

La Valentina

Certified organic farming of its forty hectares and about 350,000 bottles produced annually sum up La Valentina, one of Abruzzo's most dependable wine estates. Founded in 1990 and later bought by the Di Properzo family, its current owners, it can count on vineyards located in different microclimates and at different altitudes (for example vineyards located at the higher elevations at Scafa and those closer to the seaside near Spoltore). This year's lineup of new releases is one of the strongest ever, perhaps *the* strongest ever, I recall tasting from La Valentina.

From [Abruzzo & Molise: This Year It's Reds Over Whites \(Jun 2017\)](#) by Ian D'Agata

| <u>Vintage</u> | <u>(Hover for Commentary) Producer</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Tasting Notes</u> | <u>Score</u> | <u>Author</u> | <u>Drinking Window</u> | <u>Release Price</u> | <u>Review Date</u> |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 2016 | La Valentina | Trebiano d' Abruzzo | Pale straw-yellow. Lovely but simple aromas of apple, pear and fresh herbs. Fresh, juicy and moderately intense, with apple and spice flavors showing decent energy and cut but that are ultimately on the sweet side. Not bad and easy to drink, but could use a bit more depth and complexity, with a dry finish. | 88 | Ian D'Agata | 2017+ | \$11.00 | Jun 2017 |
| 2016 | La Valentina | Trebiano d' Abruzzo Spelt | -- Ian D'Agata Luminous straw-yellow color. High-pitched aromas of white peach, lime and mint. Denser and more intensely flavored than the entry-level Trebbiano d' Abruzzo, showing greater mineral tension and a more refined quality than that wine but the same | 90 | Ian D'Agata | 2017 - 2018 | \$14.00 | Jun 2017 |

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | easy-drinking charm and freshness. Very well done. | | | | | |
| | | | -- Ian D'Agata | | | | | |
| | | | Vivid straw-yellow. Lemon and spices on the nose, but also a strong note of banana. Bright, fresh and easygoing on the palate, offering pear, banana and ripe peach flavors. Finishes long with a slight phenolic edge but also good sweetness of fruit. | | | | | |
| 2016 | La Valentina | Pecorino | Well-made in a tough year, but not the most characteristic example of Pecorino wine you'll ever drink, and thus I have lowered my score accordingly. | 88 | Ian D'Agata | 2017 - 2018 | \$16.00 | Jun 2017 |
| | | | -- Ian D'Agata | | | | | |
| | | | Bright yellow with a green tinge. Exotic aromas of pear, tropical fruits, balsamic nuances and menthol. Almost fat on entry, then slightly blurry in the middle. Finishes ripe and broad, with a tactile mouthfeel on the medium-long finish. Not bad but a bit warm and loose-knit and nothing at all like the Fiano wines of Campania; actually rather more like some Puglian Fiano wines I have tried over the years. | | | | | |
| 2015 | La Valentina | Fiano Vino Biologico Auha' | | 87 | Ian D'Agata | 2017 - 2018 | \$20.00 | Jun 2017 |
| | | | -- Ian D'Agata | | | | | |
| | | | Purple ruby. Fresh floral nuances strongly complement the aromas and flavors of blueberry and plum. Finishes long and vibrant with easygoing tannins, plenty of fruit and real purity. A knockout | | | | | |
| 2014 | La Valentina | Montepulciano d'Abruzzo | | 91 | Ian D'Agata | 2017 - 2020 | \$14.00 | Jun 2017 |

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | entry-level Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. | | | | | |
| | | | -- Ian D'Agata | | | | | |
| 2013 | La Valentina | Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Spelt | Inky-purple. Very deep smoky nose hints at blackberry, blueberry, flint and violet. Then refined and juicy, with smooth deep flavors of mineral-accented blueberry and aromatic herbs. Long, multilayered and extremely elegant finish boasts real depth and complexity. This is a knockout, really grand, Montepulciano wine. Very, very well done. | 94 | Ian D'Agata | 2019 - 2029 | \$21.00 | Jun 2017 |
| | | | -- Ian D'Agata | | | | | |
| 2012 | La Valentina | Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Bellovedere Terre dei Vestini | Fully saturated inky-purple. Brooding aromas and flavors of dark plum, blackberry nectar and aromatic herbs are complicated by coffee and cocoa. At once dense but fresh, with mouthcoating tannins that are not hard or bitter but that will need plenty of time. Finishes long and clean, with lovely lingering violet perfume. This huge wine comes across as a little chunky and lacking in elegance now but all it needs is time in the cellar - lots of it. | | | | | |
| | | | -- Ian D'Agata | | | | | |