
Michael Pinkus Wine Review
Rosé Report
2020 edition

Sponsored by: Rosehall Run



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About Michael Pinkus ... a love affair with wine that goes back over 20 years and continues to this day. Michael is a multi-award-winning journalist as well as national and international wine judge. He is a freelance writer whose articles have appeared in numerous national and international magazines. He is also the sole writer for his website MichaelPinkusWineReview.com (formerly OntarioWineReview.com), and past-President of the Wine Writers' Circle of Canada (2000-2015).

See full bio on page 36 of this report

Why Rosé ...

An Introduction



Rosé is one of the most underappreciated wines - the good news is, it is starting to garner the respect it deserves.



When I first started this endeavour I figured I'd get a few rosés coming in - I'd taste 'em, rank 'em and put a page together on my website - much like I had done in the past with the first rosé report I put out last year. But then the wine started coming in and I realized I needed to do something bigger ... welcome to the 2nd Annual Rose Report.

The mission was simple and yet the criteria had to be defined: What makes a good rosé wine? That's a tough question because rosé means different things to different winemakers (and consumers). The array of colours of these wines swung wildly from barely pink to just shy of light red (about the colour of a Pinot Noir with a little water added in) ... but then I started to ask people what they wanted in a rosé, just to see if my ideals matched with others. What surprised me was we were all pretty close in what we wanted.

To some their ideal rosé was from Provence, they could not put their finger on exactly why, but that light, crisp style was what they were looking for, and associated with, the word "rosé". Others want fruit, acidity, refreshment, something you don't have to think about was quite prominent, but so was "it needs to taste good". What it all boiled down to was the want, or desire, to drink a bottle and then another and another - sip after sip, glass after glass, bottle after bottle you just wanted to have more and be damned with the consequences (the term : more-ish comes to mind). Nothing heavy, nothing complicated, alcohol was the devil in disguise, you don't want to get drunk on rosé, you want to have a good time without a care in the world (and in 2020 even more so). That became the main criteria: serious but not too serious. Quaffable but not guzzle-able. You wanted to sip rosé, but not be pretentious about it. You weren't looking for Stairway to Heaven (Led Zeppelin) level rosé, more along the lines of Good As Hell (Lizzo) level - fun times, put a smile on your face and enjoy the sun and company you are keeping where the conversation flows and good as the wine, because that's what makes for a good rosé.

By the Numbers ...

Total Number of wines tasted: 181

Ontario Rosés: 130

British Columbia Rosés: 19

International Rosés: 30

Canadian of Non-Descript Origin: 2

2016 Vintage: 3

2017 Vintage: 10

2018 Vintage: 39

2019 Vintage: 109

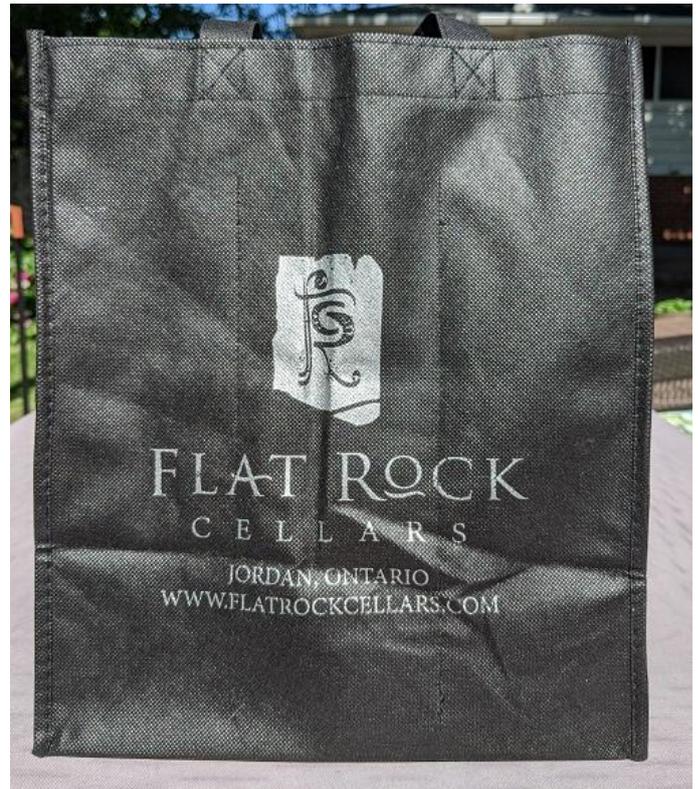
Non-Vintage: 19

Oldest Wine tasted: 2012 Sparkling

Most used grape for Rosé: Pinot Noir

Price Range: \$8.15 - \$40.00 (per 750ml)

Days taken to taste all wines: 46



This 6-pack bag from Flat Rock Cellars carried each and every bottle of rosé in this report out to the back deck.



Methodology ...

In the past I have gathered all wines together and tasted them all at the same time ... this time I decided to try something a little different. On each sunny day that was (relatively) warm I brought out 4 bottles, tasted and ranked them on that day. It does not mean that the fourth place bottle was bad, it just meant it was up against some pretty stiff competition. The reason for this way of tasting was to make sure that each bottle / each wine got a fair tasting – because sometimes, in a mass tasting those last wines get lost, or sometimes the middle wines get lost – this way every one tasted got the same chance to shine.

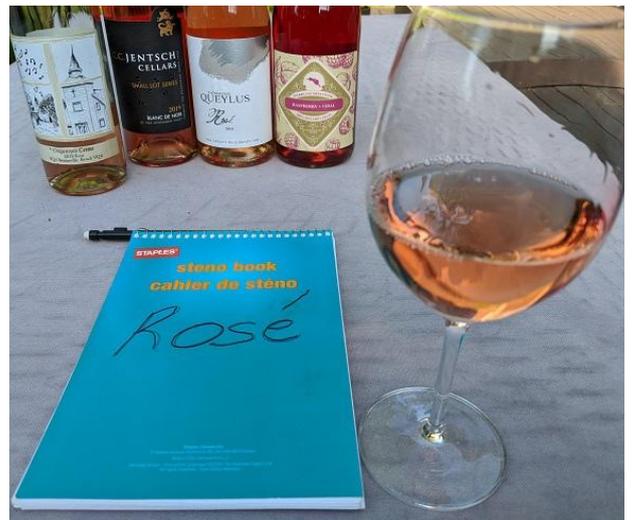
Scoring ...

Explaining the ratings:

5-star rating system breaks down like this

- *** = Average
- *** ½ = Good
- **** = Very Good
- **** ½ = Excellent
- ***** = Outstanding

+ = a wine with a little bit extra



My trusty scoring pad, pencil and glass

Monthly Addendums ...

For those who still want to be included in the report please feel free to send in your wine(s), there will be a monthly addendum published throughout the summer.

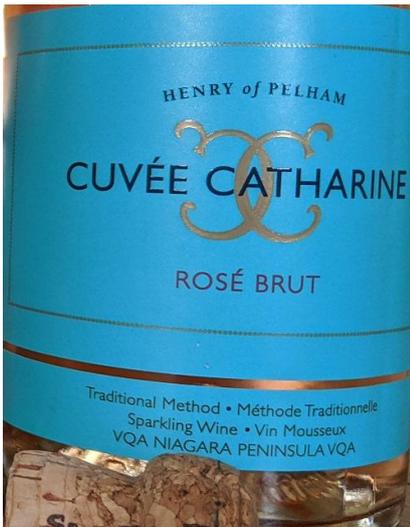
The Destiny Heart ...



This project began on April 18, 2020 when I tasted the very array of four rosés. I put the bottle down on the outside table to take the very first picture and there on the bottle of Le Grand Filou was this heart shaped object being created by the sun. It was like the Wine Gods were looking down and smiling that rosé was finally going to have its day in the sun and garner the respect it deserves. I called that picture "The Destiny Heart" - some two and a half months later, the project is complete (for now), and I share that very first picture with you.

The Top 5

... Sparkling Rosé ...



Henry of Pelham NV Rosé Brut

\$32.95 - Ontario - LCBO 217505

It's hard to argue with this rosé sparkling still being one of Ontario's best; strawberry and lime with a good fizz and yeasty nose. This trad sparkling is a perennial favourite and even when it doesn't hit all the right marks it hits enough of them to win over friends and make new ones. Not the most refreshing for the patio but certainly one to start the party. (****)

Westcott Vineyards 2018 Brilliant Rosé

\$32.99 - Ontario - Winery

This 100% Pinot Noir sparkling spends 14 months on lees and is the very essence of what summer bubbles should be: a touch of class with a touch of whimsy. Strawberry and licorice notes kick things off then in creeps the lemon and the acidity - there is also some subtle yeasty/bready notes. Nice red berries come to the fore as it opens and that acidity keeps humming along keeping it fresh and lively and yet still so summery. (****)



The Top 5

(continued)

... Sparkling Rosé ...



Le Colture

NV Rosé Spumante Brut

\$20.95 – Veneto, Italy – agent: Esprit du Vin

From the Prosecco region comes this bubble with non-typical Prosecco grapes: Chardonnay (70%) and Merlot (30%) though made in the typical Charmat method, but over the course of three months to develop some depth: raspberry, strawberry and floral with lemon and lime, good acidity with even some spiced-cherry-syrup on the finish intermingled with bitter melon to give it the right balance. Rare and a real treat. (****)

Kacaba Vineyards

2019 Effervescence

\$32.15 – Ontario – Winery

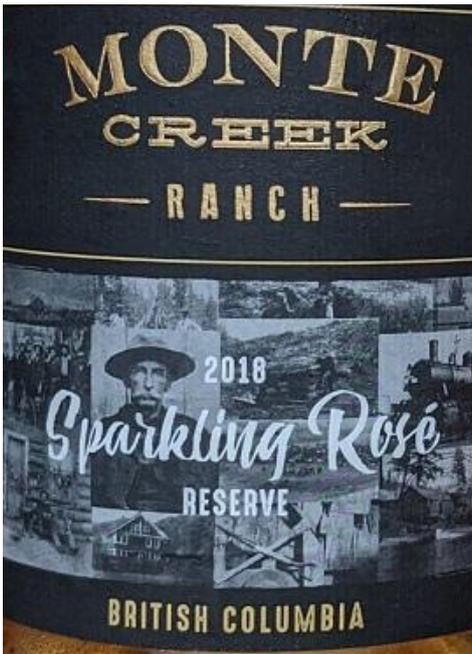
When it comes to tasting, first comes taste then comes price – this one is a little extravagant, especially because it its Charmat method bubble but it is tasty: made from Pinot Noir (62.5%) and Chardonnay (37.5%) it displays notes of nectarine and orange zest with peach and apricot; it ends with a medium-length finish and good acidity; pretty and summery. A little overpriced but tasty! (*** ½+)



The Top 5

(continued)

... Sparkling Rosé ...



Monte Creek Ranch 2018 Rosé Reserve

\$19.99 – British Columbia – Winery

This one made the top five list because it was tasty, but after finding out what it was made from it became somewhat of a curiosity and unique too. This 100% Marquette is made in the Charmat method and had notes you'll love raspberry-lemonade, sweet cranberry and a lime finish with a cherry linger; a patio Rosé for sure and one for the bubble crowd (and who is not down for that). (** ½+)

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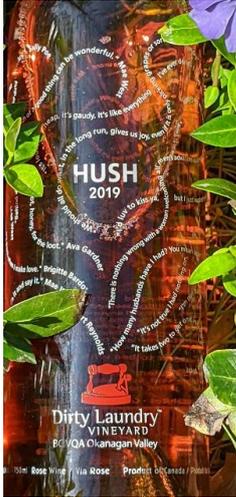
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The Top 10

... Still Rosé ...



Dirty Laundry 2019 Hush

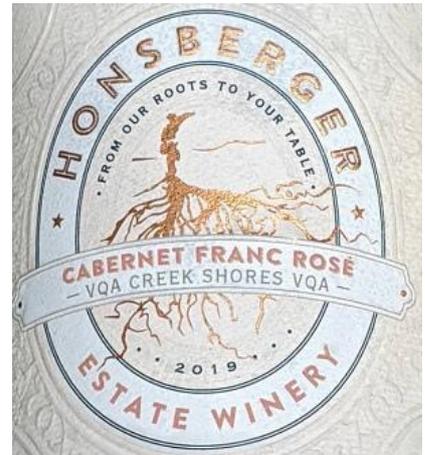
\$19.99 - British Columbia - winery

From Canada's west coast comes this Merlot, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon along with a dash of Pinot Gris cold soaked some 12-24 hours ... lots of lovely strawberry and raspberry notes with floral and nice balancing acidity; this provides great rewards on the palate just loved sipping it. (****+)

Honsberger 2019 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$24.00 - Ontario - winery

Seems that Kelly Mason at Honsberger has come up with a great formula for rosé, because once again she nails it. This hot weather sipper is nice and dry right from the get-go; plenty of apricot and peach with hints of citrus (mainly grapefruit) and rhubarb. This one is really pleasant and has a good hit of acidity and also length, something rare in rosé wines. (****+)



Fielding 2019 Long Weekend Rosé

\$13.75 - Ontario - winery

It's a typical blend these days of Gamay and Pinot Noir but with the addition of Sauvignon Blanc to punch up the aromatics and acidity: starts raspberry and lime, adds in a pretty floral note plus a touch of cranberry ... a real hot weather refresher. (****)



The Top 10

... Still Rosé ...



Villa Maria 2019

Private Bin Rosé, Hawkes Bay

\$16.95 - New Zealand - LCBO 14990

This pretty rosé from the Hawkes Bay region delivers on summer refreshment with all its floral, raspberry and lime zest plus the addition of bitter melon, strawberry, and lemony-watermelon on the finish; very refreshing for those hot summer days. Make sure you get the 2019 version as the '18 is still out there. (****)

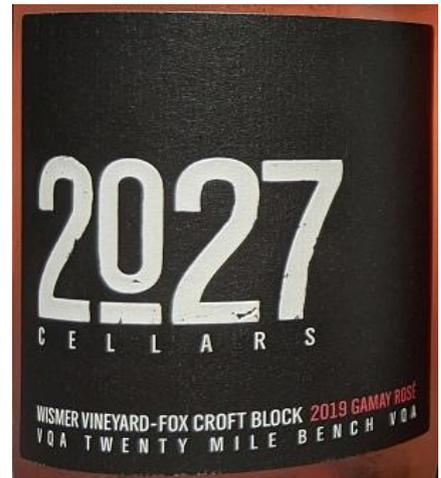
2027 Cellars

2019 Gamay Rosé

Wismer Fox Croft Block

\$18.00 - Ontario - winery

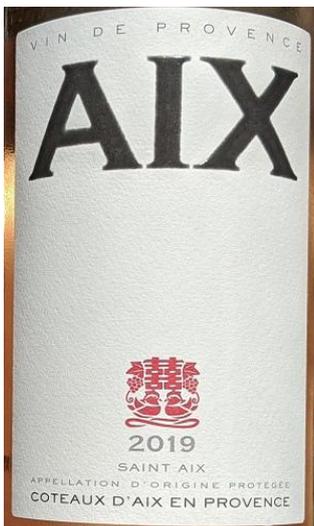
This Gamay-based rosé is one that not only captivates the nose but also the palate. It starts off very citrusy on the nose but also adds in floral plus hints of cherry and bubblegum; that palate is everything you want in pink wine: namely refreshing with cherry-raspberry and pink grapefruit. There is just a hint of bitter melon rind on the finish, and that adds to the balance of this rosé, making it oh so quaffable. (****)



Saint Aix 2019 Rosé

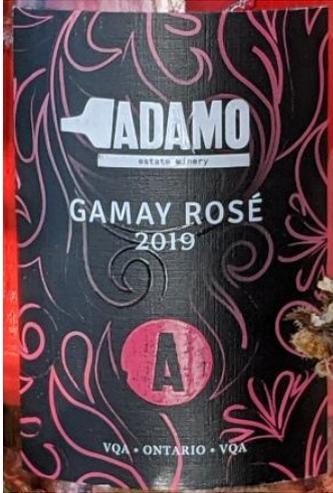
\$24.95 - Provence, France - LCBO 451906

This French rosé is all about hints: hints of grapefruit, hints of peach, hints of lime – but also lovely floral, a variety of other citrus tones, and layers of flavor, which makes you want to take another sip, and another, and another. Plus, there's a lengthy finish with refreshing acidity. (****)



The Top 10

... Still Rosé ...



Adamo 2019 Gamay Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery

This all-estate Gamay rosé is full-on cherry thru and thru with a sweet entry but a dry finish: there are other notes that play around in the background like raspberry, earthy (aka: beet) with some lime and floral. (** $\frac{1}{2}$ +))

Quails' Gate 2019

Lucy's Block Rosé

\$26.99 - British Columbia - winery

Pinot Noir is not foreign to rosé wines in Canada, but how many are pairing it with an equal part Pinot Meunier? Not many; but this experiment works, and works really well. The fruit is taken from the "Westpoint Vineyard" and this unlikely two-some create strawberry, earthy, raspberry and lemon zest notes along with floral, apple blossom and a long finish. There's even some pink grapefruit and white peach, making this a complex, yet gulpable, rosé – and that's something that does not get said to often about pink wines. (****)



Quai du Vin 2019

The Graduate Rosé

\$17.00 - Ontario - winery

An interesting blend of the Cabernets (Sauvignon & Franc) made by their new graduate student in a way she likes to make rosé, and she has nailed it: bubble gum nose with some cherry makes you think sweet but the palate leans on raspberry and cranberry leading to a nice dry finish with lime pith and lime cordial- really very tasty. (****)



The Top 10

... Still Rosé ...



Malivoire 2019 Vivant Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - LCBO 498535

Serious rosé drinkers should be searching out this dry version made from 100% Pinot Noir, it's pretty to sniff with its floral notes plus raspberry fruit on the palate ending with lime, mineral and a long lingering finish. (****)

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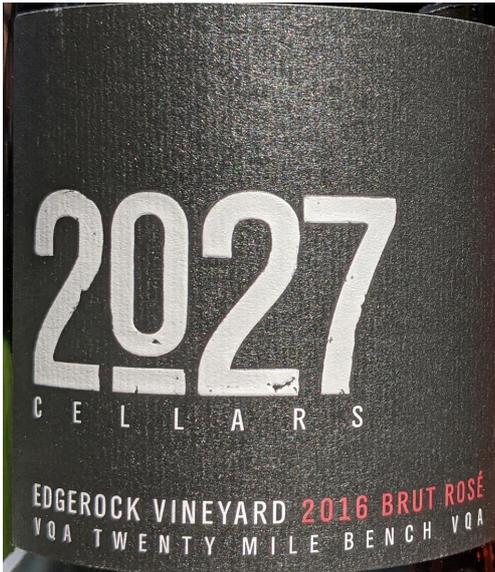
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Sparkling Rosé

(Special Mentions)

2027 Cellars 2016 Brut Rosé

\$45.00 – Ontario – winery



Probably the best bubble tried during the whole rosé tasting, the problem was the criteria set out at the beginning of this: it had to make you want to go out to the patio... this 100% Pinot Noir aged 30 months on lees with a zero sugar dosage does the exact opposite, it makes me want to hold a dinner party to show off the excellence of Ontario bubbles, slip on a tux and hold a fundraiser: it's delicate and elegant with subtle notes of raspberry and lime, peachy nuances slip in and out in the background and each sip makes me want hors d'oeuvres, not burgers and dogs ... it's just not summery enough, it's a special occasion wine and there is nothing wrong with that. (****+)

Hinterland 2012 Rosé (RD)

\$49.50 - Ontario - winery

A very special bottling of Rosé Sparkling from the house that sparkling built, or better yet built the better sparkling in Ontario. This is a "récentement dégorgé" or RD – more appropriately called "Disgorged Late" (DL) in English – it just means it's a reissue of a wine that has been sitting on lees longer in bottle. You may have seen the 2012 before, but not in this way. Still a blend of 83% Pinot Noir & 17% Chardonnay, but now with 80 months on lees and zero dosage. The colour is lovely and the aromas scream of black raspberry and bread crust; palate follows suit with a big hit of that black raspberry on the tongue plus yeasty and bready notes along with a long, lingering lime zest finish that becomes pith-like the longer it lingers. Serious Rosé for serious times. (****+)



Sparkling Rosé

(in alphabetically order)

Alvento 2018 Sparkling Rosé

\$24.95 - Ontario - Winery

Very pale in colour, hardly a rosé at all, more like freshly squeezed peach juice; but it has a crisp lemon-lime, sour cherry and rhubarb nose with the waft of a floral element; the palate is a little less expressive but with a pronounced candied orange mid-palate - it's nice and very drinkable. (***) ½

Harwood 2018 North Beach Mermaid

\$20.00 - Ontario - Winery

It's simple and refreshing with raspberry at the forefront adding in a slight sweet note but closing out with a lemon-raspberry - it's like one of those flavoured lemonades. (***)

Henry of Pelham NV Speck Bros. Aria

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 14981

A slightly effervescent sparkling wine that has a subtle sweetness reminiscent of red berries like raspberry and cherry with the addition of peach in the blend - finish is lively and refreshing. (***)

Hillier Creek NV Sparkling Rosé

\$25.00 - Ontario - Winery

This Charmat method rosé bubble is a blend of Gamay and Riesling and despite it being very simple on both the nose and palate, very strawberry with good acidity, it was definitely one you'd enjoy on the patio all day long. (***) ½

Hinterland 2019 Ancestral Rosé

\$23.50 - Ontario - LCBO 426023

This Gamay bubble should be a summer staple on any deck where red fruit and fizz is your wish: strawberry, raspberry and cherry on the nose with a little red berry sweetness on the mid-palate and lead to a watermelon-lemonade/limeade finish. Buy it. Pop it. Guzzle it. That's what this was made for. Let the party begin. (***)

Hinterland 2019 Borealis

\$24.00 - Ontario - LCBO 16876

Another Gamay sparkling from Hinterland, this is their Charmat version: it's light and floral with lime zest and ruby grapefruit. It was interesting to note that taken in small sips it's a delight, but when taken as a big mouthful it develops a more soapy-like finish ... so sip don't chug. (***)

Sparkling Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Intrigue Wines NV I DO

\$20.00 - British Columbia - Winery

This happy little sparkling from British Columbia is a mix of Riesling, Merlot and Gewurztraminer, it's full of Rosé petals, sweet pear and melon; it's quite an interesting little wine that will have you saying, "yeah, I will have a little more." (***)

Joiy NV Live for Today

\$4.95 / 250ml - Australia - LCBO 647313

This can (250ml) of Aussie fizz doesn't have much flavour, it sparkles and it s fizzy, and it does provide some form of refreshment factor, but it is non-descript aside from it tastes like red Kool-Aid, and if that is what you are looking for, then drink up. (***)

KEW Vineyards 2017 Rosalie

\$29.95 - Ontario - Winery

I'll admit to being a fan of the KEW wines in the past and even to this day - but this Rosalie, 100% Pinot Noir, let me down a bit when compared to the wines of the past. It comes out a little flat, but with lime and red currant, green apple and subtle acidity plus a touch of toastiness. Better versions have come out before and will again I am sure of it - as it is this one is just middle of the road. (***) ½)

Martini NV Sparkling Rosé

\$15.95 - Italy - LCBO 14955

This Italian rosé sparkler starts off with raspberry and sweet lime notes on the nose and continues that in the mouth but replaces the lime with a drier orange peel, it's a deck ready spritz, on its own or mixed. (***)

Pelee Island Winery 2018 Bella

\$18.95 - Ontario - LCBO 11597

This Pinot Noir / Auxerrois Charmat sparkler is made more in the Frizzante style than pure, lively bubble - at least that was my take. Not much excitement on the nose or palate, but quite a nice bit of un-excitement, it's non-descript rosé with little defining character - nothing to draw but nothing to repel either. As someone once said, "it's wine and it does the job". (***)

Pelee Island Winery 2018 Lola - Sparkling Blush

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 450981

The Lola line is meant to be cheap, cheerful and easy drinking, and that is exactly what this 95% Vidal / 5% Chambourcin delivers. Pleasant and playful with raspberry, lemon, peach and it resides on the sweet side of things - don't drink too much or too quick, that sugar will go to your head in the heat. (***)

Sparkling Rosé

(in alphabetical order ... cont'd)

Rockway 2018 9 Pink Spritz

\$16.00 - Ontario - Winery

Pure playfulness for the patio: spritzzy with a slight sweetness reminiscent of cream soda and sweet raspberry-lemonade; pleasant and easy drinking. (***)

Rosehall Run NV Pixie

\$19.95 - Ontario - LCBO 492959

The bottle says Vidal but the colour comes from the 4% Pinot Noir that also makes its way in there. It's a Charmat sparkling that really is a summer treat: raspberry, cherry, strawberry, rhubarb, lime and floral all show up at some point and it's also quite chuggable. Pour yourself a glass and enjoy. (***) ½

Santa Margherita NV Brut Rosé

\$18.95 - Italy - LCBO 302752

The name is familiar to Pinot Grigio fans, this is the pink bubble they make; it's fresh enough with nice bubbles, hints of raspberry and lemon, but it has a hollow finish that leaves you wanting something more - you can tell this one by its distinctive fat bottle. (***)

Vieni NV Momenti Rosé Extra Dry

\$16.95 - Ontario - LCBO 435784

While researching the grape varieties of this wine the Vieni website said it was made from "Alleria Rosé" - finally I discovered that Alleria Rose a 2015 Rosé they made using Riesling and Pinot Noir, so let's just go with that. As for the wine it has quite a frothy mousse with raspberry and strawberry fruit and a pleasant lemon drop note on the finish. (***) ½

Waupoos NV Strawberry-Vidal

\$21.95 - Ontario - Winery

Is it a rosé? Well it kinda fits when it comes to colour, and if adding a red wine to a white wine counts why not a red fruit wine to a white wine: this Vidal (planted in 1998) is mixed with strawberry wine, and this one really delivers on that strawberry character, fresh and tart and fizzy - there is a Lip Smackers / lip glass kinda note here giving it a kind of confectioned sweetish note, but it's pleasant and summery. (***) ½

Waupoos NV Raspberry-Vidal

\$21.95 - Ontario - Winery

Is it a rosé? Well it fits if you go by colour, and if adding a red wine to a white wine counts why not a red-coloured fruit wine to a white wine: this Vidal (planted in 1998) is mixed with raspberry wine and creates a very raspberry forward offering with a mildly soapy mid-palate and a tart finish - but it's the delivering of the raspberry that gives it a pass. (***)

Still Rosé

13th Street 2019 Vin Gris

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery

This “vin gris” is made of Gamay and is super light in colour, but what it lacks in colour is makes up for in aromas and flavours: honeydew melon rind with lime, apricot, tangerine and unripe peach notes, there’s also good acidity that gives a welcome bitter bite on the finish. A good refresher for the patio. (***) ½)

13th Street 2019 Pink Palette

\$15.95 - Ontario - winery

Although pink palette gives the impression it should be a blend of grapes (using a painter’s palette to mix) this one is all Cabernet Franc. Lots of raspberry and red currants plus beets and earthy character; the finish swings in with sweet cranberry – this has a vibrant red colour to it too. (***) ½)

13th Street 2019 Burger Blend

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 609545

This is an easy drinking style of rosé built around the ideal of the BBQ. Cherry and raspberry take, it’s nice and really a plain-Jane type of rosé. Not that there is anything wrong with that. (***)

2nd Streetlight 2017 Ariya

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery

An interesting blend of Vidal and Cabernet Sauvignon that is already 3 years from vintage date, but it comes off with some orange and yellow grapefruit, raspberry and white peach; as it sits in the glass the grapefruit roars out of the glass and onto the finish leading to a medium length finish. (***) ½)

Alvento 2019 South Wind

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery

This grape popped up more and more during the Rosé tasting, Marquette, this is 100% and is really very strawberry in nature, but at the front and back end, its drawback is that it does come across a little too heavy on the palate for easy sipping. (***)

Alvento 2018 South Wind

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery

A very simple rosé that leans on citrus and melon rind; it's drinkable almost gulpable in nature. (***)

Argento 2019 Rosé

\$10.95 - Argentina - LCBO 13245

You would think Malbec is the basis for this pink wine but instead it is Syrah; it’s light and lively with a smooth finish, almost no bite at all, there is some lime and strawberry that’s easy to find but the lack of bite makes it go down smooth and easy. Dangerous summer quaffer. (***)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)



Astica 2019 Rosé

\$8.95 - Argentina - LCBO 445833

This Malbec rosé is all peach pit and raspberry with the subtlest hint of lime to balance out the sweet fruitiness of this wine. (***) ½)

Baillie-Grohman 2019 Florence Rosé

\$20.00 - British Columbia - winery

Made from Pinot Noir and named after William Baillie-Grohman's wife (who's obviously a rosé fan) ... the wine itself is floral, strawberry, and quite gulpable with a touch of lime on the mid-palate, subtle acidity which kicks in a little bitterness for balance. (***) ½+)

Between the Lines 2019 Rosé

\$19.00 - Ontario - winery

The nose is floral and red licorice while the palate throws in some interesting anise, floral and celery – there is a hint of raspberry here, but it is far in the background. It's quite fresh and lively and that is something nice is a quaffable rosé. (***)+)

Big Head 2019 Rosé

\$22.00 - Ontario - winery

Only the second rosé of the tasting that used Pinot Meunier prominently in its blend (along with Cabernet Sauvignon) ... there's notes of raspberry-lemonade-red currants and pomegranate that lures one in and even excites the mouth, but there seems to be a richness on the palate that weighs it down once the first glass is finished; and then the fruit seems to pull back and comes across almost non-descript on the palate and through the finish. Great first glass rosé. (***)

Broken Stone 2018 Rosie Poesie

\$22.95 - Ontario - winery

Prince Edward County and Pinot Noir go hand-in-hand and that should mean many of their rosés have that grape in them as well; this one is quite drinkable: raspberry, strawberry, sour cherry and lime pith all make an appearance it's just let down in the acidity department. (***)+)

Caroline Cellars 2019 The Farmer's Rosé

\$13.95 - Ontario - winery

A blend of Vidal and Baco Noir that shows strawberry and cherry, but it is also slightly candied, so it is not so much refreshing as sweet tasting, there's a hint of cranberry on the finish which helps it along, but it does not pull much of that sweetness away. (***)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Carte Noire 2018 Cotes de Provence

\$19.95 - France - LCBO 319384

A Provencal rosé that has the standard bearers of Grenache and Cinsault as the main grapes: dry raspberry-lemonade on both the nose and palate with a little pith and a little zest of the citrus variety - good, typical and dry. (***) ½)

Cave Spring 2019 Rosé Estate Grown

\$22.95 - Ontario - winery

This 100% Cabernet Franc is abundant in floral and red currant with hints of raspberry, lemon tart, lime zest and a nice dry finish. (***) ½)

CC Jentsch Cellars 2019 Small Lot Series Blanc de Noir

\$22.90 - British Columbia - winery

The "Blanc de Noir" term is usually saved for sparkling wine but here CC Jentsch brings it out for this rosé made from Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. With nice cherry tones mixed with hints of vanilla (not often found in rosé) plus a little rhubarb and a touch of sweetness on the back end; there is a good balance to the wine and is quite refreshing, even if a little odd in its profile. (***) ½)

CedarCreek 2019 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$18.99 - British Columbia - winery

As with many Pinot Noir based rosés this one has a floral note right from the start, then we find raspberry, watermelon rind, cherry and even a hint of bubble gum on the nose; there is some bitter melon on the finish which makes it refreshing, clean and fun to sip on. (***) ½+)

Chateau des Charmes 2018 Cuvee d'Andree Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - LCBO 333260

This is the 2018 edition of this highly popular Cuvee on Ontario wine shelves: plenty of strawberry and floral notes with a cranberry finish with sour cherry linger ... the 2019 is due out late this summer. (***) ½)

Chateau La Gironne 2019 Font Freye

\$16.95 - Provence, France - LCBO 15137

This Provencal pink is most definitely on the dry side but with subtle bubblegum and floral notes on the nose, the palate tells a different story with its orange, nectarine and apricot flavours. (***) ½)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Chateau Val-Joanis 2019 Luberon

\$16.95 - France - LCBO 707281

This Syrah / Grenache blend from the Luberon region of France is just what the doctor ordered for a day under the sun with a glass of pink in your hand: nice and dry with plenty of grapefruit and other citrus notes and a finish that feels like lemon squeezed over strawberries - very refreshing. (**¹/₂+))

Cooper's Hawk 2019 Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - LCBO 296533

This is as simple as things get when it comes to rosé wines, this is all strawberry and comes across Kool-Aid-esque in nature ... if that is your thing, this is your wine. (***)

Cornerfield 2019 Pale Red Rosé

\$18.95 - Ontario - winery

Another wine that has some of that Marquette in it, but this time it the colorant, not the mainstay. This wine is primarily Vidal and thus should be considered a blush: strawberry-lemonade with a pith-like finish. The colour they nailed so it is not electric or too vibrant, simmering in the glass like something from Provence, there's even a touch of watermelon rind; it is slightly sweet and very easy drinking – so be careful in the hot sun, this could be dangerous. (**¹/₂+))

Creekside 2019 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$25.00 - Ontario - winery

The pale colour of this rosé is a lure but then so is the rest of it. Grapes are taken from their Queenston Road Vineyard and this is made from 100% Pinot Noir – it has the colour of cooked salmon in the glass but is far from that in aromas and flavours: delicate raspberry-lemonade with peach and floral; as it opens the peach rises to the fore and stays front and centre – for this one ya gotta love peach. (**¹/₂+))

Colchester Ridge (CREW) 2019 Red Sky at Night

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery

This is a rosé made for red wine drinkers. It is made in a heavier style and darker colour: muted strawberry with a touch of cran-lime; it's more a food-oriented rosé – afraid to get caught with something pink in your glass? This will fool everyone. Drink up. (***)

Culmina 2019 R + D Rosé Blend

\$19.99 - British Columbia - winery

A real mixed bag rosé here with Malbec, Merlot, the Cabernets: Franc and Sauvignon – last year this was one of my favouirtes so it has a lot to live up to. Once again Culmina has done a lovely job on this pink giving it a nice citrus quality with crunchy peach, grapefruit and apricot notes; the finish has length and it comes across in that dry Provencal-style. Not in the top ten this year but one that is definitely bubbling under. (**¹/₂+))

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Dark Horse 2019 Unapologetically Brilliant Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - LCBO 13584

Simplicity is the key here: it's all strawberry, drinkable and pleasant. (***)

De Simone 2018 Vidal Rosé

\$22.00 - Ontario - winery

Calling something a "Vidal Rosé" seems an oxymoron, Vidal is a white grape, so how does it make rosé wine? In this case it's with a dose of 5% Pinot Noir for the colour (call it blush if you will). The result is a wine with watermelon, rhubarb, and cherry notes that's simple and refreshing. (**+ ½)

DiProfio 2019 Gamay Rosé

\$20.00 - Ontario - winery

Gamay is becoming one of the grapes of choice for rosé and her DiProfio joins the fray. Their version is kind of citrusy with a bitterness on the finish that leans very dry with some watermelon rind and sour apple. (**+)



D'Ont Poke the Bear 2019 Rosé

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 642884

Wow, D'Ont Poke ups its game in the rosé department with this little outdoor patio gem: quite pale in colour with watermelon, peach, hints of pear, juicy tangerine, a little citrus rind on the finish and then some pink grapefruit emerges on the lingering finish – this is one you need to pick up for your next "party on the patio" (a little ZZ Top reference there). (**+ ½)

Featherstone 2019 Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - LCBO 117861

One of Ontario's most consistently delicious rosé wines; this year it's all watermelon, rhubarb, red currant, lime/lemon and grapefruit pith – it's a real pleasure to drink. (**+ ½)

Ferox 2017 Rosé

\$25.00 - Ontario - winery

This Cabernet Sauvignon rosé has a lot to be excited about; it's lively and has good acid backing – there might be a purposeful effervescence along with the strawberry and floral notes – while the finish is pink grapefruit with notes of pith. (**+)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Fielding 2019 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$25.95 - Ontario - winery

This is a pretty Pinot-based rosé that has floral and peach notes with strawberry pith backing and lemon zest on the finish – really pleasant. (***) ½)

Fielding 2019 Rosé

\$16.15 - Ontario - winery

Fielding has really upped its rosé game this year with three solid offerings on this list. This is their estate labeled wine and is made from Gamay (64%), Pinot Gris (33%) and just a touch of Pinot Noir (3%) ... nice and dry with grapefruit, green apple and raspberry; on the finish the citrus really kicks in to overdrive making for a rosé that is as dry as it is refreshing. (***) ½+)

Flat Rock Cellars 2019 Pink Twisted

\$18.15 - Ontario - winery

Beets and cranberry come through on the nose with a red currant and red cherry taking residence on the palate; there's a Jolly Rancher cherry-lime note on the mid-palate which gives the wine a slightly confected note. (***)+)

Fogolar 2018 Cabernet Franc Rosé - Picone Vineyard

\$22.00 - Ontario - winery

This single-vineyard, single variety rosé (Cabernet Franc) is in very limited supply (25 cases) and may not even be for sale anymore (contact the winery). It's a bleed-off, or saignee, rosé aged in neutral oak so there are different aspects to this wine other than pure freshness of fruit: strawberry nose with strawberry-raspberry palate, but you also find lime pith and a subtly bitter note to the finish with some almond extract linger. (***)+)

Folonari 2018 Pinot Grigio Pink

\$11.95 - Italy - LCBO 43588

This is a different way to showcase Pinot Grigio (Pinot Gris) and usually I am all for a little pink in my Gris. This version is fresh with nice acidity; sadly, no real perceptible flavours or aromatics, but it's light and refreshing. (***)

Foreign Affair 2019 AmaRosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery

In the typical style of Foreign Affair they are using an Italian method to create even rosé: Pinot Noir, Chardonnay & Gamay are repassed over skins to make this one. Kind of tart with notes of lime candy (like sweet-tarts) mixed in with real raspberry notes from the mid-palate to the finish. There's also a nice hit of strawberry that pops up. This one has some weight but it is a nice quaffer well-chilled. (***) ½)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Gerard Bertrand 2019 Cote des Rosés

\$18.95 - France - LCBO 373985

It's a typical south of France blend of Cinsault, Grenache and Syrah in a distinct bottom heavy bottle with a Rosé etched into it – but all that would mean nothing if it was not a good wine inside, which it is: raspberry and lime notes come across as very crisp and fresh with hints of floral and herbal on both the nose and onto the finish, a real sipper. (***) ½+)

Gerard Bertrand 2019 Hampton Water

\$29.95 - France - LCBO 667337

This is the wine from Gerard Bertrand that the Bon Jovi boys are also behind, I also saw it featured in Billions once (wine is for the high-class crowd?). Delicate peach, watermelon, strawberry and sour cherry balanced off with a good hit of acidity. There is a pleasant bitterness on the back end from the acidity, it's light and refreshing but does pack a high 14% alcohol and if the wine warms even a little t begins to show through. (***) ½+)



Good Earth 2018 Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery

This hot weather sipper is full of strawberry, subtle orange, leaning a little towards the orange-ade side with nice acidity balancing it off – it straddles dry with just a touch of sweet fruit. (***) ½)

Grand Sud 2019 Rosé

\$11.45 - France - LCBO 13497

This is your party-bottle of rosé, as it comes in a 1L bottle – so less trips to the fridge. Made from Merlot this south of France wine is fresh, light and fruity with lime and raspberry, peach pit and a decent amount of acidity to pull it all together - totally summer ready. (***) ½)

Harwood 2018 North Beach Seahorse

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery

This rosé leans more orange than it does pink, and it has a little more sweetness than I care for in my rosé wines, but this Vidal, Riesling with 5% Merlot for colour has some strawberry and peach that make it a fun little refresher for the patio. (***)

Henry of Pelham 2018 Sibling Rivalry Pink

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 171033

Three brothers, three grapes: Gamay, Pinot Noir and Cabernet. This Sibling Rivalry is decently drinkable with its lime, raspberry, peach pit and red currant notes, but it's the lime zest finish that pushes it over the top for me – in a totally crushable way. (***) ½)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Henry of Pelham 2019 Rosé

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 613471

If simplicity is what you are looking for in rosé then this HoP has you covered and at a great price too: lime and raspberry with a lovely tartness and good acidity. It's what you want in quaff-ability. (**¹/₂)

Henry of Pelham 2019 Three of Hearts

\$19.95 - Ontario - LCBO 552562

Two years ago, this was "the bomb dot com", last year it was "tasty", this year it has delicate floral notes with lime and bitter melon, there's even some cranberry-floral on the finish. It doesn't live to the past two years, but I know there is a phoenix on the rise somewhere for this wine. (***)

Hidden Bench 2019 Locust Lane Rosé

\$24.75 - Ontario - winery

This primarily Pinot Noir rosé is made up of both pressed and saignée juice, fermented and aged 5 months in French oak: peach, raspberry, strawberry, floral with a dry finish of lime and bitter melon. (**¹/₂+))

Hillier Creek 2017 Rosé

\$15.00 - Ontario - winery

Rosé should be consumed fresh but this Gamy-based rosé shows that a couple of years is okay if you have some sweetness backing it up: lots of strawberry and raspberry fruit makes up the majority of the flavours here. (***)

Hillier Creek 2019 Rosé of Pinot Noir

\$25.00 - Ontario - winery

This Pinot Noir rosé is floral on the nose and the palate shows off raspberry, grapefruit and melon; really tasty and really quaffable. (***)

Hinterbrook (NOMAD) 2019 Venus Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - winery

This rosé has a drawback, it's totally chuggable, and that could be dangerous out on a hot summer day. It's made of Cabernet Franc, it's floral on the nose and slightly sweet on the palate where lemon drop kicks in on the finish to balance off that sweet tropical fruit (think red fruit punch). That acidity does help it from being cloying but it is a headache waiting to happen, and if you can deal with a rosé headache, go for it. (**¹/₂)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Huff Estates 2019 Getaway Rosé

\$20.00 - Ontario - winery

Simple, easy, tasty: floral, lemon, raspberry, and crunchy peach - light and lively. (**½)

Huff Estates 2019 County Roads Pinot Noir Rosé

\$20.00 - Ontario - winery

A pretty standard rosé with notes of floral, citrus and hints of strawberry and raspberry, it does have a very short finish though. (***)

Huff Estates 2019 All Day Rosé

\$5.00 / 250ml - Ontario - winery

Rosé in a can is getting popular (?), I tasted 4 or 5 of these packaged products and learned they can be very dangerous as drinking them is super easy and they go down quick. This 250ml can is friendly with its raspberry and cherry notes and a subtle sweetness and freshness; it's another dangerous little can of easiness. (***)

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Intrigue Wines 2019 Rotberger

\$19.00 - British Columbia - winery

What the hell is Rotberger? It is said to be a cross between Riesling and Trollinger but nobody knows for sure, and it is not to be confused with Rotburger, which is Zweigelt ... Intrigue wines definitely creates just that using this grape starting with the bubblegum pink colour, it is also a little cloudy (unfiltered?), and seems to have some tannins too. Strawberry, red currants, rhubarb, and a neat kind of tartness that translates into good acidity with some pith notes - it is an intriguing wine, but only for about one glass. (**½) ... *UPDATE:* Sadly, the winery did have to pull the wine because the cloudiness was yeast left in the bottle causing refermentation issues. Too bad.

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Intrigue Wines 2019 Social

\$17.00 - British Columbia - winery

To find the blend of this rosé you have to check around the bottle where among the descriptors of the wines you'll find 37% Riesling / 12.2% Merlot / 25% Pinot Gris / 15.4% Gew / 8.2% Rotberger / 0.2% Malbec ... it's a pretty cool label and the name fits as it is a very "social" and sippable rosé with a sweetish tropical linger – the nose is a sweet red berry bowl of aromas, none of which follows onto the palate where it is all melon, tangerine and pineapple. (***) ½)

Jackson Triggs NV Proprietors Selection Light Rosé

\$10.95 - Cellar in Canada - LCBO 13907

Touted as a "light" wine, and as with beer that means less alcohol; at 8% this must qualify for the moniker: pretty strawberry nose with a cherry juice palate that even has a nip of red apple on the finish. Simple and easy. (***)

Joie Farm 2019 Rethink Pink! Rosé

\$20.76 - British Columbia - winery

The popular rosé blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay Noir show up here, this is a tasty wine with red currant, cranberry and limeade notes; it delivers rosé refreshment but it does not wow. (***) ½)

Julian Chivite 2018 Gran Feudo Rosado (Navarro)

\$12.85 - Spain - LCBO 165845

This Spanish rosé is made from their mainstay grape of Tempranillo plus Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah ... you've most likely seen this bottle on shelves every year and it always has that same deep hue (for rosé). It's pretty with its strawberry and floral notes, but that strawberry is intense and gives this wine some body one might not expect in rosé category; really dry with a tangerine skin finish. This really is a rosé for red drinkers. (***) ½)

Kacaba 2019 Rebecca Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery

The acidity on this rosé is pretty intense, that's because, according to winemaker Vadim Chelekhov, "1/3 of the Pinot Noir and Chard are sparkling wine base", the third grape that goes into this is Gamay. Peach, raspberry and lime dominate and with that acidity it can at first come across as searing, yet the wine is refreshing and as it opens it develops strawberry-lime pith notes. (***) ½+)

Karlo Estates 2017 Patio Reserve Rosé

\$18.00 - Ontario - winery

Another of these 2-year-old rosés that shows it has evolved into something a little heavier than maybe what the winemaker's intentions were: oxidized notes intensify the lime/strawberry note – it has flavour and is quite drinkable, but it's not really a refreshing rosé. (***)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Kim Crawford 2019 Rosé

\$18.95 - New Zealand - LCBO 650325

This New Zealand staple was once sold under a different name, but they have now opted for the more standard "Rosé" – made from Malbec and Merlot this pink comes across as very floral with grapefruit and rhubarb notes mid-palate all the way to the finish. It's a very friendly, quaffable style that's easy and thirst quenching - very tasty. (***) ½+

Konzelmann 2017 Cabernet Rosé - Lakefront Series

\$15.95 - Ontario - winery

A slightly disjointed rosé that will appeal to those that like high acidity, green apple and oxidized raspberry. (***)

Lakeview 2019 Serenity - Pinot Noir Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery

A note from winemaker Scott McGregor told me this was "... a dryer styled rosé...", and he was right, floral, grapefruit and peachy with hints of raspberry, rhubarb and red currant – in truth this might be one of Lakeview's best rosés to date and that it is on the dryer side makes it ever the more appealing. (***) ½)

Le Grand Filou 2019 Rosé

\$9.95 - France - LCBO 13486

A simple sip that does not complicate life with its peachy, lime zest and raspberry notes that culminate in a slight bitterness (for balance) on the finish. (***)

Leaning Post 2019 Rosé

\$20.00 - Ontario - winery

Leaning Post has consistently nailed rosé, and that shows a real love for the style, once again owner winemaker, Ilya Senchuk, gets it in his 2019 version: lovely strawberry and lime with a dash of floral; dry yet hits all the right notes for refreshment. Another fine example of what makes rosé so crushable and yet so delicious. (***) ½+

Les Vignerons de Buzet 2019 Petit Baron Rosé

\$16.05 - Buzet, France - LCBO 741644

This was a last-minute show and ended up being tasted on its own without any competition from other rosés, but it showed very well and was quite quaffable. Made from Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon it hit all the right refreshment buttons: strawberry, lemon, peach in a real pleasant easy drinking style – the downside, plastic cork, so drink NOW. (***) ½)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Liquidity 2019 Rosé

\$25.00 - British Columbia - winery

A blend of "older" Dornfelder and younger Pinot Noir (planted 1994 / 2001 respectively) that shows notes of strawberry stem and parsley; that nice herbal-esque note cuts through the strawberry giving you that refreshment vibe we all look for in rosé. (***) ½)

Locust Lane Winery 2019 Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery

This straddles two sides of the rosé coin; at first the entry is slightly sweet cherry fruit then there is a tart lemonade note that shows up and lingers right through to the finish. Nice first volley from this nascent winery. (***) ½)

Maestral 2018 Gard

\$16.95 - France - LCBO 15135

Light orange in colour, light orange in taste, there are also subtle notes of lime and strawberry pith – it comes across as refreshing but it lacks a flavour profile that really makes it pop. (***)

Malivoire 2019 Moira

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery

One of three Malivoire rosés, this one is all Pinot Noir from the Moira vineyard and it continues its track record of being dry without compromise: lots of lime, raspberry, and citrus pith notes – there is also an appealing medium length finish. (***) ½+)

Malivoire 2019 Lady Bug Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - LCBO 559088

For those who are steeped in Lady Bug tradition you'll know that this used to be a sweet rosé, but have you noticed that every year winemaker Shiraz Mottiar has been pulling back on that sweetness, this year's version is his driest yet. Big on raspberry, watermelon and cherry but with a subtle bitterness of citrus zest to the finish; and no matter how dry he goes he still seems to have that really mouth-pleasing flavour. (***) ½+)



Manchuela 2019 Toro Bravo Rosado

\$8.15 - Spain - LCBO 14145

Their popular red wine was way over scored, but this Shiraz / Grenache pink should be a favourite for those looking for value in an easy drinker for the patio: earthy, rhubarb, cran-cherry and it also leans fairly dry. (***) ½)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Marcel Martin 2018 S de la Sablette

\$16.35 - Provence, France - SAQ

When it comes to those rosés from Provence I expect a hit of acidity along with those dry rosé notes, this one provided the dry and the orange, raspberry and lime notes, but it needs a better acid punch and it had a too-quick finish. (***) ½)

Marynissen 2019 Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery

A five-grape blend of both red and white varieties: Riesling (50%), Merlot (17.5%), Pinot Noir (17.5%), Chardonnay (10%) and Muscat (5%) – making this one of the most mixed bag rosé tasted; but all those varieties added something interesting into the final product as it starts with a lovely cherry nose and comes clean with a Sweet Tart candied tartness on the finish; the acidity is not elevated but it makes everything just right and refreshing as hints of lime run throughout. (***) ½+)

Megalomaniac Lot 19-1 Homegrown - Cellar 4379

\$14.95 - Ontario - winery

This white blend of Vidal and Riesling splashes in 5% Baco Noir for colour and red fruit flavours: cherry, strawberry dominate from start to finish, there are also red beets and earthy notes on the mid-palate. (***)+)

Meldville 2019 Syrah Rosé (First Edition)

\$24.00 - Ontario - Legends

This is Meldville's first go at Syrah rosé and believe it or not it comes under screwcap (never thought I'd see the day). It's kinda funky at first, especially on the nose, but the palate is definitely the high point here. The nose throws off some earthy notes that seem odd for rosé, but thankfully it blows off and gives way to lazy red and yellow fruits like raspberry and peach on the palate ... it was just bottled so I think the aromas have a little settling to do. (***) ½)



Meldville 2019 Cabernet Franc Rosé (Second Edition)

\$20.00 - Ontario - Legends

The second iteration of the Cabernet Franc rosé that proved to be quite tasty last year – with a twist (under a cap not a cork): delicate notes of raspberry and sour cherry plus good acidity in the form of lemon and lime; there's even a slight herbaceous (aka: green pepper) tickle that sweeps each and out on alternate sips. Nice flavours, it's dry and it's quaffable – pretty much what we look for in rosé. (***) ½+)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Mission Hill 2019 Reserve

\$21.99 - British Columbia - winery

Always fun to see what people are making rosé from, Mission Hill uses Merlot, Shiraz and Pinot Noir to achieve a vibrant colour that is quite alluring. The flavours are very cherry, raspberry, rhubarb and lime - the sweet entry gives way to a tart finish loaded with lime zest; and it smells great while you are drinking it. (***) ½+

Monte Creek Ranch 2019 Rosé

\$17.99 - Ontario - winery

Lots of red berry fruit: cranberry, strawberry, red currants and even some sweet watermelon - this is a really quaffable and crushable rosé that has a medium length finish with a nice little bitterness / acidity to balance it out. (***) ½)

Moraine 2019 Pink Mountain

\$26.00 - British Columbia - winery

This tasty little number is a 75/25 blend of Gamay Noir & Malbec ... highlights include cherry, rhubarb, red currant, strawberry and sweet blackberry all with a medium length finish that layers in subtle cranberry notes. (***) ½+)

Niagara College 2018 Balance Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery

Made from Pinot Noir this rosé has good acidity, a light floral nose and raspberry, lemon and pink grapefruit cocktail on the palate. Pleasant and easy to sip on. (***) ½)

North 42 Degrees 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery

The grape it is made from is right in the name, and one of the few that is made strictly from Cabernet Sauvignon: nice strawberry, red cherries and white pepper, with a tickle of white flowers on the nose. Nice length, good linger and balancing acidity - it's as refreshing as it is lovely. (***) ½)

Organized Crime 2019 Rosé

\$17.00 - Ontario - winery

Aromas of raspberry, lime and peach, the palate shows tart notes along with sour cherry, watermelon rind and nice acidity; tasty with really good tartness and a long finish - refreshing for a hot day. (***) ½+)

Oxley Estate 2019 Pinot Rosé

\$21.95 - Ontario - winery

This Pinot Noir based rosé is refreshing with peachy, floral and a fun tropically ting - it comes across just shy of candied, but there's a nice pull back with that acidity wrapped in a lime zest finish. (***) ½+)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Pelee Island Winery 2018 Pink

\$12.95 - Ontario - LCBO 529354

Cranberry, red currant and cherry fruit; the finish is sweet with a Jolly Rancher tartness. (***)

Pelee Island Winery 2017 Lola Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - LCBO 552497

The back label says Lola is a Cabernet Franc based rosé and has bitter lemon and bitter raspberry, so as you can imagine it's bitter and tart and provides little excitement outside of those notes; but for some that equates a nice drinking rosé on a hot day. (***)

Peller Estates 2019 Private Reserve Rosé

\$22.95 - Ontario - winery

Lemon twisted over raspberry and peach pit backed by cranberry and red currants, there's a nice hit of acidity on the finish which also shows some good length. (***) ½+

Peller Estates 2018 Private Reserve Rosé

\$22.95 - Ontario - winery

Floral and fresh with watermelon, raspberry and peach; acidity is decent with some lime-ish/lemon-ish notes. It's easy drinking with a medium length finish - not too sweet, not too dry, it's the Goldilocks of rosé, not too hard, not too soft, just alright. (***)

Peninsula Ridge 2019 Beal Vineyard Cabernet Franc

\$14.95 - Ontario - winery

Peninsula Ridge has always put together decent rosé over the years from their Beal Vineyard Cabernet Franc, this year there is lots of strawberry that runs the entire gamut beginning to end. It's nice and dry, with pith notes keeping that strawberry in check. It has a sweet entry, and lingers sweet, yet the finish is dry. (***) ½+

Pondview 2019 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery

This rosé basks in its simplicity to be enjoyed and sipped upon: floral, cherry, cran-raspberry with nice lime zest notes on the finish, making it nicely balanced and quaffable. (***) ½+

Potter Settlement 2017 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$40.00 - Ontario - winery

This 100% estate Pinot Noir is soaked for a month as whole cluster before being bled off and knocked up with a yeast used primarily in Provence ... the result is a big strawberry, lime and honeydew melon note that is pretty palate pleasing; there's even a long finish with hints of pink grapefruit. But that price ... I'll leave it to your decision. (***) ½+



Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

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Quails' Gate 2019 Rosé

\$17.99 - British Columbia - winery

The 10% Pinot Gris adds the freshness to the Gamay / Pinot Noirs blend ... it comes across a little watery on the finish, but before we get there it does have nice red currant and cranberry notes with touches of lemon-lime; good flavour right through the mid-palate; I just wish it finished stronger. (** $\frac{1}{2}$)

Queylus 2019 Rosé

\$23.95 - Ontario - winery

Quite floral, but with hints of lime, rhubarb and red currants – the floral notes back off on the mid-palate giving way to pink grapefruit and honeydew rind with subtle white flowers on the finish. (** $\frac{1}{2}$)

Redstone 2019 Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery

Beets and strawberry with a dry finish that has a hint of lime; but there seems to be an underlying leanness that makes the finish seem more water-y than wine-y. Another one of those recently bottled wines that might need more time to meld in bottle. (***)

Remy Pannier 2018 Rosé d'Anjou

\$15.15 - Loire, France - LCBO 12641

Delicate yellow grapefruit with a subtle cocktail sweetness; there's also notes of floral and an interesting perfume on the nose. (***)

Ridgepoint 2019 Rosé

\$20.00 - Ontario - winery

This all-estate Pinot Noir, from 20-year-old vines, is a real snocker of a wine, in a good way. Very strawberry with hits of lemon and quite quaffable; there's a subtle tartness here that elevates the linger and makes for a strawberry-lemonade finish. The mid-palate has a little weight on it, but it is refreshing and quaffable in spite of that. (** $\frac{1}{2}$ +)



Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Riverstone 2019 Malbec Rosé

\$22.90 - British Columbia - winery

Strawberry, floral, and cherry with a nice hint of bitter on the finish, but that seems to help balance that berry bowl of flavour; it leaves a sweet taste and linger, but it's dry so this is fruit-driven "sweetness". (***) ½)

Road 13 Vineyards 2019 Rosé

\$23.99 - Ontario - winery

Peachy and citrusy but with a short finish and linger of watermelon rind - though it does come across a little watery. (***)

Rosehall Run 2019 Rosé of Pinot Noir

\$29.00 - Ontario - winery

Rosehall's first Pinot Noir rosé from a place that does a great job with Pinot Noir in its red form. The result is a rosé full of raspberry-strawberry-cherry with a nice cranberry finish, it's pretty, easy and very drinkable. (***) ½)

Rosehall Run 2019 Just One Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery

A step up from past years of the "Just One" – this one is pretty right from the get-go (nose to palate and finish): floral, strawberry and raspberry lead things off, then comes the lime and grapefruit and an interesting pith and cherry finish. There are notes of bitter from the acidity and that helps to bring everything into balance. Totally a chuggable rosé, but also one you could sit and linger over. (***) ½+)

Rustenberg 2019 Petit Verdot Rosé

\$14.95 - South Africa - LCBO 451773

The only Rosé that used Petit Verdot as a standalone grape, something uniquely South African (or maybe uniquely Rustenberg): pleasant red fruits with some cherry sweetness and raspberry, there's also a hoppy / herbaceous element that creeps in creating something interesting and worth looking into more, and before you know it the bottle is empty. (***) ½+)



Saintly Wine 2019 The Grand Rosé Gold

\$17.95 - Ontario - Wine Rack

To call yourself "Grand" and "Gold" you better back it up and this Saintly rosé actually does: dry with peach undertones, lime kicks in at the forefront and it also finishes with lime - it's like a lime sandwich – but there's also some pink grapefruit sidling in there to give the palate even more of a jolt of refreshment. (***) ½+)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Sprucewood Shores 2018 Rosé

\$15.18 - Ontario - winery

Quite the satisfying version of rosé with sweet peach and strawberry; the best part is the great strawberry linger and there's a touch of floral that helps punch up the aromas. (***) ½)

Stel + Mar NV Premium Rosé

\$7.65/500ml (each – sold in 6 packs) - California – LCBO 15515

The only rosé tasted out of Tetra-Pak, which in the past has never been the sign of a quality wine – but this California Syrah and Grenache has nice flavour with a touch of sweetness: cherry and raspberry notes makes this very chuggable. (***) ½)

Stemmari 2019 Terre Siciliane

\$13.95 - Italy - LCBO 14708

Feels kinda sweet, a little heavy and seems to lack acidity, but it is smooth with subtle floral and raspberry, but it might be used as a meal rosé where the food would counter-balance the heaviness. This has the feel of a light red wine more than a rosé. (***)



Stoney Ridge 2019 Tragically Hip "Flamenco"

\$19.95 - Ontario - LCBO 16250

Tragically Hip is not just the name of the band, but it is the kind of rosé this is: peach, strawberry and lime - the peachiness roars forward with good acid backing; it's well balanced, fresh and quaffable. Tragic because you'll need a few bottles and that could lead to a few more – you're gonna run out quick. (***) ½+)

Tawse 2019 Sketches

\$17.95 - Ontario - LCBO 172643

This is just strawberry by the bucket load, there's also a little raspberry and some hints of lime, but it's the strawberry that is the most memorable ... so quaffable for strawberry nectar fans. (***) ½)

The Beachhouse 2019 Rosé

\$11.95 - South Africa - LCBO 164343

The label is lots of fun and screams of summer, and what's inside the bottle does the same: cherry, strawberry, peach and apple with floral and a sweet hit on the mid-palate; it's fun and smooth and quite a delight. (***)

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Trius 2019 Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - LCBO 341743

This one is all red grapes mainly Gamay (69%) with Syrah and Pinot Noir (6%) with a mere 4 hours of skin contact then pressed: it's dry and citrusy; refreshing with good acidity and a long finish plus some juicy pink grapefruit, subtle strawberry and sour cherry on the mid-palate. (***) ½+

Two Sisters 2019 Margo Rosé

\$35.00 - Ontario - winery

The second priciest rosé on the list. It is made from Niagara-on-the-Lake fruit (Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc): floral, sweet pink grapefruit, raspberry, and strawberry all with a lengthy finish. It's a nice rosé, but the price becomes prohibitive when looking at others on this list and also when compared to previous vintages. (***) ½

Vineland 2018 Rotling

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery

A Vidal / Cabernet Franc blend that is simple, easy drinking with a touch of apple and orange plus nice acidity for balance – nothing special just a good honest rosé to drink. (***)

Vineland 2019 Game Changer Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery

Love the name of this wine "Game Changer" and this is the kind of rosé we should all be drinking, it's fresh and summery with peaches, nectarine, watermelon rind and even a touch of celery leaf that creates a kind of freshness in the mouth and to the aromas. It's basic and down to earth. (***) ½

Wayne Gretzky 2019 Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery

Following in the familiar footsteps of last year's rosé, which was really good, this Gretzky Pinot Noir/Gris combination ended up as a bubbling under wine from the top ten ... peach, floral, watermelon, cherry-raspberry with a nice lemon zest finish and acid punch; that peach note just lifts this wine and gives it a lengthy finish worth revisiting. (***) ½+



Westcott Vineyards 2019 Delphine

\$18.99 - Ontario - winery

Westcott's base-model rosé is still a real delight for the senses: pleasantly raspberry and sour cherry with fresh citrusy notes like lime and lemon and even some citrus pith notes on the finish; very sippable. (***) ½

Still Rosé

(in alphabetically order ... cont'd)

Westcott Vineyards 2019 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$23.99 - Ontario - winery

Made from all-estate Pinot Noir and made with a delicate hand: floral and citrus, rhubarb and white cherry with raspberry and lime on the nice dry finish. This is one of those rosé you bring out for the aficionados of rosé in your life. (***) ½+



White Cliff 2019 Winemaker's Selection Rosé

\$14.95 - New Zealand - LCBO 13297

When I think of White Cliff, I think really good Sauvignon Blanc, but this rosé seems to follow right along with that thinking: tangerine and floral on the nose, gentle orange fruits like nectarine, apricot, fuzzy peach on the palate with a decent amount of acidity for balance. (***) ½

Yellow Tail 2019 Rosé

\$12.95 - Australia - LCBO 13015

If you're looking for simple and easy this one delivers, the surprise here is that it comes across dry and refreshing with lemon zest mixed with red currant - it truly is a simple summer sipper. (***)+

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About Me

Michael Pinkus, The Grape Guy
www.michaelpinkuswinereview.com



Michael Pinkus has had a 20-year love affair with wine. In April 2005, he decided to leave a career in radio and combine his love for writing with his passion for wine to become the head-writer and all around Grape Guy for OntarioWineReview.

His mission, at first, was to forge out and bring Ontario wines into a more positive light, not just for fellow Ontarians, but Canadians and others worldwide; over the years he has branched out to include wines from around the world to his sphere of influence. His heartfelt and insightful comments, along with his passionate reviews of the wineries and the wines they make, have won him praise throughout the Ontario industry and beyond. His excitement for wine and everything wine related is infectious. Through his writing, it is his desire to educate, inspire and encourage others to grow their own love and enthusiasm for wine. Get Michael's unique take on things and enjoy his recommendations with family and friends. The wine world in Ontario is abuzz for the Grape Guy ... finding out why is easy: just visit the website www.michaelpinkuswinereview.com, subscribe to the free bi-weekly newsletter and get informed. Michael invites you to contact him at michael@michaelpinkuswinereview.com

You can follow him:

Two ways on Facebook: (Michael Pinkus & Michael Pinkus Wine Review)

Twitter: (The Grape Guy)

Instagram (The Grape Guy)

YouTube: (Michael Pinkus)

and thru his co-hosted podcast on SoundCloud: (Two Guys Talking Wine)

Thank You

To all those who submitted wines
And those who helped along the way

Thanks to all the wineries who sent in wines for the tasting ...

13th Street / 2027 Cellars / 2nd Streetlight / 80x Wine Company / Adamo / Alvento / Argento / Astica / Baillie-Grohman / Between the Lines / Big Head / Blueberry Hill / Broken Stone / Calamus / Caroline Cellars / Carte Noire / Cave Spring / CC Jentsch Cellars / CedarCreek / Chateau des Charmes / Chateau La Gordonne / Chateau Val-Joanis / Cooper's Hawk / Cornerfield Wine Co. / Creekside / Colchester Ridge Estate Winery (CREW) / Culmina / Dark Horse / De Simone / DiProfio / Dirty Laundry / D'Ont Poke the Bear / Featherstone / Ferox / Fielding / Flat Rock Cellars / Fogolar / Folonari / Foreign Affair / Frog Pond Farm / Gerard Bertrand / Good Earth / Grand Sud / Harbour Estates / Harwood / Henry of Pelham / Hidden Bench / Hillier Creek / Hinterbrook (NOMAD) / Hinterland / Honsberger / Huff Estates / Intrigue Wines / Jackson Triggs / Joie Farm / Joiy / Julian Chivite / Kacaba / Karlo Estates / KEW Vineyards / Kim Crawford / King's Court / Konzelmann / Lakeview / Le Colture / Le Grand Filou / Leaning Post / Les Vignerons de Buzet / Liquidity / Locust Lane Winery / Lundy Manor / Maestral / Malivoire / Manchuela / Marcel Martin / Margalh / Martini / Marynissen / Megalomaniac / Meldville / Mission Hill / Monte Creek Ranch / Moraine / Niagara College / North 42 Degrees / Open Wines / Organized Crime / Oxley Estate / Pelee Island Winery / Peller / Peninsula Ridge / Pondview / Potter Settlement / Quai du Vin / Quails' Gate / Domaine Queylus / Redstone / Remy Pannier / Ridgepoint / Riverstone / Riverview / Road 13 / Rockway / Rocky Creek / Rosehall Run / Rustenberg / Saint Aix / Sainly Wine / Santa Margherita / Southbrook / Sprucewood Shores / Stel + Mar / Stemmari / Stoney Ridge / Tawse / The Beachhouse / The Roost at Red Wing / Traynor / Trius / Two Sisters / Vieni / Villa Maria / Vineland / Waupoos / Wayne Gretzky / Westcott Vineyards / White Cliff / Windrush / Yellow Tail

Thank You

To all those who submitted wines
And those who helped along the way

Thank You to the agents who stepped up and sent rosés in, because of the limited chance to taste wines during the pandemic (ie: no tasting, no LCBO, et.) – I truly appreciated you sending in your wines.

Andrew Peller
Arterra Canada
Philippe Dandurand Wines
Dionysus Wines & Spirits
Esprit du Vin
Eurovintage Fine Wines & Spirits
Family Wine Merchants
Profile Wine Group
The Vine
United Stars
VonTerra
Woodman Wines & Spirits

Thank you to all those that tasted with me ...

Cathy H / Craig M / Derek B
Joe V / Judith B / Levi D
Lisa W / Maureen D / Stacey V
Steve B / Sue A / Tracey D

Erica P who was there for every tasting
and helped finish more than a few bottles

And finally to my dear friend Ophelia B for all her
knowledge, guidance and inspiration in creating this report

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Sparkling Rosé

(addendum - August 2020)

Foreign Affair 2019 Sparkling Brut Rosé

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery

This charmat method bubble is the first for Foreign Affair and may be the first to incorporate some appassimento-ed grapes (only 8% of the Riesling for 60 days). It's a blend of 72% Riesling and 28% Pinot Noir with a mere 6 hours of skin contact; and what a beauty it is. Refreshing with a nice pale colour plus lemon, lime, raspberry, rhubarb and red currants along with some Queen Anne cherry tartness; slight sweetness, but balanced by lovely balanced acidity. Definitely a highlight of the summertime sparklers I tasted this year ... and one of the most "summery". (****)



Henri de Villamont NV Cremant de Bourgogne Brut Rosé

\$27.95 - Burgundy, France - LCBO 15715

This Burgundy bubble has the usual Pinot Noir and Chardonnay but also drops in about 20% Gamay for good measure, notes of cherry pop right from the start adding in lemon zest and a subtle earthiness on the back palate. (***)

Niagara College NV Balance Rosé Brut

\$28.95 - Ontario - winery

One of the biggest and best surprises I tasted all summer. This rosé came out of the blue and won me over with how tasty and fresh it was, even though it is a Pinot Noir (74%) and Chardonnay (24%) sourced from multiple vineyards and aged on lees for 33 months. Apple, raspberry and other red fruits, with hints of mandarin and peach; very delicate with good balancing acidity and freshness ... it even shows a little "tannin", or maybe pith on the finish, but this one has a guzzle-ability factor. It is equally at home on the deck or at the dinner table. (****)



Pierre Sparr NV Cremant d'Alsace Brut Rosé

\$19.95 - Alsace, France - LCBO 39016

A tasty traditional method (Pinot Noir) bubble that really delivers: raspberry, strawberry, and citrus with some French bread crust (just because of where it's from I have to assume it is a French bread) - it's fresh and juicy and a true delight. (***)



Vineland Estates 2019 Frienzy

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery

This simple and easy charmat spritzzy wine from the folks at Vineland is an easy drinking patio pleaser: slightly sweet with peachy, pear, raspberry, pink grapefruit and pure summer in a glass. (***)

Still Rosé

(addendum - August 2020)

Backyard Vineyards 2019 Simply Social Rosé

\$21.95 - British Columbia - winery

This is a blend of Merlot, Syrah and Cabernet Franc that comes off a little on the soapy side, like there is Gewurztraminer in the blend; there's also some subtle tannin-like notes as if the grapes were soaked too long on the red berry skins, this gives the wine a bit of a bite-back factor and there's some alcohol notes that unbalances the wine, but despite all that it's quite drinkable. (***)

Ciao Bella Winery 2019 Pinot Rosé

\$24.95 - British Columbia - winery

Pretty simple, but tasty: floral, cherry and peach on the nose and the floral / peach combo continues onto the palate with peach pit on the finish. (***)

Closson Chase 2019 KJ Watson Rosé

\$24.00 - Ontario - winery

This Pinot Noir rosé had 36 hours of skin contact. There's a nice floral and lime nose; with a palate that shows citrus pith, sour cherry, raspberry and lime; pith notes on the finish give the wine a refreshing bitterness, or bite back. (***)



Domaine de Grand Pre 2019 Rosé Classic Collection

\$19.99 - Nova Scotia - winery

This was a controversial rosé that had two reactions from tasters. First, it's made from L'Acadie Blanc and Marechal Foch and it was a little sour on the finish (that's what stood out), there's also strawberry and limeade with a "mouth-puckering finish" (read: sour). It was sour like pickle juice, but it has its appeal (and the debate rages on). (***)

Harper's Trail 2019 Rosé

\$19.64 - British Columbia - winery

Sometimes it is the simplest of blends and the simplest of tastes that bring the most pleasure to the palate. This Pinot Gris / Cabernet Franc rosé has a lovely light lemon, pear, peach, and lime zest palate that finishes with a refreshing zesty note. (***)

Hillside Winery 2019 Rosé

\$24.00 - British Columbia - winery

Sometimes too much thought goes into the making of a rosé ... this is a saignée Merlot (72%) with Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Cabernet Franc and Pinot Noir that has 4 hours of skin contact. It's off-dry with cherry, strawberry and tropical fruit punch with a long pleasing finish, it's a real crowd pleaser ... other times that overthinking pays off. (***)

Still Rosé

(addendum - August 2020 - cont'd)

Hubbs Creek 2018 Gamay Rosé, Sussreserve

\$23.95 - Ontario - winery

The fruit is all county, but not estate, it actually comes from Hillier (another winery within the County). There's a touch of rhubarb and strawberry here with some mid-palate sweetness, but the acidity kicks things up a notch creating a dry, refreshing, if not slightly bitter, finish. Price: \$23.95 – Rating: *** ½+

Hugh Hamilton 2019 The Floozie Sangiovese Rosé

\$18.95 - Australia – LCBO 558106

Lemon curd, rhubarb, cherry; with a subtle earthiness and a medium-length finish. (*** ½)

Jackson-Triggs 2018 Rosé Grand Reserve

\$19.99 - British Columbia - winery

Another simple rosé that has strawberry fruit along with tart and under-ripe pith notes. (***+)

L'Orpailleur 2019 Rosé

\$16.00 - Quebec - winery

This was one of those rosés that I sipped a few extra times to make sure I was getting what I was getting: peachy and strawberry on the nose, but it does come across as slightly fortified with its sweet strawberry on the palate - it's pure strawberry juice and drinkable, but not more than a glass or two. (***)

Luigi Bosca 2019 A Rosé is a Rosé is a Rosé

\$18.95 - Argentina – LCBO 553032

Rich and fat in the mouth with lots of cherry, strawberry action and a long finish, but that heaviness weighs the palate down and instead of being refresher it's a two-glasser at best what might be considered as a red drinkers rosé. (***)

Magnotta 2018 Pinot 2 Rosé - Venture Series

\$14.95 - Ontario – LCBO 652834

This is a pretty rosé, it starts off light and easy with peachy sweetness, but when it hits the back palate it seems to add some heft that keeps it from being thirst-quenching. (***+)



Mission Hill 2019 Estates Series Rosé

\$12.75 - British Columbia - winery

Subtle from beginning to end: strawberry, raspberry, lime and green apple with good backing acidity, price is really good too. (*** ½+)

Still Rosé

(addendum - August 2020 - cont'd)

Nk'Mip Cellars 2019 Rosé

\$17.99 - British Columbia - winery

The aromas of floral, raspberry, and peach come out of the glass and lead to a palate with hints of lime and cranberry along with a little rhubarb-cherry linger on the finish. (***) ½)

O'Rourke's Peak Cellars 2019 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$21.00 - British Columbia - winery

This one comes off a little "off-dry" on the mid-palate with its delicate floral, strawberry-raspberry nose and pretty peach and lime notes on the palate. (***) ½)

Red Bird 2019 Rosé

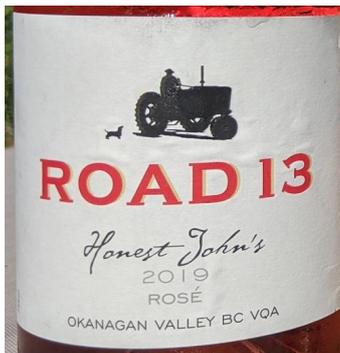
\$25.00 - British Columbia - winery

A pleasant and easy drinking rosé that has floral, pear, and strawberry-watermelon notes - it one you can sip on the deck all day. (***) ½)

Redtail Vineyard 2019 Gamay Rosé

\$19.00 - Ontario - winery

Redtail comes out of the gate with this really sippable Gamay Noir rosé: very cherry with a hint of bubblegum, not too sweet and with a subtle tartness on the finish - subtle is the best way to describe this wine from beginning to end. (***) ½)



Road 13 2019 Honest John's Rosé

\$17.00 - British Columbia - winery

This is such a crushable rosé that it's hard not to like it from your first sip to the last swallow, I'd suggest buying a few bottles: raspberry, strawberry, cherry with peach and floral. (***) ½+)

Sandbanks NV Summer Rosé

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 14867

Pink grapefruit and sweet peach with a subtle spritz - also makes for a great Sangria base. (***)

See Ya Later Ranch 2019 Legacy Rosé

\$24.99 - British Columbia - winery

Described as "primarily Pinot Noir" on the back label and shows raspberry-lime, peach pit, and floral on both the nose and palate. (***) ½)

Still Rosé

(addendum - August 2020 - cont'd)

See Ya Later Ranch 2019 Nelly Rosé

\$15.99 - British Columbia - winery

Strawberry and lemon / lime with a little grapefruit and backed by decent acidity. (***)

Singletree 2019 Rosé

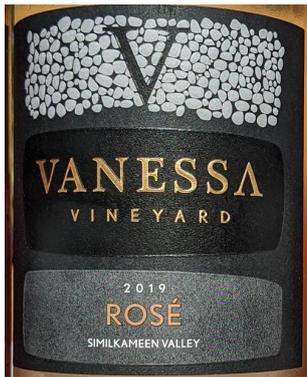
\$22.50 - British Columbia - winery

A Malbec / Syrah blend from the Naramata Bench; lots of cherry on the nose but the palate comes across a little earthy-dirty with some cranberry and lime backing. (***)

Troupis Winery 2018 Fteri

\$15.95 - Greece - LCBO 15139

Say this three times fast and a bottle will appear "Agiorgitiko-Moschofilero", it's a Greek rosé with floral, lemon (both zest and pith) decent acidity and watermelon rind - slightly bitter, but still tasty. (***)



Vanessa Vineyard 2019 Rosé

\$24.99 - British Columbia - winery

This Similkameen Valley Syrah / Merlot pink is light in colour with lemon, peach pit, and a touch of floral; it really is quite pretty and session-able (as the kids these days say). (***)

The New Numbers:

**New Total Wines Tasted
after August Addendum:
218**

Ontario Rosés: 140
British Columbia Rosés: 37
Quebec: 3
Nova Scotia: 1
International Rosés: 35
Canadian of Non-Descript Origin: 2