

Alpha Zeta,
`V` Valpolicella 2021
Valpolicella, Veneto, Italy



Grape Varieties	75% Corvina 25% Rondinella/Corvinone
Winemaker	Matt Thomson & Michele Peroni
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	12.5%
Residual Sugar	5.6g/L
Acidity	5.52g/L
Wine pH	3.4
Notes	Vegetarian, Practising Organic, Vegan

PRODUCER

Alpha Zeta was conceived in 1999 when Liberty Wines set out to produce a range of modern, fruit-driven wines from the hills outside Verona. Working with leading New Zealand winemaker Matt Thomson of Blank Canvas, Alpha Zeta works directly with growers rather than buying bulk wine, the standard for most wines from Verona at this price. In doing so, ripe grapes are obtained by reducing yields and picking later, utilising Matt's expertise to preserve these flavours in the finished wines. As a result, Alpha Zeta continues to offer great value, quality, balance and typicity.

VINEYARDS

The vineyards are situated in the hills outside Verona in the Valpantena Valley. Cool currents blow down the valley from the foothills of the Dolomites, which helps to moderate the climate, enabling the grapes to ripen slowly. This helps the grapes to retain their aromatic compounds and acidity. The soil is poor and chalky so the vines are put under stress helping to produce superior quality fruit.

VINTAGE

Spring 2021 saw a fair amount of wind and not much sun, which slowed down the ripening process in the grapes. Despite one incidence of hail before the harvest, little damage occurred. The harvest went well, with a good levels of ripeness, sugar content and colour achieved in the grapes. The yield overall was slightly lower than average.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were hand harvested, de-stemmed, crushed and pumped to stainless steel tanks purpose built for fermenting red wine. The must was left in contact with the skins for seven days, then fermentation took place at up to 30°C. Malolactic fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks. Then the wine was transferred in concrete tanks for final filtration and held there until bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Bright, youthful ruby in colour with a lively, cherry perfume giving way to a fresh, ripe cherry pie character on the palate. Soft, rounded, juicy tannins lend body and temper the exuberant youthful fruit which continues to the finish.

AWARDS

The Wine Merchant Top 100 2022, Highly Commended