

Abruzzi and Molise

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In a nutshell: Good- value and improving reds.

Main grapes: Montepulciano (red); Trebbiano (white).

These wild, south- eastern regions produce little in the way of international wine stars, although the late Edoardo Valentini made some almost literally incredibly dense, long- lasting red **Montepulciano d'Abruzzo**, and a very special, ageworthy **Trebbiano d'Abruzzo** from a variety unrelated to common or garden Tuscan Trebbiano which now has its imitators. Montepulciano d'Abruzzo is usually keenly priced relative to its warmth and flavour. The best wines come from the hills around Téramo and **Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Colline Terrame** has been awarded its own DOCG. In Molise, Di Majo Morante makes some fine organically produced wines of both colours.

Some favourite producers: Di Majo Norante, Illuminati, Valentini, Villa Medoro.