

MGM LA PIUMA MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO 2017/\$11.99



DESCRIPTION

Abruzzo (historically plural Abruzzi) is an Italian wine region located in the mountainous central Italian region of Abruzzo along the Adriatic Sea. It is bordered by the Molise wine region to the south, Marche to the north and Lazio to the west. Abruzzo's rugged terrain, 65% of which is mountainous, help to isolate the region from the winemaking influence of the ancient Romans and Etruscans in Tuscany but the area has had a long history of wine production.

Today more than 22 million cases of wine are produced annually in Abruzzo, making it the seventh most productive region in Italy, but only 21.5% of which is made under the Denominazione di origine controllata (DOC) designation. More than two-thirds of the region's wine is produced by co-operatives or sold in bulk to negociants in other Italian wine regions in Tuscany, Piedmont, and the Veneto for blending. The most notable wine of the region is Montepulciano d'Abruzzo produced with the Montepulciano grape that is distinct from the Sangiovese grape behind the Tuscan wine *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*. Together with Trebbiano d'Abruzzo, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo is one of the most widely exported DOC wine from Italy, particularly to the United States.

While wine is produced in all four of Abruzzo's provinces, the bulk of the production takes place in the province of Chieti which is the fifth largest producing province in all of Italy. Some of the most highly rated wine from Abruzzo comes from the hillside vineyards in the northern provinces of Pescara and Teramo. In the completely mountainous province of L'Aquila in the west, some rosé wine known as Cerasuolo from the Montepulciano grape is produced.

MGM is a family-owned company founded by Alfeo Martini. The Martini family represents a diverse portfolio of winery estates and brands including small artisanal production such as Poderi dal Nespoli and highly coveted Barolo producer Barolo Ricossa, as well as value oriented offerings from central Italy and Sicily. This year, Poderi dal Nespoli won a coveted Gambero Rosso Tre Bicchieri award.

MGM is among the most eco-conscious producers in Italy today. Their state-of-the-art production facility in Priocca (Piedmonte) is powered by solar panels, and they are the recipients of the internationally recognized and USA certified ICEA certificate of conformity for the production of organic wine.

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La Piuma is made with 100% organic Montepulciano (mon-ta-pull-chee-anno) grapes from select estate-owned vineyard sites in Abruzzo. A popular Italian red grape found mostly labeled as Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. The best examples deliver complex black fruit flavors and a smoky-sweet finish.

Montepulciano is the most planted variety of the region which is perfectly suited for the growing of this variety which has earned a reputation as one of the most widely exported DOC wine in Italy. Their Montepulciano is very traditional: grapes are carefully hand-picked, generally between the end of September and early October.

Tasting Notes

Nose:

On the nose we find dark cherry and raspberry with interesting notes of pepper and hints of vanilla.

Palate:

It is full-bodied on the palate with a soft acidity that leads to a long and elegant finish.

Pairing:

An amazing wine to pair alongside sausages of all kinds from the smoked Andouille found on a meat lover's pizza to those sweet Italian sausages flavored with fennel. Also, great with BBQ!

Abruzzo D.O.C., Italy

