






The 2022s from La Valentina show the elegance and dark-fruited nature of the year. I was happy to taste the 2022 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Docheio (in its second vintage), an amphora-aged wine vinified with a mix of whole bunches and destemmed berries. This process adds freshness and textural depth to the wine, which I find wildly attractive.

May 2025 by **Eric Guido**

**La Valentina** ... La Valentina, one of the top-quality leaders in Abruzzo ....

	<p><b>DOCHEIO MONTEPULCIANO 2022 ORGANIC - 93 pt</b>  <i>Crushed blackberry, sage, citrus zest and stone dust aromas create an enticing bouquet as the expressive 2022 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Docheio blossoms in the glass. This is juicy to the core, with sweet liquid lavender tones and masses of ripe black cherry that flow across a stream of tantalizing acidity. It leaves a gentle concentration of primary fruit and violet inner florals that linger on and on. The amphora-aged 2022 Docheio is a pure and fresh Montepulciano that will win a lot of hearts.</i></p>		<p><b>MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO RISERVA SPELT 2022 - 92 pt</b>  <b>Dark and brooding, the 2022 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Spelt pulls the taster close to the glass to take in its warming blend of savory herbs, floral underbrush, cedary spice and dried black cherry. Silken and round, this possesses fantastic energy and verve, with vibrant acidity and crisp wild berry fruit tones. It leaves a slight balsamic tinge and an enticing coating of edgy tannins on the close.</b></p>
	<p><b>CERASUOLO D'ABRUZZO SPELT 2024 - 91 pt</b>  <i>The 2024 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo Spelt is dusty and understated, displaying dried rose, wild strawberry and sweet smoke aromas. This is a vividly fruit-forward effort with juicy acidity and crisp mineral underpinnings. It finishes especially fresh and perfumed, leaving a tactile saline tinge that further enhances its mouthwatering quality.</i></p>		<p><b>CERASUOLO D'ABRUZZO 2024 - pt 90</b>  <i>Pretty rose tones mix with nuances of wet stone and chamomile as the 2024 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo opens in the glass. It splashes across the palate with ease, juicy and energetic, with crisp white strawberry and cherry tones. The 2024 shows admirable length and poise, leaving a subtle mineral tinge to linger.</i></p>
	<p><b>MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO 2023 - pt 89</b>  <i>Depths of black cherry, lavender, violet pastille and a dusting of cocoa introduce the seductive 2023 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. This is unexpectedly fresh and lifted in style, with tart wild berry fruit elevated by hints of citrus as a sweet herbal resonance emerges toward the close. It's nicely fresh on the finish</i></p>	