



Italy: Value Wines Under \$25

Monica Larner - 31st Aug 2017 | The Wine Advocate

This is the first installment of a new report I hope to continue on an annual basis. I cover value wines from Italy as part of my regular coverage of various wine regions in Italy, but I don't do so with any particular focus. This report represents my first attempt to group samples together from across the country based on price alone. Because I live in Italy, I taste and receive samples directly from the producer. I never get them from the importer. But, a value wine tasting must be organized by the importer because only they are in a position to confirm the United States retail price of a wine. I just had to figure out how to make it work.

2013 La Valentina • Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Spelt

Rating 90+

Release Price \$21

Drink Date 2017 - 2022

Reviewed by Monica Larner

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The 2013 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Spelt is a dark and brooding wine that shows the power and the muscle of the dramatic Abruzzo landscape. This is a wine of firm consistency and sharp contours, much like the rocky peaks of this mountainous corner of Central Italy. Dark fruit and plum are followed by spice, leather and tobacco. This is a rough and tough red wine for cold winter nights.

2013 La Valentina • Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Spelt

2016 La Valentina • Pecorino

Rating 90

Release Price \$16

Drink Date 2017 - 2019

Reviewed by Monica Larner

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La Valentina's 2016 Pecorino is crisp and tight. If you are looking for new tastes from Italy, I highly recommend the Pecorino grape. The wine is linear and tight with a compact build. But it also offers vibrant and tonic aromas that span from exotic fruit to dried grass. It's a perfect warm-weather wine.