

Wine Spectator

www.winespectator.com

December 15, 2011

New Releases: Italy

88 La Valentina Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Belovedere 2005 \$50 A maturing red that features a ripe core of dried blackberry and plum notes that opens up to layers of game, mushroom, aged leather and sweet spice. Moderate tannins lift the round finish. Drink now. 5,000 cases made.—N.W.

87 Ciavolich Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Antrum 2005 \$50 Solid, displaying sun-kissed blackberry and plum skin notes woven with grippy tannins and hints of tobacco and mushroom that linger on the finish. Drink now. 600 cases made.—N.W.

87 Niro Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2008 \$14 There's good depth to the rich black plum and black cherry notes, which sport nuances of espresso bean, cedar and

83 Alpha Zeta Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Il Faggio 2010 \$10 A soft red, showing overtones of tobacco and wild herb to the damson plum fruit that leads to the short, round finish. Drink now. 3,000 cases made.—N.W.

83 Tanto Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2009 \$9 A modest, rustic red, with crisp notes of black currant and plum fruit backed by hints of medicinal herb on the finish. Drink now. 30,000 cases made.—N.W.

ITALY Piedmont / Barolo

96 Falletto di Bruno Giacosa Barolo Falletto

95 **Beni di Batasiolo**
Barolo Vigneto Corda della Briccolina 2006 \$90

Rich and chewy, this red offers sweet cherry, mint, licorice and spice flavors, all rolled into a juicy, harmonious frame. Yet the tannins are there, and this has plenty of grip to get it through the next decade or so. Best from 2014 through 2030. 750 cases made.—B.S.

86 Podere Castorani Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Coste delle Plaie 2007 \$22 Still fresh, featuring a solid mix of dark plum and blackberry notes that carry hints of tobacco and wild herb on the solid finish. Drink now. 15,000 cases made.—N.W.

86 La Quercia Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2007 \$11 Ripe, firm and black cherry notes and an herbaceous finish. Drink now. 1,000 cases made.—N.W.

86 Umani R Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2007 \$11 Ripe, firm and black cherry notes and an herbaceous finish. Drink now. 1,000 cases made.—N.W.

85 Barba Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Colle Morino 2009 \$15 Offers solid depth to its black currant and dark plum fruit, as hints of underbrush and cured olive flicker on the finish. Drink now. 2,000 cases imported.—N.W.

85 Barba Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Vasari 2009

is rich yet harmonious in its youthful way. The aftertaste is long, complex and expansive. Best from 2014 through 2032. 340 cases made.—B.S.

94 Rivetto Barolo Serralunga 2007 \$45

92 **Beni di Batasiolo Barolo**
Vigneto Boscareto 2006 \$80

There's fine tension between the sweet cherry and raspberry fruit in this sleek red, with assertive sandpaper tannins. Menthol and tar accents add depth, and this lingers on the long finish. Best from 2015 through 2035. 1,150 cases made.—B.S.

93 Pio Cesare Barolo Ornato 2007 \$115 This modern-style red features aromas and flavors of sweet vanilla, coconut, blackberry and tar. The oak is a major component for now and needs time to



TURNING WATER INTO WINE