

July 19th, 2023: Tom Hyland featured **Illuminati** today in an article on Forbes: **Montepulciano D'Abruzzo - A New Day**. Read the piece at this [LINK](#).

Some key excerpts: "Today, many producers, ranging from large cooperatives to smaller artisan estates, continue to craft Montepulciano d'Abruzzo in this fashion. That will never change, but it's been rewarding to see the shift in how many local vintners are now treating this wine in a different way, crafting complex versions that stand up to richer foods, and offer aging potential of more than a decade; for their efforts, they have been receiving excellent reviews in the press. **It is indeed a brand new day for Montepulciano d'Abruzzo.**"

Tom quotes Stefano Illuminati several times - here are some excerpts: "**Montepulciano is a great elegant variety,**" remarks Stefano Illuminati from the family estate in Controguerra in northern Abruzzo. "**The consumer loves it because it has a precise identity. There is great value for the price, and it's one of the top sellers in the world.**"

Tom: While Montepulciano d'Abruzzo is produced in all four Abruzzo provinces, many of the finest examples originate from the Colline Teramane ("the hills of Teramo") in the far northern province of Teramo.

Stefano commenting on Illuminati's location: "**Illuminati notes the characteristics of this territory. "In the hilly area of Controguerra, our area of origin, there are optimal conditions for the cultivation of the vine, the territory consists of rolling hills with vineyards located close to the Adriatic coast up to the foothills of the Gran Sasso, the highest massif of the Apennines, 2912 meters (9550 feet). Clay soil with good ventilation, excellent insolation and a strong temperature drop between day and night, which translates into important accumulation of aromatic parts in the Montepulciano grapes, and consequently in the wines."**

Illuminati sums up what Montepulciano d'Abruzzo is all about today. "**We can confirm that from the Montepulciano vine you can get both a medium-bodied wine and a wine of great structure, full-bodied, intense with a noble, velvety tannin able to face aging with great style, a style worthy only of the best Italian red wines.**"



ILLUMINATI MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO RIPAROSSO 2021

90 points: "Fermented in steel tanks and matured in large casks. Bright, medium intense purple; aromas of clove, blackberry, black plum and purple iris. Medium-bodied with excellent ripeness, very good acidity, subtle wood notes and good persistence; this has lovely harmony and varietal purity and is a delight to drink! Enjoy over the next 2-4 years." -Tom Hyland | **Forbes (July 2023)**



ILLUMINATI MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO RISERVA ZANNA 2017

94 points: "Bright, intense purple; vigorous aromas of black plum, clove, blackberry, myrtle and a hint of tobacco. Medium-full with very impressive concentration. There is good acidity, along with medium-full tannins that are silky; the oak notes are apparent, but not excessive and there is notable persistence and very good freshness. I love the varietal purity and complexity of this wine! Very well made, this is approachable now, but will be better in 2-3 years; peak in 6-8." -Tom Hyland | **Forbes (July 2023)**