the finish.	11%	2019- 2020	£13.49	Booths, Budgens, North South Wines, Waitrose
Le Magnolie, De Forni Superiore Extra Dry 2017	86	86	85	86	Clean, fresh, bright, lots of clean citrus and zesty flavours.	11%	2019- 2020	N/A UK	www.vinilemagnolie.com

#### **COMMENDED** 83-85pts

© Carpené Malvolti, Superiore Brut NV 85, 2019-2021, 11.5%, £12.95 Vinvm ■ Trevisiol, Superiore Extra Dry NV 85, 2019-2020, 12%, £15.50 Berry Bros & Rudd ■ Val d'Oca, Rive di San Pietro di Barbozza Superiore Brut 2017 84, 2019-2020, 11.5%, £12.99 Rude

Wines, Vinvm ■ Ville d'Arfanta, Superiore Brut
Millesimato 2017 83, 2019-2020, 11.5%, £10.99-£15.99
EWGA, Top Selection

Next month's panel tastings Californian Cabernet 2010 & Western Australian Chardonnay



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