



- **Country:** Italy
- **Region:** Veneto
- **Vintage:** 2018
- **Colour:** Red
- **Grape Variety:** Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Marzemino
- **ABV:** 13.5%
- **Bottle Size:** 75cl
- **Closure:** Natural cork
- **Style:** Full, round and ethereal
- **Drink With:** Red meats , poultry or cheese.

GERRARD SEEL: WINE MERCHANTS TO THE TRADE SINCE 1984

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ASTORIA 'EL RUDEN' VENETO ROSSO I.G.T.

<https://gerrardseel.co.uk/products/astoria-el-ruden-venetto-rosso-i-g-t>

High quality and slightly unusual! Ruden in Venetian dialect means rust, hence the colour of the label. It is a blend of equal quantities of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir with just 10% of Marzemino, which undergoes drying on straw matting for 3 months. to intensify the flavour and add an almost Amarone edge to the wine. Aged for 9 months in French oak barrels to round-out the tannins. The wine is a dark, ruby red with aromas of black and red fruits with some spice. On the palate it is soft, with a deep structure, plentiful of fruit with some final notes of dried berries. Drink it with beef or poultry or simply sip it with a few pieces of Parmesan to while away the late hours of the night.

WHY WE LIKE THIS WINE

Well to begin with, this is just so unusual. It's a blend of grape varieties that we have never come across before. But not only is it unusual, it's fantastic too delivering bold fruit flavours, plenty of structure on the palate with a fine and generous finish. Amarone della Valpolicella is now so very popular yet prices are high due to the high cost of production. This great wine has similar qualities but is so much more affordable.

ABOUT THE GROWER

Brothers Paolo and Giorgio Polegato, members of the same winemaking family behind Antonini Ceresa Vini, set up Astoria Vini in 1987. Astoria wines are mainly produced from grapes grown on its own 40 acre Tenuta Val De Brun estate in Refrontolo, right in the heart of the DOCG Conegliano-Valdobbiadene zone. As you would expect from such a location the excellence of Astoria Vini Prosecco is a given. What you might not expect is the range and the quality of the still wines produced by Astoria Vini, from light, fresh, unoaked whites to substantial, ageworthy, barrique-aged reds and dried grape, Passito dessert wines - all of which are very stylishly packaged.

Awards for the Astoria Vini range of wines are numerous and it is seldom a year that goes by at Vinitaly, Italy's major wine fair, that the Polegato brothers are not rewarded in some form. In addition to the high quality of their wines they consistently offer exceptionally stylish packaging, helping the Astoria Vini to wines stand out in any situation. Great value, great looking and great quality.