

	Retail	Savings
<b>\$14.99</b>	<b>\$21.00</b>	<b>29%</b>

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## 2016 Ausonia Montepulciano product-timed-pdf - Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 'Apollo' - 91+ Vinous

### Why We're Drinking It

The origins of the organic micro-estate Azienda Agricola Ausonia are deeply tied to the land and nature of Abruzzo. Winemaker Simone Binelli's father, an entomologist, discovered one day while walking through his son's soon-to-be vineyards a rare, beautiful butterfly—the *Euchloe ausonia*.

With his father's encouragement, Simone decided to name his winery Ausonia, as a potent reminder that his new vine-growing pursuit should always be in harmony with the region's natural beauty.

Simone wasn't born into a winemaking family but soon discovered that winemaking, and not pharmacy, was his true calling. After studying enology in Florence, in 2006 he found a few acres of land near Atri in the heart of Abruzzo. From the start, organic viticulture has been the rule; native grape varieties Montepulciano, Trebbiano and lesser-known Pecorino have pride of place—the symbiosis of native grape and native terroir being the ultimate goal.

Even the cantina is in tune with the natural surroundings, its roof able to collect rainwater to be distributed to younger vines in the dryer summer months. As of 2014, the estate started practicing biodynamics, with a focus on composting and natural manure to maintain the health of their vineyards.

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#### VARIETAL

Montepulciano

#### APPELLATION

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Italy

#### ALCOHOL

13.50

#### SIZE

750ml

#### BLEND

00% Montepulciano d'Abruzzo

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### The Story to Know

Ausonia Winery is located 270 meters above the sea level embraced at the West side by the Gran Sasso Massif, with its almost 3000 meters is the highest peak of the Apennines and the Adriatic Sea at the East side.

The hillside location offers a very suitable microclimate for grape growing, late spring is characterized by a temperate climate with good rainfall, the long summer days are often enlivened by a fresh breeze with a good temperature range between day and night. Often during the winter our vineyards spend a few days wrapped in a white layer of snow that protects them from cold winds from the East. In the same period the vineyards are ideal for grazing small flocks of sheep herders in the area that will ensure the control of weeds and enrich the soil with high organic matter, generously given by these woolly guests.

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### Reviews

**91 Points Vinous:** *Inky ruby. Dense aromas and flavors of blueberry, blackberry, smoke, tobacco and violet. Rich and tactile, offering rising, youthfully chewy but polished tannins. This big, strapping wine boasts considerable refinement and grace despite its outwardly huge size (it has only 13.5% alcohol, and so it's more balanced than many other*

*Montepulciano d'Abruzzos clocking in at well over 14% alcohol in many vintages). Will likely improve with a little bottle age.*