

**DURHAM**  
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## Generous Reds for Winter Fare

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**LA VALENTINA**  
VINI IN ABRUZZO



## Generous Reds for Winter Fare

<https://durhammag.com/2019/01/16/generous-reds-for-winter-fare1>

Wine geeks know there are two distinct wines that suffer name confusion. Montepulciano d'Abruzzo is a generous grape, and wine of the same name, produced on Italy's southeastern coast. Vino Nobile di Montepulciano is a Tuscan sangiovese from the village of Montepulciano. Confusing? Yes! But we persevere. I loved today's Montepulciano d'Abruzzo reds produced by Fattoria La Valentina. The 2015 La Valentina is a focused, smoky, direct red that will satisfy all medium-textured meals calling for a sumptuous red. (89/100 points, \$14) But for \$7 more, the 2015 "Spelt" Riserva gives you a deeper, more interesting red with refined character and staying power. If you can, try them both!

2015 Spelt Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva, La Valentina \$21 suggested retail price  
Deep garnet in color. Homogeneous, rounded nose of dried roses, mulberry, fig and plum. Mountain herbs, and a tobacco/volcanic ash element, are smile inducing. Flavors are medium to full bodied, smooth and "sappy," providing a dark, ripe texture that is dry and not fruity. A serious red, well-extracted with sparkling acids on the finish, providing refreshment and potential longevity. Drink now-2023. Try with grilled meats, pasta Bolognese or a mushroom/eggplant lasagna.  
91/100 points

By Arturo Ciompi - Jan 16, 2019