

Binomio Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva 2010 (\$50)—So few names help distinguish Montepulciano d'Abruzzo wines and so much plonk is produced in the region, so it's always a delight when you find one like Binomio, a ten year-old winery partnered with La Valentina and Inama, that expresses the best of the varietal in a *riserva* that moderates its tendency towards grapey sweetness and harsh tannins. The pressed wine is transferred into new and second-use French barriques, with refining taking about 15-18 months; a selection of the best barriques is made then the wine is racked and goes through a light filtration, thereby keeping much of its essence.