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Holiday Gift Guide 2018: Some Of Prosecco's Greatest Bottles

Susan H. Gordon Contributor | Dec 5, 2018,

Along an approximately 20-mile stretch on its run through the Veneto, the river Piave cuts through the birthplace of Prosecco's greatest wines. Delicate, fresh, complex are the closest overall descriptors for these quietly stunning, fiercely soils-conscious bottles: angular textures in support of floral, herbs to ginger, lemon and green apple to peach and melon aromas coaxed out by dosages from Extra-Dry to zero to the very occasional Dry for the closest you'll get to heft are the Piave's rewards for curious, attentive and discerning drinkers.



Prosecco vending machine along the Cartizze vineyards in the Conegliano-Valdobbiadene top Prosecco-making zone SUSAN H. GORDON

Past the river's left bank, on the historic UNESCO-candidate hillsides of Conegliano-Valdobbiadene (site-induced traits come first, but generally wines from the first's clay and limestone soils emphasize fruit notes; a vertical citrus and floral direction in those born of the latter's sandstone and clay) planted to grapevines since Roman times, in upheaved lands that face everywhere, slopes that twist wildly, sharply in order to fit onto this small piece of earth. Among the steepest are the Rive, 43 small areas each defined by their unique combination of soils, sunlight-gathering angles, when and how the winds blow through and each uniquely expressed by the wines grown on them. Its own special case, the Cartizze is this side's steeple-hilled cru, a 107-hectare set of three contiguous and especially twisty vertiginous hills in Valdobbiadene.



