



# Armenia

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Tasting notes from the following growers:

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## Armenia

*See date and place of tasting in italics*

**Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath**

The landlocked country of Armenia is situated in the Caucasus with Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan to the east with Iran to the south. It is looked on as the home of the vine and certainly wine has been made there for over 6,000 years and the *Vitis Vinifera* vine is indigenous. The climate is continental with cold winters and the soils rocky, volcanic with a lime influence.

Armenia Wine  
Barunik Village  
Aragatsotn Region

White Wines

|   |           |                |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| <b>Dry White 2016</b>   | <b>86</b> | <b>2017-19</b> |
| <i>Kangun</i>   |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |
| Fruity nose the palate starts with sweet fruit fresher in the middle with a citrus mix on the finish.   |           |                |
| <b>Yerevan 782 BC 2016</b>  | <b>88</b> | <b>2017-20</b> |
| <i>Kangun</i>   |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |
| Fresh fruity the nose is bright the palate has a citrus mix. Richer and sweeter at the back the mix of tropical fruits gives richness on the finish.      |           |                |
| <b>Takar 2015</b>   | <b>89</b> | <b>2017-20</b> |
| <i>Kangun</i>   |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |
| The nose has tropical fruit richness the palate breadth of flavour. There is balance the tropical fruits underpinned by lime the finish light and bright. |           |                |
| <b>Tarili 2015</b>  | <b>88</b> | <b>2017-19</b> |
| <i>Kangun Aligoté Chenin Blanc</i>  |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |

The nose is citrusy and fresh the start of the palate has lemon and lime. Hints of sweetness in the middle the back palate and finish is bright and lime fresh.

### Red Wines

- |   |           |                |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| <b>Rouge 2015</b>   | <b>88</b> | <b>2017-21</b> |
| <i><b>Areni Noir Hakhtanak</b></i>  |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |
| The nose is light and fresh the palate has red fruits and bramble. Hints of sweetness in the middle the finish is spicy and exotic.   |           |                |
| <b>Yerevan 2015</b>   | <b>89</b> | <b>2017-21</b> |
| <i><b>Areni Noir</b></i>  |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |
| The nose has a mix of red fruits the start of the palate light but there is richness in the middle ripe fleshy strawberries. The red fruit mix at the back is fresh more of a redcurrant character. |           |                |
| <b>Takar 2014</b>   | <b>90</b> | <b>2017-21</b> |
| <i><b>Areni Noir</b></i>  |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |
| Red fruits and black fruits the nose has depth of flavour the palate breadth. Quite sweet in the middle the fruit feels ripe lighter at the back with bramble freshness.                            |           |                |
| <b>Takar Reserva 2014</b>   | <b>90</b> | <b>2017-21</b> |
| <i><b>Areni Noir Saperavi</b></i>   |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |
| The nose is bright and fresh the palate has a mix of flavours red cherry and bramble freshness then sweetness complexity. Bright at the back the finish is quite light with a hint of spice.        |           |                |
| <b>Tariri 2011</b>  | <b>91</b> | <b>2017-20</b> |
| <i><b>Areni Noir Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon</b></i>  |           |                |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>   |           |                |
| Fresh fruits give brightness on the nose the palate has a mix of cassis, plum and red cherry. Rich and ripe in the middle with fresh red fruits giving brightness on the back palate.               |           |                |

**Zorah Winery  
Yeghegnadzor.**

**After a visit by Zorik Gharibian to his native Armenia ideas of a Tuscan vineyard were given up and he bought the vineyard of Zorah some 40 hectares close to the village of Rind in the heart of Yeghegnadzor. The ungrafted vines do well in the rocky soils thriving in the continental**

climate. Supported by consultant Alberto Antonini methods are a mix of the most modern and traditional with wines aged partly in stainless steel, in French and Armenian oak and in Karas, Armenian amphorae sealed with wax and partially buried below ground.

### White Wines

**Voski 2014** 92 2016-19

***Voskéat 50% Garandmak 50%***

*Tasted at the Liberty tasting The Oval January 2016*

Bright and fresh the nose has a mineral crispness the palate a mix of fruits green apple backed by citrus. A hint of sweetness at the back adds complexity but it finishes fresh, lean, long and mineral.

### Red Wines

**Karasi 2010** 92 2012-17

***Areni Noir***

*Tasted at the Liberty Wines tasting January 2012*

The nose has a strong red fruited influence sweet and ripe yet fragrant and this gives richness on the palate. Red cherry and wild strawberry is backed by bramble lots of complex flavours with towards the back a lovely exotic toasty and spiciness.

**Karasi 2014** 92 2016-22

***Areni Noir***

*Tasted at the Liberty tasting The Oval January 2016*

Red fruited freshness a mix of fragrances the nose is bright the start of the palate quite light. Richer and sweeter in the middle ripe mulberry backed by bramble complexity at the back there is an exotic spicy charm.

**Yeraz 2012** 93 2016-23

***Areni Noir 100%***

*Tasted at the Liberty tasting The Oval January 2016*

There is a lot happening on the nose the palate has layers of flavour with black fruits tending to dominate. Mid freshness bramble but the fruit at the back is sweet and ripe the finish has depth and richness. There is all the complexity that old vines can give.

**Derek Smedley MW**