



3RD ANNUAL ROSE REPORT 2021

by
Michael Pinkus - The Grape Guy
(MichaelPinkusWineReview.com)

WHY ROSÉ



As I stated in one of my promo Instagram “reels” - my last name is Pinkus, so pink wine love is kinda built in - but truth be told, I had not made that connection until it was pointed out to me by a wine producer (thanks Daniel Speck) who created a quick rosé flag for me to fly (think of the flag of the USSR, but pink with a corkscrew and bottle where the hammer and sickle would be ... as a funny aside, these days not many rosés are sealed under cork, but a screw cap bottle would be hard to distinguish, but I digress.

I have always been a fan of rosé wines, good rosé wines, and I often find myself railing against white Zinfandel as being too sweet, that’s mainly because I’m a red Zinfandel fan, and I have had to quell many snickers and jokes I hear when I say Zin is one of my favorite wines, as many assume (wrongly) that it's the pink stuff.

Rosé, to many, is the ultimate summer wine: It's served cold, it's refreshing and, when made well, can quench a thirst like no other wine.

It can also be made in so many styles: from sweet to dry. In a variety of methods: saignée (bleed off) method to light pressing; first pressing to limited skin contact. It can be made from a plethora of grapes: Pinot Noir to Marquette, Cabernet Sauvignon to Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvedre. You can add white wine to red (or red to white) to create a blush. Use one single red variety with limited contact to skin, or combine numerous varieties you bled juice off from to create higher intensity in your upcoming reds. You can make rosé as an afterthought (and sometimes it shows) or you can grow grapes specifically to make a stellar rosé.

There are so many styles, methods and kinds - and with its growth in popularity it makes it an even more fun time for rosé fans to discover new and exciting rosé wines - but (for the most part) it's still not a complex wine that you need to overthink to drink ... and did I mention it has an array of things you can pair with it. It's pink and it's delicious - it’s made for enjoyment, pleasure and above all, summer.

So, are you still asking "why rosé"?

MICHAEL PINKUS
THE GRAPE GUY

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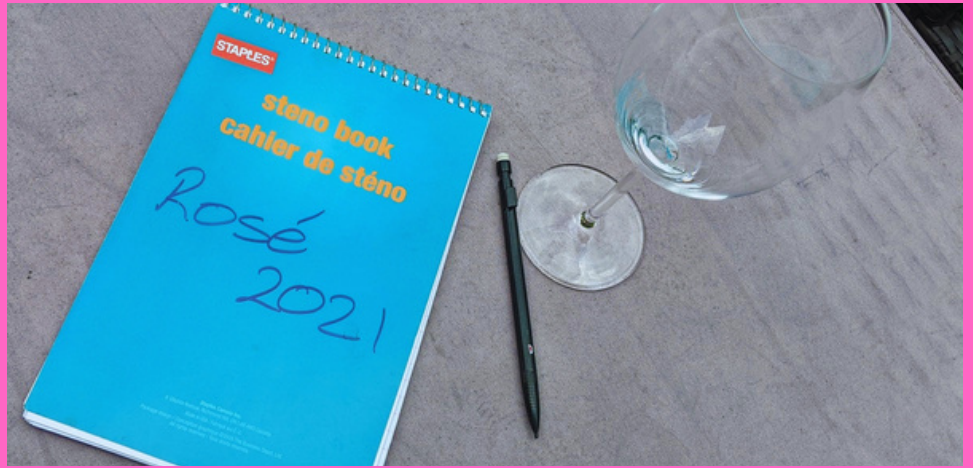
For those who still wish to be included in the report please feel free to send in your wine(s), there will be 2 addendums published throughout the summer: one in August and another in September.



About Michael Pinkus ... a love affair with wine that goes back over 22 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 publications. He is also the sole writer for his website MichaelPinkusWineReview.com, and past-President of the Wine Writers' Circle of Canada (2010-2015).

See full bio on page 47 of this report

BEFORE WE BEGIN



When I first started this endeavour I figured I'd get a few rosés coming in and I would taste 'em, rank 'em and put a page together on my website (that's what I did my first year). In the second year, I had the brilliant idea to grow it into something more; and then a friend of mine in Italy saw it and said "Bigger" ... welcome to the 3rd Annual Rosé Report.

As always, I'm in constant search for good rosé, but the question always remains: what makes a good rosé wine? That's a tougher question because rosé means different things to different people and you can see those remarks in a later section of this report (Have Your Say) - for now let's look at rosé in general.

First, the array of colours in rosé swings wildly from barely pink to just shy of light red (about the colour of a Pinot Noir with a little water added to it) ... And, in most people's mind's rosé seems to be all about summer, but as we were all reminded on FaceBook: "Dear everyone who's already commented here," wrote Andrew Cieszkowski, "rosé is NOT just a summer wine!" and he is right. Rosé is an anytime wine, especially when you want something light and fresh, but most people think about it in terms of summer.

Second, to some their ideal rosé is from Provence, a light, crisp style is what they are looking for, and associate with, the word "rosé". Others want fruity, others acidity - but always refreshment. Mostly people don't want to over-think about it, but they need it to taste good.

What a good rosé boils down to is the desire (or want), to drink a bottle and then another and another - sip after sip, glass after glass, bottle after bottle you just want to while-away an afternoon. Nothing heavy, nothing complicated, that old devil alcohol in disguise as your best friend - no one wants to get drunk on rosé, you just want to have a good time without a care in the world. And so, with that in mind that has become my criteria for rosé: serious, but not too serious. Quaffable and easy. Sippable without having to be pretentious. As I said last year: "No one is looking for Stairway to Heaven (Led Zeppelin) level rosé, more along the lines of Good As Hell (Lizzo) level rosé. Fun times to put a smile on your face and enjoy the sun, the company you are keeping, and where conversation flows as good as the wine, that's what makes for good rosé."

Yes Andrew, you are right, it's not just for summer - but more people associate rosé with a season (summer) than they do any other wine.

Methodology

In past tastings I have gathered all wines together and tasted them all at once on the same day ... wow, is that a tough day of tasting.

Last year, I decided to try something a little different: On each sunny day that was (relatively) warm I brought out 4 bottles, tasted and scored them. It was a way of tasting to make sure that each wine got a fair look – because sometimes, in a mass tasting those last wines get lost, in the “meh” of palate fatigue; this way every wine tasted got the same chance to shine. This year I pared it down even further, tasting no more than 3 bottles in one sitting – most days 2 – and started earlier.

Last year, I was asked, quite a few times, if price played any part in my scoring, or in the way I perceive the wines: all wines are tasted price-blind (without knowledge of the price), that way it is just the wine that is taken into consideration.

SCORING ... (explaining the ratings)

I use a 5-star rating system which breaks down like this

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

the “+” is a wine that has a little bit extra.

there are also times I wish I could give a “++” but that’s just being nit-picky.

(I have a note about scoring a little later in this Report – page ____)



THE STATE OF ROSÉ

Since the majority of wines in this report are from Ontario, I based some of my findings this year on my Ontario experience, starting with a lack of perceived acidity.

In 2020 there seems to be of a leaning toward softer and fruitier rosé than in the previous year - not surprising, considering that was the nature of the vintage. In 2020 soft and fruity led the charge, so watermelon and yellow fruits took over from citrus and cranberry, there was just a ton of watermelon (and other melon notes) plus melon rind in so many rosés, a startling amount; in fact, those that were able to harness acidity, in one form or another, ended up creating some of my favorite rosés. Look, 2020 was an amazing year, and as one winery owner told me, "I did not want to use my own fruit, it was just that good, so I bought / brought in other stuff to make my rosé." Fair enough. Another winemaker said "in those great years you've got to fill your tanks, because you know a bad year could be right around the corner ". It's the nature of cool climate wine making. Rosé is not always somebody's first wine to make, but those who treat it like a real wine usually fare better than those who treat it as an afterthought.

I noticed the scores were noticeably lower this year, but I also noticed a better consistency in rosé making - a higher percentage of wines I tried made the report and fewer wines received the dreaded "X" (wines I wouldn't drink with your mouth) - this can be attributed to the better vintage and the balance; as mentioned the acidity levels were quite high in 2019, while in 2020 there were many more softer, fruitier wines, the key was could the winemaker avoid making overly sweet, syrupy and alcoholic pink and maintain a freshness, even without the jacked-up acidity - many were able to do so.

Obviously 2020 was the year we'll never forget, it was the "pandemic year", and while we were all stuck in-doors under lock-down orders, Mother Nature was generous with her weather. It also meant we weren't all touring around, visiting wineries and tasting wines - and while online ordering and sales took a big jump, there is still a lot of wine out there, because restaurants and other traditional avenues for sales were shut tight, and the only patio open was your own. Thus some wineries had to make decisions about what to make and what not to make - and because of the beautiful nature of the vintage across the board, the cheap, cheerful and affable rosé was one of the first wines to be culled from the portfolio - that and a glut of the previous year's bottled "juice", caused some wineries to not make a rosé in 2020 at all.

Finally, a word to the wineries, if you are sitting on a rosé with the year 2018 or lower on it, please don't keep trying to flog this dying horse onto the public. This was the year to get rid of it by taking it to a distiller and having them make hand sanitizer out of it. But aside from that, as I will discuss later in this report, rosé has a shelf life - maximum 4 years, maximum! It loses freshness by about 25% each year - yes there are some exceptions, but don't keep thinking yours is that one exception - cut your losses and save your reputation by not foisting "expired" wine on an unsuspecting public; mature rosé is not a category we need to see anytime soon.

To end on a positive note, I want to give a quick shout out to those seeing the value in leaving colour in Pinot Gris and marketing it as a rosé (or "pink") - thus avoiding those

THE STATE OF ROSÉ

cont'd

who complain that Gris / Grigio has a pigment. Gris is supposed to have pigment (colour) - it's the nature of the grape, "Gris" means gray and the skin has color that it imparts to the wine ... I like seeing color in my Pinot Gris, and it's a nice trend seeing wineries finally embracing that colour component and not trying to shy away from it or get rid of it. Even if some still insist on calling their obvious Gris "Grigio" - you know who you are.



A NOTE ABOUT WINE SCORING

I have often written and talked (in my podcast) about the state of scoring these days - especially remarking on the broken state of the 100-point-system; many reviewers have bastardized it to suit their needs, so that they give astronomical scores for simple wines (98 points for an \$8 wine? Please!); it is why I landed on the star-system which breaks down like this ...

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

The 100-point scale is a scholarly way to look at wines, but wine is not a finite product, nor is it an essay or a math test, it is constantly evolving and changing, both in the bottle and in the glass, stars allow me to say that it's good or very good (depending on the wine), while still taking into account its evolutionary variant.

I take my scoring very seriously and have noticed over the years, that while other's scores are trending up, mine are trending down - not that wine is getting worse, but maybe, in some small way I'm fighting against a system that wants to reward mediocrity with higher and higher marks.

Which brings us to rosé ... For the most part, rosé is a simple, easy drinking, pleasurable wine - back in the day a good rosé would achieve a score of 88 to 89 and be hailed as a great wine; 90 would be a fantastic score for anything pink. Today, you have to be well above 90 to be hailed as such, and let's be honest with each other, very few rosé wines hit 90 points – it's just not that kind of wine.

Anybody scoring rosés consistently in the '90s is using a 10-point scale starting at 90 (or are doing it for blatant self-promotion – or both), there's just no other explanation, and that is yet another bastardization of what the 100-point scale was meant to be – if Robert Parker were dead, he'd be rolling in his grave to see what his invention has become.

Bottom line, be skeptical when you see those really high marks for such simple wines, and ask yourself, is the reviewer doing it for the wine or for themselves?



"It's a smile, it's a kiss, it's a sip of wine ... it's summertime!" – Kenny Chesney

ROSÉ'S AGE-ABILITY

I constantly get an emails or texts (or whatever method people use to communicate with me - I'm pretty easy to find) asking about some bottle of wine people "found" hidden in their cellar or were given as a gift - it's usually older in nature, and if it's an old rosé I have the same response "probably not worth even opening", because 99.9% of rosé is for drink now (or within 2 years) consumption, especially if you are expecting it to still have "rosé character / characteristics ". I will fully admit, as a curious wine writer-type, I still open and taste everything – no matter how dead I think it might be – it's all a learning experience.

I have been doing this report for 3 years now, and drinking rosé for much longer; and in my experience the viability of rosé's enjoyment

diminishes by a minimum of 25% each year it is away from its release date, so by that math, by year four you're playing Russian Roulette with that bottle; the good news is that with the uptick in the use of screwcap you might get an extra year out of it (possibly two). Think about it, there are very few winemakers who will tell you (about their rosé) "lie that one down for five to six years, it'll get better" - No! They want you to drink it fresh, lively and when it's at the peak of its vibrancy; so please, get the notion out of your head that all wines taste better with age, especially when it comes to rosé. Drink it young, enjoy it soon, get the most out of your rosé experience. Rosé is not a "Vin de Garde", it's a "Vin de Bois Maintenant" ... Your palate will thank you for it.



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SPARKLING ROSÉ



Adamo Estate 2020 Gamay Noir Pet-Nat

\$18.05 - Ontario - winery / online

If it wasn't for half the bottle ending up on my deck I would have enjoyed this wine more: sour cherry and cranberry mixed with club soda and even some mineral qualities; but I'm not quite sure this kinda sour is what I'm looking for on a hot day. (***)

Banrock Station 2020 Pink Moscato Rosé

\$12.45 - Australia - LCBO 170134

Ok, look, this is not for everyone - but if you like those lovely Moscato d'Asti wines from Italy this one is right up your alley. Yes, it's sweet and rosy in smell, and yes there is pineapple, cherry, raspberry and peach on the palate - and yes it is sweet (not syrupy, but sweet) ... but get over it, this is a guilty pleasure on a hot afternoon - embrace it. This is exactly what it should be. (**½)

Casella Wines NV Yellow Tail Bubbles, Sparkling Rosé

\$14.65 - Australia - LCBO #229047

This is a big mousse-y style that sits on the sweeter side of bubbly: peach, pineapple and sweet lemonade - it's gonna be a patio crowd pleaser and the name will be recognized so people will gravitate towards it. (**+)

Chateau des Charmes 2016 Rosé Sparkling Wine

\$34.95 - Ontario - winery / online

There's a fine mousse here, that is natural for these traditional method sparklings, there is also delicate apricot, lemon and raspberry-cherry notes; but everything is mellow and muted so "delicate" is a good word to describe this version of the Chateau's staple - all with a nice bubble and good acidity touched ever so delicately by a brioche note. (**½)

Cono Sur NV Sparkling Pinot Noir Rosé

\$14.95 - Chile - LCBO 365205

Still an amazing value from the Bio Bio Valley in Chile where they grow extraordinary Pinot Noir: floral and lemon with a great mousse - there's even some biscuity / bready notes - it's a easily affordable delight. (**½)

De Simone Vineyards 2019 Passion Rosé

\$20.00 - Ontario - winery / online

A simple pink wine that pushes the sweetness up a notch; showcasing strawberry, lime, and subtle sweetness - this is an easy drinking bubbly that clocks in at a mere 9% alcohol, so if the alcohol won't get you, the sweet notes will. (***)



SPARKLING ROSÉ



Dom Perignon 2015 Brut Rosé

France

We recently visited a friend who is having a wine cellar built in his home and he invited us to look over the progress. With a few thousands bottles of wine scattered throughout his billiard room, he was generous enough to open a few bottles during our stay. For starters, he pulls a bottle of 2005 Dom Perignon Brut Rose out of a crate of mixed Champagnes. With a subtle pop and a whiff of the exiting smoke cloud, the salmon colored nectar created an explosion of micro tiny bubbles that never stopped erupting in our flutes. Herbal and toast aroma's gave way to raspberry, cherry and strawberry fruit, both creamy and silky on palate. Each sip displayed a greater depth of character, at times showing a little spice, others times hints of yeastiness. I just wish I could have lingered around longer than the exquisite finish but what a special treat to start an evening. **(DB)**

Gruet NV Rosé Brut

\$26.95 - USA / New Mexico - LCBO 15686

A 100% Pinot Noir sparkling wine from New Mexico? Yup, and it has good acidity and nice fizzy notes (because it is a traditional method bubbly): it lacks a real punch of flavour on the mid-palate, but makes up for it on the finish with lemon-raspberry tartness. **(*** ½)**

Intrigue Wines NV I DO

\$20.00 - British Columbia - winery / online

I call this "giggly juice" because it's going to make a lot of friends and the more they drink the funnier thing will get: rosy by nature and on the sweet-side of life with notes of perfumed watermelon ... not a rosé bubble to be taken seriously, but that's what I think it was designed for. **(***+)**

Konzelmann NV Cuvee Close Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery / online

A charmat method sparkling that swings a little to the sweet-side: strawberry and cherry dominate and those sweet notes will make friends wherever it goes. **(***+)**

Locust Lane 2020 Sparkling Rosé

\$29.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This is going to be a really patio pleaser for so many: there's some cherry sweetness at the front end and some Country Time lemonade on the back end ... basically it's a fruit driven affair with notes of lemon, cherry and raspberry (yet another red fruit added for good measure). **(***+)**

"... wine [is] a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy." – Benjamin Franklin

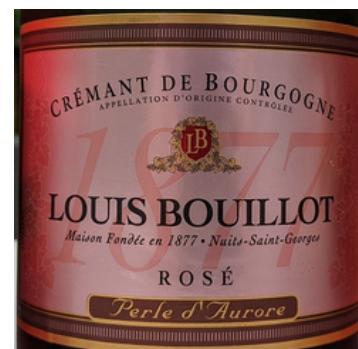
SPARKLING ROSÉ



Louis Bouillot NV Perle D'Aurore Brut

\$22.95 - France - LCBO 48793

This Cremant de Bourgogne is usually a staple at my house, but this particular bottling left me cold with little to no rosé character - scoring on this bottle is usually much higher, but the score is for this bottling (corked?) ... Second bottle came in and it was world's apart from the first: raspberry, lemon, cherry, lime, mineral, bready and biscuity - easily the best sparkling so far in the tasting. Bottle 1 - *** / Bottle 2 - *** ½+



Magnotta NV Rosé Sparkling - Extra Dry 1925

\$13.35 - Ontario - winery / online

Not sure what I expected from this wrapped bottle of bubbles made from Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris, but what I got was a decent raspberry, cherry and lemon kicked up a notch with apple. (***+)

Malivoire NV Bisous Rosé

\$29.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This Pinot Noir bubble shows a note of bitterness with biscuity and acidity ploughing through; on the palate there are notes of macerated strawberry and lemon. (***+)

Marynissen 2020 Charmed Rosé

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery / online

As far as I can figure this is Marynissen's first rosé sparkling and it delivers the goods if you're heading out to the patio or a picnic with this in hand: very fruit forward with raspberry and peach plus a touch of white flowers and then the acidity comes along, which is a nice touch and quite welcome. (*** ½)

Monte Creek Ranch 2019 Sparkling Rosé

\$21.99 - British Columbia - winery / online

One of those rosés that blew my mind last year, and because it was made with Marquette doubly so - this does not hit the level of last year's version but it's still a real delight: strawberry with hints of cranberry sauce and real juicy with a nice mouthfeel; pleasant on so many levels. The finish brings a note of pure strawberry-raspberry juice with hints of lime juice helping to keep it on the dry side. (*** ½)

"For at the end of the day, what matters is never the wine, it's always the moment; it's always the people." – Olivier Magny

SPARKLING ROSÉ



Niagara College NV Rosé Balance Brut

\$28.95 - Ontario - winery / online

A big surprise of a rosé, who knew Niagara College had this in their back pocket ... totally won me over with how tasty and fresh it was even though it is a Pinot Noir (74%) - Chardonnay (24%) sourced from multiple vineyards 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 pith on the finish, but this one has a guzz-ability factor. It is at home on the deck or the dinner table. (****)

Pillitteri 2019 Market Collection Sparkling Rosé

\$25.00 - Ontario - winery / online

Bubbles and sugar are a recipe for a headache the next morning and while this fizz is a fun little frolic for the patio on a hot day be careful because it has both: sweet bubblegum, strawberry, and guava; drinkable on a hot day by the 2 or 3 bottles full ... but see above for the caveat. (***)

Pondview 2020 Bella Terra Sparkling Rosé

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Quite the summer time sparkling as it delivers everything you think you want in a rosé but with bubbles to lighten the mood: pretty floral and raspberry with good acidity and a touch of watermelon rind on the finish. (***)

Riverview Cellars NV Fontana Rosé Sparkling

\$4.65 / 200ml - Ontario - winery / online

This little handheld can of "rosé" (200ml) is on the dark side - though you can't see that through the can. It's can best be described as a "sweet strawberry fizz" with notes of black cherry on the finish. (***)

Rosehall Run 2017 Loveless

\$45.00 - Ontario - winery / online

A delicious little bubbly with a back story and the first "serious" pink bubble from Rosehall. This Pinot Noir sparkling has strawberry with lime zest, plus cranberry-ginger ale notes and a Sweet Tart like chalkiness which can be described as "minerality on steroids". (****)

Rosehall Run NV Pixie Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - LCBO 492959

Tasted this with some pretty serious rosé bubbles and kept coming back to it for its playfulness and "crushability": pleasant raspberry, peach and subtly sweet ... it's an all afternoon quaffer. (***)

SPARKLING ROSÉ



Sandbanks NV Sparkling Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - LCBO 19062

A very basic bubbly with notes of lemon, strawberry and peach - this'll do the trick on a hot afternoon thank you very much. (***)

Santa Margherita NV Brut Rosé - Vino Spumante

\$19.95 - Italy - LCBO 302752

There's a nice raspberry note up-front but with a bitter nuance to the finish which in turn creates an over-drying effect - there is better bubbles out there, but this one will do the trick with a lemony note to the finish. (***)

Speck Bros NV Lazzara Rosato Secco

\$17.95 - Ontario - LCBO 18428

A wine very much in that Prosecco-style: fresh and fruity; it comes across slightly sweet, with notes of lemon to keep it refreshing and tasty. (***)

Stellar's Jay NV Sparkling Rosé

\$27.95 - British Columbia - winery / online

You know you're popular when you become your own brand - once part of Sumac Ridge Stellar's Jay has become an entity unto itself. This Rosé version of their popular bubble is very tart with good acidity, a nice cherry-raspberry note and hints of lime; and of course there is the prerequisite hint of biscuitiness on the finish. (***)



The Old Tun 2020 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$12.00 / 375ml - Ontario - winery / online

Made "unfiltered and with lees", though this bottle was also clear and free of sediment ... fruity and simple and quite tasty; there's a little bit of soapiness on the finish, but there is also a refreshment aspect here that's quite nice. Sold in 375ml bottles. (***)

The Old Tun 2020 Syrah Rosé

\$12.00 / 375ml - Ontario - winery / online

Made "unfiltered and with lees", though the bottle I opened was clear and free of sediment ... vibrant pink colour, but while the smell is a little off putting the flavour makes up for it, loading in cherry-cranberry vibrancy though it does retain a slightly soapy-floral finish. Bottles are 375ml. (***)

SPARKLING ROSÉ



Vineland Estates NV Frenzy Lot #001 - Sparkling Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - LCBO 20162

A lightly sparkled sparkling that is all about the subtle: strawberry, melon, and peach - it's a tasty summer bewy. (***)

Vitteaut Alberti NV Brut Rosé - Cremant de Bourgogne

\$30.95 - France - Consignment: L'Excellent Wines

Some serious sparkling for those long nights in the great outdoors: biscuity and lemon, with cranberry and raspberry, plus notes of floral and a lovely lingering finish - nicely dry and pretty but as I said, this one is more on the serious side of your rosé evening. (***)

This year's Rosé Report is sponsored by

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HAVE YOUR SAY ...

I asked people on FaceBook:

"Tell Me Why You Love Rosé?"

(here are some of the best answers I got)

Bret Jay ...

"Ontario Rosé is the shit (the best) print that."

Candace Bond ...

"No better happiness then warm days, and a good bottle of rosé shared between friends."

Dan Bergen ...

"As a French server said to me a few years ago, "Rosé is best paired with good friends on a sunny terrace" ..."

Debbie Templeton ...

"A chilled rosé floating across your tongue on a warm sunny day ... Priceless."

Elaine Peters ...

"Rosé always makes me feel like its Summer, even in the dead of February."

Emily Spadafora ...

"Drinking a glass of Rosé reminds me of my grandfather, who made his own wine, a perfect, crisp, light Rosé. It's a beautiful drink on a hot summer day, and ties me to my happy memories."

Fernanda Cerone ...

"Rosé is summer in a glass!"

Ingrid Duffy ...

"A lovely summer sipper. Refreshing."

Linda Watt ...

"Rosé wine is a flavour flirt that teases the tongue and leaves you longing for more!"

Mattia Scarpazza ...

"Rosé is a complete style, from the fresh light to the opulent and deep wines. What's not to like with this array of choices."

Nick Pappas ...

"It's a socially acceptable way to day drink."

Rosé Elegance



Cono Sur

VINEYARDS & WINERY

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - British Columbia (in alphabetical order)



Blue Grouse 2020 Quill Rosé

\$23.99 - British Columbia - winery / online

This rosé creeps up on you and by the third sip you are all over it and already wanting a second glass (before you even finish your first) strawberry and tart watermelon rind - like accidentally biting into the white part - plus raspberry-lemonade ... this one is really punchy and zesty. (*** ½+)

Culmina 2020 Saignée

\$24.00 - British Columbia - winery / online

This five all-red-grape-blend is made in the bleed-off method (saignée) it's dry and peachy and very Provence-like in its style which also included some orange zest and a nice acid punch - not too much punch, but just the right amount for sure. (*** ½+)



Culmina 2020 No. 014 Wild Ferment Rosé

\$29.00 - British Columbia - winery / online

This different style (wild ferment) from Culmina, and one not often utilized (or promoted) in rosé is a three-red-blend (Cabernet Franc / Malbec / Syrah) that leans heavily on the citrus side of the rosé spectrum: lots of orange blossom and a variety of citrus fruits that take over everything nose-to-tail (so to speak) - refreshing and slightly tart. (*** ½)

Dirty Laundry 2020 Hush

\$19.99 - British Columbia winery / online

When I talk playful rosé Hush is the kind of rosé I mean: floral with a tutti-fruitti nose leads to a nice red fruit palate dominated by watermelon plus a little floral; this year there's a hint of discernible sweetness poking through and the acidity is in the medium range. (*** ½)

Gold Hill Winery 2020 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$25.99 - British Columbia - winery / online

Lovely peach and raspberry nose that doles out crunchy peach, melon, and orange flavours; the acidity was helped along by some lingering citrus notes. Light and refreshing with a honeydew melon, including the rind, finish. (*** ½+)

"A bottle of wine begs to be shared; I have never met a miserly wine lover."

- Clifton Fadiman

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - British Columbia (in alphabetical order)



Intrigue Wines 2020 Social Rosé

\$17.00 - British Columbia - winery / online

One of those "sweet" rosés that really grabs you and makes you want more, but you know you shouldn't: cherry-bubblegum and floral-like notes on the nose and a berry bowl of flavour on the palate. It's a wine for a super-hot day; very easy-to-drink socially. (***+)

Intrigue Wines 2020 Rotberger

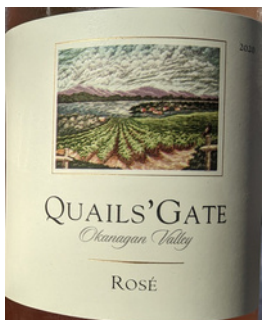
\$21.00 - British Columbia - winery / online (wine club exclusive)

This rosé made from Rotberger (grape) is interesting and as intriguing as the winery name projects: "floral" to the point of being perm-like on the nose; there's a candied note with a touch of fruit to the palate - and the finish continues on that interest level with some Hubba Bubba (bubblegum) nuances. There's so much that is interesting and intriguing that it is worth a bottle or two to have around for the summer. (***+)

Moraine 2020 Pink Mountain

\$27.00 - British Columbia - winery / online

A well-made rosé from Gamay Noir (79%) with Malbec (21%) added in for good measure: it shows some interesting notes of cotton candy along with some cherry - the nose sings sweet but this one is refreshing, pleasant, easy drinking and, yes, the D-word, dry. (*** ½)



Quails' Gate 2020 Rosé

\$19.95 - British Columbia - winery / online

This rosé delivers on both the nose and the palate level: raspberry, strawberry and cranberry with some tart lemon and lime pith, plus the addition of red currant and sour cherry on the finish. (*** ½+)

Volcanic Hills 2018 Rosé

\$20.60 - British Columbia - winery / online

Took two tastings of this wine to get its full effect - the first bottle was seemingly full of stewed fruit, but the second showed much better: strawberry, raspberry with a little perfumed note, it slowly starts creeping into those old or oxidized notes the longer it was open, but there's also a little minerality here that keeps it from falling over the edge ... the delicacy of this wine is lost when too cold, so don't over-chill. (***+)

HAVE YOUR SAY ...

I asked people on FaceBook:

"What Do You Love About Rosé?"

(here are some of the best answers I got)

April Jones ...

"I love the lightness and the visual appeal of the delicate pink hue. It has a drink feel to it that's impeccably feminine!"

CheapWineGuy (instagram) ...

"Rosé screams 'SUMMER' to me! ... and I love summer ☀️😊"

Geoffrey Eden ...

"How well it goes with so many things - on its own, cheeses, charcuterie, salads, soups, vegetarian dishes, fish, seafood, poultry ..."

Joy MacDonald ...

"Rosé is good any time, any day, any meal, any occasion - I drink Rosé all year - perfect patio wine with friends and can perfectly pair with most foods ... Anytime Anywhere!"

Julia Matthews ...

"It is not just for the summer time. It's an all year round aperitif. Love it with sushi!"

Kari Macknight Dearborn ...

"Rosé is a wine made for matching with so many summer foods, and since it can be made from nearly any red grape, there are so many shades and flavours to suit nearly anyone. It plays well with salads, myriad grilled foods, and is a great refreshing patio staple. From pale Provence to deep-coloured Tavel and from pet-nats to Champagne, Rosé gives you a lot to love."



STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



16 Mile Cellar 2020 Renegade Pinot Noir Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Hints of strawberry on the nose with a strawberry / floral palate and a juicy middle; there are hints of bubblegum here but thankfully lacks the sweetness, acidity comes off as a subtle bitterness and that's good for the balance. (**½)

2027 Cellars 2020 Gamay Rosé

\$22.00 - Ontario - winery / online

Winemaker Kevin Panagapka has done it again with the seemingly simplest of grapes, Gamay - tart cherry-lemon, and watermelon rind all with a wonderfully maintained acidity (one of the best I tried of the 2020 wines for that); aromas are secondary here but still lovely: cherry-rhubarb and he has nailed the colour for a really pretty rosé. This wine ticks a lot of those boxes for a great afternoon. (****)



80x Wine Company 2020 When Pigs Fly Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery / online

A rather muted nose leads to a palate that has plenty of peach pit, hints of lemon, and even some cotton candy (but without the sweetness) - juicy with a touch of "bitter" / pith-like balance on the finish. (**½)

Adamo Estate 2020 Underdog Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - winery / online

When you get a whiff of this you'll think sweet, but wait - that aroma is deceiving: citrus, melon and drier than expected as there is a real punch of acidity; quite refreshing with notes of cherry-citrus on the finish. There is some apparent sweetness here but the balance is on-point and has a lovely dry finish. (**½+)

Adamo Estate 2020 Rosé

\$20.50 - Ontario - winery / online

This Noirs rosé made from Gamay and Pinot has lovely strawberry, raspberry, sweet melon and even a perfumed characteristic - there even seems to be some tannins on the finish, giving it an extra layer of enjoyment. (**½)

"... and wine makes even the worst culinary disaster taste delicious." – Bob Blumer

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Calamus 2020 Rosalee's Rosé

\$18.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This juicy version of rosé starts off like biting into a ripe piece of watermelon then adds cherry and a touch of sweetness; there does seem to be some nice balancing acidity as well and a lovely note of fresh strawberries rounds off the finish. (**½)

Casa-Dea Estates 2020 Rosato

\$18.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This is a fight between notes that belong and others that should have been left out: earthy meets raspberry meets lime meets a dry finish - there's even a little tannin vs tartness here. This wine will have its fans, especially among foodies. (***+)

Cave Spring Cellars 2020 Rosé Estate Grown

\$22.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Odd note of coconut, but that is very summer-ish so I can't fault it, then there are some strawberry and lime notes. This one is made from Cabernet Franc, but that still does not explain the coconut, and I can't believe this saw any Canadian oak. (***+)



Chateau des Charmes 2019 Rosé - Cuvée d'Andrée

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This 2019 is showing beautifully right now and is a great wine for those looking for a punched up acid profile on their rosé this summer. Strawberry, raspberry, cran-apple, cherry - acidity shows a nice punch with just enough bitterness to keep it from being sweet ... also, you just gotta love that vibrant, electric pink colour. (**½+)

Cooper's Hawk 2020 Dry Rosé

\$18.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Super strawberry notes, then in sweeps a little cotton candy and it's all backed with some decent acidity. There's a cool little yin-yang quality to this one. (***+)

*"If reassurances could dull pain, nobody would ever go to the trouble of pressing grapes." –
Scott Lynch*

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Creekside 2020 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$30.00 - Ontario - winery / online

In my notes the word "floral" appeared three times, so this one is running its guns on the pretty side of things: obvious floral notes with raspberry, cherry and melon, the subtle acidity can't sweep away the mouthful of flowers, thankfully the fruit can. (**+ ½)

Creekside 2020 Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Looking for something where the nose matched the palate? This one will do the trick nicely. Light raspberry-cherry-lime on both, but the palate diverges a little when it adds in a peachy nuance. (**+ ½)

Dark Horse 2020 Maeryn Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$32.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This was an exceptionally pretty rosé to sniff and an even more fun wine to drink - it also took a while to figure out where in Ontario it was from (the Dark Horse name does not appear on the label). Notes of orange, peach and raspberry with hints of cantaloupe and even the inner-rind ... what I found most exciting is the "you can drink a lot of this" quality it had - this one is really good. (**+ ½+)

Domaine Queylus 2020 Rosé

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Nice delicacy here with floral, cranberry, raspberry, and sour cherry - colour is lovely too. (**+ ½)

D'Ont Poke the Bear 2020 Rosé

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 642884

Floral to the point of being rose petal (is this a Gewurztraminer blend?) with peach notes surrounding it - nice refreshing rosé for those who dig a more floral character in their pink wines. (**+)



Featherstone 2020 Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - LCBO 117861

Featherstone is the closest winery in Ontario to bring out that playfulness in rosé (a la Dirty Laundry's "Hush") and they don't care what you think as long as you drink ... and drink you shall, as this is a delight for the senses: bright and tart with cherry, raspberry and even a tutti-fruitti notes; the finish is medium-short and just this side of dry on the finish - but that fruitiness can really play tricks on you. (**+ ½+)

STILL ROSÉ

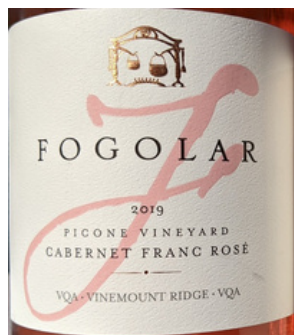
Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Flat Rock Cellars 2020 Pink Twisted

\$17.95 - Ontario - LCBO 39974

An electric pink colour with a palate that's big on raspberry-strawberry with notes of sour cherry. (*** ½)



Fogolar 2019 Cabernet Franc Rosé, Picone Vineyard

\$22.00 - Ontario - winery / online

Another one of those 2019 wine pop into the tasting and they stand out like a sore thumb (what a bad analogy for such a delightfully refreshing wines). This one is very strawberry with good Sweet-Tart powder chalkiness, there's also a lovely tartness of lemon drop and lemon zest - dry and delicious, a delight to drink on any patio. (****)

Foreign Affair 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé

\$22.05 - Ontario - winery / online

There's a robust nature to this wine that one does not immediately think of when a rosé is placed on the table: strawberry and cherry with a hint of tannin bitterness; I would classify this in the category of a "light red" before I would call it rosé. (***+)

Foreign Affair 2020 Amarosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Made from Pinot Noir and Gamay Noir using the Ripasso style; there's almost a tannin bitterness here, it is just on the cusp, but it is pulled back by sour cherry and cranberry cocktail. (***)

Frisky Beaver 2018 Blushing Beaver

\$14.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Made from a tri-fercta of grapes: "Cabernet", Chambourcin and Vidal and shows itself to be slightly sweet with headache notes to come (meaning that sugar mixed with the alcohol are going to cause problems with each bottle you consume) - lots of cherry-bubblegum with raspberry notes. It's an ok rosé, not for those serious about their rosé. This is for the "Girls Night Out" set. (***+)

G. Marquis 2019 Pinot Pinot Rosé - The Silver Line

\$17.95 - Ontario - LCBO 552711

This Pinot Grigio / Pinot Noir pink is quite peach, pear and raspberry driven on the palate which makes it a pleasant easy sipper - the nose is also pleasant with cran-apple, peach and lemon. Simple and easy. (***+)

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Henry of Pelham 2020 Rosé

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 613471

Pelham pulls it off again with another delightful summer beverage: watermelon, strawberry, and cranberry all show up and play in the mouth, acidity seems a little depressed, but you won't be while drinking this - very crushable. (**+ ½)

Hernder Estates 2018 Rosé

\$8.95 - Ontario - winery / online

A rosé made from Chambourcin (now there's one you don't hear too much about anymore): deep red colour it's full of tart strawberry / cherry, but it has its refreshing moments as well, especially when REALLY cold - but for me, the overly concentrated cherry juice notes really got in the way. (***)

Honsberger 2020 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$24.00 - Ontario - winery / online

Hmm ... I have come to expect so much from this wine every year that when it does not deliver the WOW-factor I am disappointed. This is a serviceable rosé this year with its peach, melon and (an odd) brown sugar note that, when put together, brings to mind homemade sweet and sour sauce; there's some subtle sweetness and a finish that evokes raspberry, strawberry and peach. The acidity seems muted, but it seems to be a hallmark of 2020, so no fault there. (**+ ½)

Huff Estates 2020 Getaway Rosé

\$20.00 - Ontario - winery / online

This one delivers refreshment in its own way; it is "dry-ish" with lemon and melon rind which drives the finish towards "bitter", but in a good way. (**++)

Huff Estates 2020 County Road Pinot Noir Rosé

\$25.00 - Ontario - winery / online

Smells really red fruited and delicious, it has lime and lemon but there does not seem to be any red fruit on the palate, so there is some disappointment here. (***)

iCellars 2020 Rosé

\$27.00 - Ontario - winery / online

Nine grapes go in, one wine comes out. This one is made from a mix of 7 reds and 2 whites that were bled off and tasted together: strawberry dominant with a pleasant easy drinking-ness to it. This one is really all strawberry, all the time, with hints of cherry on the finish and a citrus pith-acid combo - unique in its make up and tasty on the palate; this one is for those that like a real punch of strawberry both on the nose and palate. (**+ ½)



STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



John Howard 2019 Megalomaniac - Pink Slip Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Nothing screams out about this offering: it's ok, it's pink, it's dry, but there seems to be something non-descript about it; sure there is a little citrus pith, and it's crisp with good acidity and there is a little floral nuance, but it lacks great rosé definition. (***)

John Howard NV Megalomaniac Lot 19-2 Homegrown Rosé

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 639856

A refreshing bottle of the pink stuff, yes there is sweetness on this one that brings in notes of strawberry-lemonade. It certainly is fun and friendly from the wine to the packaging. (***)

Karlo Estates 2019 Frontenac Gris Rosé

\$32.00 - Ontario - winery / online

Not sure if Frontenac Gris should be used as a rosé, but this was the best of the ones I tried - for me the jury is still out on this grape for this purpose, especially if they are going to give me sweet tarts and strawberry compote. (***)

KEW Vineyards 2019 Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery / online

While I was loving the acidity in this bottle there was little else that grabbed my attention - the colour is delicate pink, it was zesty and refreshing in its way - but it lacked a real presence of flavour (bottle shock?). It might be just a step up from a glass of water, but on a hot summer day sitting on the patio I'd still take this over water any day. (***)

Konzelmann 2019 Cabernet Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Hints of strawberry and melon rind with touches of pith-bitterness on the finish; it's an ok sipper as a second and/or third bottle of the afternoon. (***)



STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Leaning Post 2020 Rosé

\$20.00 - Ontario - winery / online

This friendly summer sipper is full on raspberry, lemon zest and sour cherry. (**½)

Locust Lane 2020 Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery / online

A Pinot Noir / Gamay Noir still rosé that leans in on the strawberry, puts in a hint of watermelon and a dollop of fuzzy peach skin - there's also a subtle earthy note buried on the finish. (***)

Locust Lane 2020 White Merlot

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Nice notes of sweet lemon-lime and it's fruit forward with notes of white peach sitting in the background - it would not surprise me one bit if this were the base to their sparkling Rosé as they are pretty similar in aromas and flavours. (***)

Magnotta 2020 Pinot 2 Rosé, Venture Series

\$14.95 - Ontario - LCBO 652834

In this Pinot Noir / Pinot Gris rosé I think the Gris has taken over because the apple nose and light lemon palate seems to be all that is present here; it's certainly quaffable, but not terribly exciting (as too many Pinot Gris are apt to be). (***)

Malivoire 2020 Moira Rosé

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery / online

As they did with Gamay Noir Malivoire is slowly becoming the King of Rosé in Ontario, offering up at least 4 different interpretations (including their sparkling). This all Pinot Noir, single vineyard offering is crisp and refreshing with good acidity - delicate throughout with mineral, citrus, strawberry-raspberry pith and floral ... and they have definitely nailed that lovely pale colour. (****)



Malivoire 2020 Vivant Rosé

\$19.95 - Ontario - LCBO 498535

Malivoire's second beauty this year. Quite a dry version of rosé with hints of bitterness (think citrus pith), the acidity is good and the wine becomes more zesty the longer it stays open. The fruit it displays is white peach with a little floral - the pale pink colour is very reminiscent of Provence and so is the style. (****)

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Marynissen 2020 Heritage Collection Pinot Gris

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery / online

A skin fermented wine marketed as a rosé (brilliant): bottom line here - a nice peachy nose with a slightly bitter finish - but there is also lime zest/pith, grapefruit and even a hint of pineapple - I'm not that jazzed about skin fermented whites, but this one has something interesting about it. (**+ ½)

Marynissen 2020 Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery / online

On the first sip what got me here was the nice hit of cranberry tartness, which plays off the raspberry, strawberry and spiced-peachy-watermelon mix. This is a fun little frolic for the tongue where you can try to pick out all those flavours, or you can just sip and enjoy. (**+ ½+)

Marynissen 2020 Pinot Noir Rosé, Heritage Collection

\$24.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Probably one of the more oddball rosés tried this year, most notably for its little bit of cinnamon hearts candy aroma and flavour; there was also hints of floral, lime jello, white peach and watermelon - it really was an interesting pink especially for those who want to play a game of "what is that?". (**+ ½)

Niagara College 2019 Wine 101 Rosé

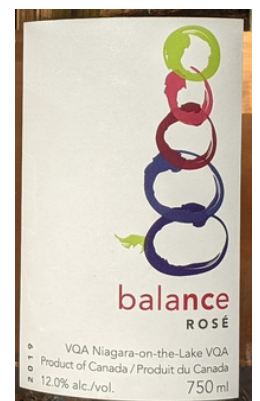
\$13.95 - Ontario - winery / online

When it comes to wine calling something "pretty standard stuff" might seem like an insult - but when it comes to rosé it's a good thing, because straying from the familiar can lead down a path that's not welcome on a hot day on the patio. This one fits that bill: strawberry, raspberry, cherry, with notes of lime zest; pretty standard stuff indeed, but also quite quaffable in all it's "simplicity". (**+ ½)

Niagara College 2019 Balance Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This rosé was not ready for summer 2020, so we are lucky to see it in 2021. It's a rosé made from Pinot Noir that's delicate on the palate, but with a lovely tartness: nice strawberry, lime, apricot, lemon and orange zest notes with hints of floral - but what stands out here is that 2019 acidity which creates a real freshness factor ... Refreshingly citrusy. (**+ ½+)



STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Niagara College 2020 Wine 101 Rosé

\$13.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Wine 101 to me means something basic - and if that is the intention then it delivers: cherry strawberry and bubblegum notes on the nose - while the palate is like taking a big bite of cherries soaked in lemonade, it's intense both on the nose and taste. (***)

North 42 Degrees 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Back to basics here with notes of lime and cranberry backed by good acidity. (***)



Nyarai Cellars 2020 Rosé

\$21.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This is the first foray into the world of rosé for Nyarai Cellars, and hopefully not their last. Gamay, Pinot, Franc and Merlot all played a part in its making: it's a berry burst of fruit on the nose with a subtle floral sensation perking up the olfactorys. The middle proves juicy with strawberry, raspberry and black cherry - I'd complain about the muted acidity but it's a 2020 thing so I'll go with the flow here. (***)

Oxley Estate 2020 Pinot Rosé

\$21.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Pinot Noir is the Pinot in question here, this is a pretty little rosé with floral aromas plus rhubarb and grapefruit notes on the palate, there's also a lovely lemon, sour cherry tartness on the finish. (***)

Oxley Estate 2020 Cab Syrah Rosé

\$15.75 - Ontario - winery / online

A second version of rosé from Oxley and this one comes off a little sweeter than the Pinot Noir version, maybe it's the amped up fruit of strawberry and tart cherry plus a touch of lime for a jolt on the tongue ... for those that like a little more oomph in their pink. (***)

Peller Family 2020 Rosé Reserve

\$11.95 - Ontario - The Wine Shop

Simple yet effective rosé with red fruit and citrus at its core: raspberry-cranberry, lemonade, watermelon rind, backed with decent acidity and a thrills gum like finish. (***)

"All wines should be tasted; some should only be sipped, but with others, drink the whole bottle." – Paulo Coelho

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Peninsula Ridge 2020 Beal Vineyard Cabernet Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - LCBO 177840

This is a rosé with an interesting character: lime, strawberry and watermelon kick things off, then there is also a sour-ish note with subtle bitterness, but do not dismay there is a refreshing aspect of this wine, it just depends which sip everything shows up on - stick with it, this one does reward with refreshment in the end. (***)

Pillitteri 2018 Pinot Squared Racina

\$25.00 - Ontario - winery / online

The very basics of rosé here: strawberry and peach pit ... it's a pleasant, easy drinking patio sipper. (***)

Pillitteri 2019 Racina Sunset Rosé

\$25.00 - Ontario - winery / online

Pillitteri's foray into "serious" rosé still shows their playful nature, call it the "we're here for a good time" quality: strawberry, peach, pear and apricot ... there is some (19%) Select Late Harvest Cabernet in here to give it a boost of playful sweetness - this might intrigue some and be a turn off for others. (***)



Here's to sustainable enjoyability

This Pink Moscato displays **fresh, floral aromatic notes** with a touch of **sherbet and musk**. The palate exhibits a delicate **fairy floss character** and **red grapefruit spice**. The natural fruit sweetness is balanced with the fresh acid finish and the **gentle spritz** gives the wine a **refreshing touch**.

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STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Quai du Vin 2020 Out of Chaos Rosé

\$18.00 - Ontario - winery / online

A whole cluster Cabernet Franc rosé that starts off more like a Pinot Noir version with it's big hit of floral, but then there is also notes of strawberry, sour cherry, and cranberry; the floral rises to the top with a hint of sweet red fruit and a medium length finish all with a little dose of cherry. Quite the berry bowl of flavour. (*** ½)

Redstone 2020 Rosé

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery / online

Lots going on here with cherry, raspberry and lemon, some crunchy white peach and a subtle tartness there's even some watermelon notes ... time to look for a patio to lounge on with a glass of this wine in your hand. (*** ½+)

Rosehall Run NV Pixie Petite Rosé Spritzer

\$3.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This is a spritzer, sparkling water with a dash of rosé in it and a 5.5% alcohol by volume - light and refreshing, easy drinking and quaffable - it's touched with rose flavour, but don't expect it to be bursting here. It is what it is. (***+)

Sandbanks NV Rosé

\$13.95 - Ontario - LCBO 244616

This rosé bursts, yes I said "bursts" with strawberry - it is on the sweet side, but if you dig strawberry this is the wine you want because it's all there and it's so easy to sip on. (***+)

Speck Bros 2019 Three of Hearts

\$19.95 - Ontario - LCBO 552562

This rosé roared out the gate the first year it was released and has been chasing that "perfection" ever since. This year it sees lemon-lime with a lingering palate of peach pit and cran-raspberry - yeah it's good and it'll scratch your rosé itch, but it's still not THAT rosé you remember. (*** ½)

Stratus 2020 WildAss Rosé

\$18.95 - Ontario - LCBO 71712

There's some cantaloupe and raspberry that help to create a little bit of fun on the nose - the palate is reminiscent of a cherry-banana Popsicle, but still very much on the tart side ... floral nuances help carry this one to the end where you'll find a nice balanced finish, this one doles out ultimate refreshment. (*** ½+)

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Sue-Ann Staff 2020 Fancy Farm Girl Foxy Pink

\$17.95 - Ontario - winery / online

As fun to drink as the label is to look at: a pretty little rosé with notes of strawberry and strawberry pith, there's a nice long finish that makes this one fresh with some hints of sweetness from its fruit - easy to consume. (***)

Sue-Ann Staff 2018 Windsock Rosé Cabernet Sauvignon

\$35.95 - Ontario - winery / online

One of the more inventive versions of rosé in this report: the wine starts with a 5 day skin fermentation, then ends 2-4 months in oak and has achieved a weight you'd more associate with a red wine than a light, fresh and fruity rosé. Vanilla, coconut, and sour cherry skin; drinks like a light red with hints of strawberry and good acidity; it's one of those food wine for sure (pork or even red meat). Chill or not to chill? That is the question. (****)



Tawse Winery 2019 Sketches Rosé

\$15.95 - Ontario - LCBO 172643

Kicks off with white peach and raspberry then pulls in a little tart watermelon rind to balance it off ... there's also a subtle, yet pretty, floral note here to liven it up a bit. (***)

Tawse Winery 2020 Rosé - Limestone Vineyard

\$28.15 - Ontario - winery / online

A Pinot Noir rosé that I fought with to find flavour and aroma, but once I did I found it quite satisfying: dry with a plethora of melon rind, floral, lemon and a tart quality ... it's not complex but it does the job to refresh. (***)

Two Sisters 2020 Margo Rosé

\$34.80 - Ontario - winery / online

Fresh, fruit-focused and well-balanced: watermelon, peach, and lime with a little orange peel on the finish - but it's the juicy middle that will have you coming back for more. (***)

Vineland 2020 Rotling

\$19.95 - Ontario - winery / online

This Vidal / Cabernet Franc blend has an fun mix of aromas and flavours: sweet peach, pear and cantaloupe along with a peach syrup linger (maybe nectarine, maybe apricot) but there is some interesting notes that keep you coming back ... a better version than the 2019. (****)

STILL ROSÉ

Canada - Ontario (in alphabetical order)



Vineland 2020 Rosé

\$16.95 - Ontario - winery / online

A good use of Riesling here to pump up the acidity, and in a year like 2020 it is quite welcome. Dominated by Cabernet Franc (70%) this rosé layers in orange blossom, raspberry, and peach with nice medium acidity - quaffable with a pith-like finish that helps balance out the sweet peach cocktail mid - this one has a drink-all-day quality to it; so be sure to do so. (***) ½+

Westcott Vineyards 2020 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$23.99 - Ontario - winery / online

Another of those rosés that possess that "je ne sais quoi" quality but I really liked it: floral, strawberry, lemonade kick things off but they managed to keep that acidic-tartness on the finish, which was a tough job in 2020-Ontario rosé - light, easy and sippable. Bring on summer. (***) ½+

Westcott Vineyards 2020 Delphine Rosé

\$18.99 - Ontario - winery / online

This is one of those red wine drinkers rosé's because it has a red wine mouthfeel that seems to bring some tannins into the mix; there's also a definite earthy note with a certain bitterness and rich mouthfeel. It works as a rosé to pair with heartier fare. (***) ½



HAVE YOUR SAY ...

I asked people on FaceBook:

"Where and With What Do You Enjoy Your Rosé?"

(here are some of the best answers I got)

Candice Makhan ...

"Rosés are so versatile that they can be paired with almost anything! My favourite pairing is a bold and fruity, well chilled rosé with something smoky from the grill at the cottage."

Elaine B Peters ...

"Love darker Rosé with pork chops, pork loin roasts. Also with charcuterie and of course fresh air."

Geoffrey Eden ...

"Brie. Chèvre. Grilled asparagus. Shrimp with rémoulade sauce."

Grant Elio Biggs ...

"For me, rosé is best enjoyed while basking in the sun, lying on a pink flamingo floaty in the middle of a lake. Where will the wind take me? Who cares, as long as I've got rosé, everything's going to be okay."

Karen Mitchell ...

"Love sipping on a hot day. My favorite food pairings are, turkey burgers, grilled salmon and charcuterie."

Karen Preston ...

"A light, chilled Provençal style rose', when enjoyed alfresco and paired with a simple crunchy baguette and some crumbly cheese gives one the allusion of being on the patio of a bistro in Paris."

Lindsay LR ...

"With shrimp pasta on the patio - delish!"

Lisa Drolet ...

"Any Mediterranean inspired meals, especially grilled seafood. And, of course, both the food and wine are best shared with friends."

Tracie Allison Gonneau ...

"On my patio with grilled lobster skewers."

Tracey Bullock ...

"Thanksgiving dinner with cranberry sauce, charcuterie and anything with olives in it."

STILL ROSÉ

International (in alphabetical order by country)



Argento 2020 Rosé

\$10.95 - Argentina - LCBO 13245

This Argentinean pink has something I really didn't expect, a nice seam of acidity that helped carry the lemon and peach pit notes - this one is quite zesty and a step up from previous years. (**+ ½)

Susana Balbo 2020 Signature Rosé

\$22.95 - Argentina - LCBO 879765

Sometimes good rosé defies description, you put it in your mouth and you just know it's good, this was one of those, and the more I tried to define it the more I just wanted to drink it and enjoy the day: lemon, melon, and raspberry with good acidity. Give me a chilled bucket and a glass - goodbye afternoon. (**+ ½+)

Casella Wines 2019 Yellow Tail Rosé

\$12.95 - Australia - LCBO 13015

Drier than expected especially after the smell, which gives off a sweet vibe - this is satisfying and sippable with hints of raspberry and apple; it's not stellar, it's not great, but it is safe and satisfying - and let's be honest that what plenty of folks like in their rosé. (**+)

Jacob's Creek 2020 Reserve Rosé

\$15.95 - Australia - LCBO 18528

This is a basic rosé, but I mean that in the best way: tart raspberry-lemonade with nice acidity with hints of watermelon rind on the finish. (**+ ½)

Zontes Footstep 2020 Scarlett Ladybird

\$18.95 - Australia - LCBO 408476

The first sniff is raspberry, orange and lemonade, which seems a strange combination of flavours to come if the palate delivers on the promise of the nose; it opens up to deliver orange and floral notes with hints of apricot - a little different, but better than expected. (**+)



Cono Sur 2020 Bicicleta Pinot Noir Rosé

\$11.95 - Chile - LCBO 318014

Hints at cherry and raspberry-bubblegum on the nose with a fresh lemon and floral finish - it's tasty, flavourful and nice to sip on all afternoon - this one will go down real easy - pick a nice day and pick a nice patio, you're not moving for awhile. (**+ ½)

STILL ROSÉ

International (in alphabetical order by country)



Berne 2020 Romance

\$17.95 - France - LCBO 13548

A plethora of goodness comes out of this glass: it's a melon-strawberry bomb with a nice little sourish / bitter-ish note that's going to offend fence-sitters and sweet rosé lovers - the finish leaves you with notes of melon rind, watermelon, strawberry, and cantaloupe - lovely acidity, this is a friendly rosé that's sure to make a lot of friends itself. (***) ½+



Berne 2020 Inspiration Rosé

\$23.95 - France - LCBO 278864

Berne's second entry into the Rosé Report is just as delightful as the first, and yet still shows a difference in its profile. This one is for those that like a nice lemon-lime, raspberry-cherry flavour in their pink wine with a little touch of peach and kiwi on the finish. (***) ½+

Calmel & Joseph 2020 Villa Blanche Grenache Rosé

\$16.05 - France - LCBO 745868

Starts off a little funky but with each subsequent sip it gets more and more pleasant: sour raspberry leads things off with notes of lemon drop and delicate rhubarb and strawberry ... it's all subtle and delicate and delicious ending with a little bit of a chalky minerality and good acidity. (***) ½+

Delas 2019 Saint-Esprit Cotes du Rhone Rosé

\$16.95 - France - LCBO 224964

Sure there's some strawberry and lemon here but it comes across a little oxidative; drink it quick. (***)

Delas 2020 Saint-Esprit Cotes du Rhone Rosé

\$16.95 - France - LCBO 224964

Nice and dry, much better version than the 2019 (which is also in this report - above). The flavours and aromas meld together with raspberry, lemon and strawberry with a lingering tartness on the finish where melon rind and citrus pith meet. This is a very good hot weather rosé. (***) ½+

Gerard Bertrand 2020 Cote des Roses Rosé

\$18.95 - France - LCBO 373985

One of those bottles you won't soon forget (it has a rose carved into the large bottom): dry lemon-lime and melon rind tartness plus white peach, nectarine and a finish that shows notes of gooseberry - it does end up being quite a refreshing combination. (***) ½+

STILL ROSÉ

International (in alphabetical order by country)



Les Maîtres Vignerons de la Presqu'île de Saint-Tropez 2019 Carte Noire

\$19.95 - France - LCBO 319384

A nice and dry typical Cotes de Provence rosé with it's lemon-lime citrus notes; plus watermelon / honeydew rind, there's a lack of excitement in this bottle, but those citrus notes are definitely on-point. (**½)

Saint Aix 2020 Provence Rosé

\$24.95 - France - LCBO 451906

This is a very pretty rosé that really speaks to the serious rosé fan in us all: floral and bright lemon with juicy peach-raspberry and cherry notes - it delivers on the promise of a summer's day and lounging on the patio. (**½+)

Typic 2020 Pays D'Oc Rosé

\$14.45 - France - LCBO 19235

This 80% Cinsault / 20% Syrah from the Languedoc in France is nothing fancy, it's pink wine with a limited flavour profile; I would say you could easily have your thirst quenched by a glass of water, but this one has booze and you would miss out on that lovely rosé colour. (***)

Ultimate Provence 2020 Rosé

\$27.95 - France - LCBO August 2021

A Provençal style rosé that delivers on the dry with floral, herbal, lemon-lime and plenty of other citrus notes. It's nice, basic and serviceable on a hot day. (**+)

Bodegas Antigal 2019 Uno Rosé

\$18.95 - Italy - Consignment: United Star

Fresh yellow and orange fruit with notes of peach and strawberry - there is some nice acidity here, but it is quite mellow and doesn't get in the way. (**½)

Cantina del Garda 2020 Bardolino Chiaretto

\$12.95 - Italy - LCBO September 2021 - 0020014

This is really pretty with bubblegum and floral aromas, while on the palate it's light and fresh with raspberry and floral notes all balanced out with nice acidity. Shame this is coming into Ontario September because I could see crushing a number of bottles in July and August. (**½+)



STILL ROSÉ

International

(in alphabetical order by country)



Cantine Colle Moro 2020 Frisco Cerasuolo D'Abruzzo

\$13.95 - Italy - Consignment: Lexcelent Wines

This Italian rosé will have quite a few fans because of its darker colour and the flavours of strawberry, rhubarb and cherry, there's also a hint of some candy-floss on the mid-palate before it finishes dry. (*** ½)



Corte Giacobbe 2020 Pinot Grigio Delle Venezie Ramato

\$19.95 - Italy - Consignment: United Star

Really peachy with nectarine skin notes - juicy and playful, this is a super refreshing wine that delivered a smile to my face and my palate - another good showing for Grigio as a Pink wine. Opens to have some pineapple added to the mix and the acidity provides a lovely tartness keeping that lovely fruit in check. (*** ½+)

Donnafugata 2020 Dolce & Gabbana Rosa

\$49.20 - Italy - LCBO 167444

This one comes wrapped in a pretty box and a bow around the throat - it's made with Nerello Mascalese and Nocera grapes from Sicily and proves to have good refreshing qualities with subtle melon rind, cherry stems and strawberry pith, plus there's some floral, hints of raspberry and melon on the finish. (*** ½)

Folonari 2020 Pinot Grigio Venezia Pink

\$11.95 - Italy - LCBO 43588

Hello Pinot Grigio with colour, I like seeing this - and I liked tasting it even more: lemon, peach with nice zippy acidity, perfect summertime in a glass with just a dash of sweetness on the mid-palate and a Pez-like dusty quality on the finish; this is a total quaffer, by the boat-load. (*** ½)

Aurvin 2019 Merlot Rosé

\$13.95 - Moldova - winery / online

This "semi-dry" rosé (states this right on the label) comes across as purple Welch's grape juice both smell and taste, but with better acidity and with a little raspberry on the finish. (***)

Kim Crawford 2019 Rosé

\$18.95 - New Zealand - LCBO 650325

This is a summer staple for some: dry raspberry and lemon with a citrus pith finish. Basic, but it works. (***+)

STILL ROSÉ

International (in alphabetical order by country)



White Cliff 2020 Rosé Winemaker's Selection

\$14.95 - New Zealand - LCBO 13297

Pretty notes of strawberry, watermelon rind with killer lemon and citrus pith - this was the very first rosé tasted and was a great kick off to the report. (**+ ½)

Boekenhoutskloof 2020 Porcupine Ridge Rosé

\$15.95 - South Africa - LCBO 19552

I found this to be a delicate and light rosé, and not just for its colour. It had notes of strawberry, raspberry, nectarine and apricot with a hint of floral - this is quite tasty and refreshing. (**+ ½)

Douglas Green 2020 The Beachhouse

\$11.95 - South Africa - LCBO 164343

This one squeezes so much into the bottle - it has something for everyone: nice summer fruit with lemon and lime candy, a decent tartness with a touch of the sweetness from red fruit; it's a quenchable rosé. ***+



Lomond 2021 Merlot Rosé

\$19.95 - South Africa - Consignment: United Star

First, the year is not a typo, and second, this is my first wine from 2021. It's a little earthy-tarry on the aroma side when first opened, but the palate has some lovely strawberry, cherry and raspberry notes, and the middle really amps up that juicy cherry note the longer it's opened. The off part is the cigar box finish, which is truly odd in a rosé (too young?) - concentrate on that middle and you'll be fine. (**+)

Bodega Emina 2019 Rosé (Vino Rosado)

\$14.95 - Spain - Consignment: United Star

Very sippable with strawberry and lime taking center stage, there's seems to also be a tannin-like grit to the finish. (**+)

Gran Feudo 2019 Rosado

\$12.80 - Spain - LCBO 165845

A very basic rosado from Spain - very cherry with tart lime zest and some pith to the finish. (**+)

Toro Bravo 2020 Rosado

\$8.45 - Spain - LCBO 14145

Made from Shiraz and Grenache ... quite pleasant (but it starts off slow) with honeydew-melon, floral, peach cocktail, then moves into subtle lemon zest with a pinch of lime. By the time you've sipped on it a few more times you realize it's quite quaffable with a good a dry finish ... heads and tails above last year's model. *** ½

STILL ROSÉ

International (in alphabetical order by country)



Bonny Doon 2020 Vin Gris de Cigare

USA / California

Not surprising this is in that dry Provence-style, Doon has been chasing French styles of wine ever since it opened - there's a distinct mineral character which shows itself more than the lime or lemon notes - plus there's a subtle bitterness here that'll cause head-scratches to define it - this is a thinking (wo)man's rosé. (***) ½

Bread & Butter 2020 Rosé

\$18.95 - USA / California - LCBO 18486

This is one of those simple looking rosés (based on the label) that delivers on more than just simplicity: strawberry and Crenshaw melon with some pleasant, easy drinking smoothness that refreshes. (***) ½

Carol Shelton 2019 Wild Thing - Rendezvous Rosé

\$26.95 - USA / California - Consignment: Lexcellent Wines

This Californina rosé has a vibrant cherry Kool-Aid colour and that matches the cherry aromas that greet the nose plus a little raspberry and watermelon - drier than one would expect from a Zin-based rosé, but with all the fruit you'd expect from Cali and Zin: strawberry-cherry in the mouth, with hints of Jolly Rancher cherry-watermelon (is that even a flavour of theirs?). (***) ½

Carol Shelton 2019 Wild Thing Rosé

USA / California

From California's Queen of Zinfandel, Carol Shelton has hit a home run once again with this Mendocino County beauty. Bright Chinese red in color, with raspberry, cherry, cranberry and strawberry fruit that is crisp and clean. The orange zest wakens the palate and all the while, having the sense and flavor of sucking on a watermelon Jolly Rancher hard candy. Blended with 62% Carignane, 36% Zinfandel and 2% Petite Sirah, it is juicy with the right balance of mineral and acidity with a long tantalizing finish. (DB)



Dueling Opinions:

This is the only wine both Dave and I tried - we never compared notes - until now.

STILL ROSÉ

International

(in alphabetical order by country)



Etude 2019 Rosé

USA / California

As a lover of Pinot Noir, when the weather changes from frostbite to warmth, I still gravitate to those same flavors from the best producers around the world. Yet, it is refreshing I crave to soothe the savage palate. Produced with fruit from the Santa Barbara region of California, this salmon colored beauty delivers vine ripened strawberry, white peach and juicy floral notes that remind you of a fresh ocean breeze. With a balanced acidity, the ripe fruit explode on the palate, leaving each sip with a delicate array of seductive flavors and sensory satisfaction. **(DB)**

Joel Gott 2019 Rosé, Central Coast

\$24.95 - USA / California - LCBO 668368

Faint hints of lemon and apricot with notes of floral and lime - it's clean, it's refreshing and sippable - it doesn't make a statement as much as it whispers softly to you. **(*** ½)**



Stel + Mar 2019 California Rosé

\$16.95 - USA / California - LCBO 18485

There is a definite difference between the bottled version and the boxed version of this wine - and this is the one you want: surprisingly dry (because it smells sweet) with strawberry and peach, nectarine and peach pit, plus a good dry finish. This one is quite chuggable. **(*** ½)**

Verterra 2019 Rosé of Pinot Noir

USA / Michigan

With the heat of Summer upon us and the crisp air of Spring and Autumn nowhere near, many wine lovers believe it's time to pull out the white and rosé wines for the season like white pants and flip flops. One wine I will definitely be enjoying thoroughly is this beautiful Verterra Rose of Pinot Noir from Northern Michigan. From the onset, a bouquet of fresh roses guides the senses to ripe strawberry, raspberry and Jolly Rancher watermelon. Each sip offers clean refreshing Lake Michigan aromas with a long crisp finish. Dry and seductive, it is no wonder it was chosen as the Best Dry Rose at last year's Michigan Wine Competition. With the boom of rose production worldwide in recent years, it's a tough task weeding through the marketplace to find not only quality, but distinctive flavors that stay true to the grape. **(DB)**

STILL ROSÉ

International (in alphabetical order by country)



Erath 2020 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$22.95 - USA / Oregon - LCBO 15275

It's floral and watermelon with juicy raspberry and a certain kind of bitterness on the finish - it is quite refreshing and it's the finish that makes you want to keep checking back in. (**½)



Russell B. Gregory 2018 Rosé

USA / Oregon

During hot Summer days, you try to find a way to stay cool and refreshed. Do both by enjoying a glass of this rare and unique rose. Made from 30% Syrah and 70% Gewürztraminer grapes from the Hungarian Vineyard in the Oregon Willamette Valley; yes, a rose from a large percentage of white vines. A fresh sea breeze nose gives way to a deep rich ruby colored wine with Jolly Rancher watermelon, strawberry, pomegranate and Asian spice notes. Bone dry and with very light acidity, there is great depth to the Syrah flavors, with rosewater, pink grapefruit and tangerine hints on its long finish. **(DB)**

Bernard-Griffin 2020 Rosé

USA / Washington

Bold and beautiful with zesty raspberry, bright black cherry, fresh strawberry and watermelon fruit, this dry and refreshing rosé from the Columbia Valley of Washington has all the attributes of a true red and more. Made from 100% Sangiovese grapes - from its grab your senses aroma to its super tantalizing finish, this is a red wine lovers delight. One of my personal favorites 4 years running, with the influx and popularity of beautiful rose's being produced from wine makers around the globe, it may be a tough challenge to keep it's long running title. **(DB)**

"Wine makes every meal an occasion, every table more elegant, every day more civilized." – Andre Simon

Thank You & Acknowledgements

Thank you to the agents who stepped up and sent rosés in, because of the limited chance to taste wines during another pandemic year (ie: no mass tastings, no LCBO, etc.) – 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 ... and all the others I have missed.

If you don't see your name please send me a reminder and I will add you to the list.

To all the wineries who sent wine in directly (by courier, direct drop off or pick-up) – I truly appreciate and respect all you do to create and produce the wines we, as consumers, drink, and for putting your trust in my palate and my words:

16 Mile Cellar / 2027 Cellars / 80x Wine Company / Adamo Estate / Argento / Aurvin / Banrock Station / Bernard-Griffin / Berne / Blue Grouse / Bodega Emina / Bodegas Antigal / Boekenhoutskloof / Bonny Doon / Bread & Butter / Calamus / Calmel & Joseph / Cantina del Garda / Cantine Colle Moro / Carol Shelton / Casa-Dea Estates / Casella Wines / Cave Spring Cellars / Chateau des Charmes / Cono Sur / Cooper's Hawk / Corte Giacobbe / Creekside / Culmina / Dark Horse / De Simone Vineyards / Delas / Del-Gatto / Dirty Laundry / Domaine Queylus / Donnafugata / D'Ont Poke the Bear / Douglas Green / Erath / Etude / Featherstone / Flat Rock Cellars / Fogolar / Folonari / Foreign Affair / Foreign Affair / Frisky Beaver / G. Marquis / Gerard Bertrand / Gold Hill Winery / Gran Feudo / Gruet / Harbour Estates / Henry of Pelham / Hernder Estates / Honsberger / Huff Estates / iCellars / Intrigue Wines / Jacob's Creek / Joel Gott / John Howard Cellars of Distinction / Joie Farm / Karlo Estates / KEW Vineyards / Kim Crawford / Konzelmann Estates / Leaning Post / Les Maîtres Vignerons de la Presqu'île de Saint-Tropez / Locust Lane / Lomond / Louis Bouillot / Lundy Manor / Magnotta / Malivoire / Marynissen / Monte Creek Ranch / Moraine / North 42 Degrees / Nyarai Cellars / Oxley Estate / Peller Family / Peninsula Ridge / Pillitteri / Pondview / Puddicombe / Quai du Vin / Quails' Gate / Redstone / Riverview Cellars / Rosehall Run / Russell B. Gregory / Saint Aix / Sandbanks / Santa Margherita / Speck Bros / Stel + Mar / Stellar's Jay / Stratus / Sue-Ann Staff / Susana Balbo / Tawse Winery / The Old Tun / Toro Bravo / Two Sisters / Typic / Ultimate Provence / Verterra / Vieni / Vineland / Vitteaut Alberti / Volcanic Hills / Westcott Vineyards / White Cliff / Zontes Footstep

Thank Yous & Acknowledgements

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

(there were much fewer of you this year due to lockdown restrictions)

**André / Derek / Erica / Joe / Stacey / Steve / Sue
and to Dave, who did his own thing**

One of the biggest thank yous of all go to my dear friend and incredible brand curator Ophelia Bartolucci for all her help and ideas in creating this report, and the associated, and upcoming, marketing on social media channels – you are an invaluable resource to me and I appreciate every piece of advice and every idea given, even if I don't take them all. Thank you very much. Your love for this project makes me shine: I love your heart, your soul and your passion. Keep shining. You have “bloomed” another great project.

Finally, to you, the reader ... thank you very much for taking the time to read the report, for taking my advice, for interacting with me on a variety of social media platforms and above all for loving rosé as much as I love bringing this report to life, without you and our shared passion there would be no need for this report.

"Never, never trust anyone who asks for white wine. It means they're phonies."

- Bette Davis

ROSÉ

By The Numbers

(these numbers get continually updated with each addendums)

Total Number of wines tasted: 160 wines (so far)

Ontario Rosés: 100

British Columbia Rosés: 14

International Rosés: 46

2016 Vintage: 1 (sparkling)

2017 Vintage: 2

2018 Vintage: 8

2019 Vintage: 33

2020 Vintage: 91

2021 Vintage: 1

Non-Vintage: 24

Most used grape for Rosé: Pinot Noir

Price Range: \$8.45 - \$49.20 (per 750ml)

"Drinking good wine with good food in good company is one of life's most civilized pleasures." - Michael Broadbent



"Nothing brings people together quite like a bottle of rosé and a sunny day - that was the impetus behind the rosé report."

- Michael Pinkus, The Grape Guy

About Michael Pinkus, The Grape Guy

Michael Pinkus is a multi-award-winning wine writer, national and international wine judge, educator, journalist, and co-creator of the podcast Two Guys Talking Wine.

His heartfelt and insightful comments, along with his passionate reviews of the wines and the wineries that make them, have earned him praise throughout the Ontario industry and beyond.

For his writing he's been called "a passionate wine man with a sense of humor" and "a very knowledgeable and honest taster and writer".

On his YouTube Channel, Michael releases two video reviews weekly and is about to embark on his newest endeavour: a monthly whiskey / spirits review (wish him luck).

Michael's video reviews have been called "infectious ", "endearing " and "full of passion". It has even been said, "why this guy has not been picked up for a show is beyond me."

In his past life Michael was an on-air radio personality, actor and vocal performer (something he still dabbles in today through his company Custom Sound Impressions).

Through his writing, videos, podcast and everything else Michael does it is his desire to educate, inspire and encourage others to grow their own love, passion and enthusiasm for wine

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Facebook: (Michael Pinkus and/or 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)

With a few reviews by Dave Burzynski (DB)



40-year veteran of wine and CSW (Certified Specialist of Wine). Wine writer, tasting coordinator, educator, industry consultant and former manager of multi-award-winning wine shop, Champagne's Wine Cellars, the largest in the State of Michigan. Twice honored with Hour Magazine's "Best Personalize Service" award, Dave continues to travel the world to find the highest quality and most affordable wines and vineyards.