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## Vacation-Ready Italian Rosés

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### If it's Ferragosto, then it's time for Italian rosé.

If you're Italian, Aug. 15 isn't just any other day: it's **Ferragosto**, a country-wide day of celebration marking the peak of summer and the beginning of summer holidays. Indeed, the name is derived from *ferie* (holidays) and *agosto* (August). Also known as the feast of the Assumption, it originated in ancient Rome when Emperor Augustus (18BC) declared Aug. 1 a day of rest.

Fast forward a few millennia: The holiday was moved to mid-month and now marks the exodus of many Italians from the major cities ... heading to the beach or the mountains and certainly (we think!) with the intention of enjoying some cool rosé wines.

Whether you're on porch, the patio or at the playa, here is a spot on your summer itinerary:

#### **La Valentina Rosato 2024, Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo DOC Organic.**

Well, here's a spoiler alert: Cerasuolo means "cherry" in Italian, and this cranberry-hued wine from Italy's Adriatic coastal region, made from older vines, makes no pretense about that. Ripe cherry-forward flavor with a bit of tartness, streak of acid and mineral/stone and violet flowers. Good for the grill or a beet and goat cheese salad.

