

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

A bi-weekly report about the upcoming wines being released through LCBO's Vintages program.



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday April 14, 2012

I am using a 5-star rating system, which appears at the end of each review; here's the key to the stars:

5 = Outstanding ... 4.5 = Excellent ... 4 = Very Good ... 3.5 = Good ... 3 = Average

There are some Eco-wines in this week's release, but I was not impressed, so don't go looking for my recommendations there ... on the other hand there is a plethora of Argentinean wines hitting the shelves (ARG) and there are some wonderful and very affordable wines there. Let's take a look ...

Argentina ...

Catena 2010 Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #918805) - vanilla, butter, peach, caramel apple with some amount of finesse. (****) - **ARG**

Crios 2011 Torrontes (\$12.95 - #0001834) - this is a beginners Torrontes, less fragrant, less floral with only a little spice. (** 1/2) - **ARG**

Decero 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #195677) - red fruit, supple with sweetness of fruit and cocoa-like tannins on the finish. (** 1/2) - **ARG**

Fabre Montmayou 2009 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (\$14.95 - #261891) - black raspberry, tobacco and violets. (** 1/2+) - **ARG**

Kaiken 2009 Ultra Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #135202) - a favourite for good reason: dark fruit, cocoa, cassis with lovely vanilla toast notes. (****+) - **ARG**

Norton 2008 Privada (\$24.95 - #148155) - rich and dark fruit forward, spice and currants/anise notes on the finish; dark and brooding, a wine to lie down 3-5 years. (****+) - **ARG**



Australia ...

Grant Burge 2008 The Holy Trinity Grenach/Shiraz/Mourvedre (\$33.95 - #236257) - deep, rich and complex; dried and fresh fruit fight for dominance. (****)

Katnook Estate 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$29.95 - #590471) - mocha, black currant, nice full weight in the mouth. (** 1/2+)

Canada ...

(British Columbia)

Mission Hill 2009 Reserve Shiraz (\$23.95 - #126763) - chocolate, black cherry, white pepper, hint of spice and plum with a nicely spiced finish. (****)

(Ontario)

Cattail Creek 2008 Select Late Harvest Merlot (\$26.95 / 375ml - #275370) - ****

Cave Spring 2008 Merlot (\$17.95 - #235051) - ** 1/2+

Inniskillin 2010 Winemaker's Series Two Vineyards Riesling (\$17.95 - #105387) - ****+

Mastronardi 2008 Merlot/Cabernet (\$19.95 - #273730) - ** 1/2+

Chile ...

Quintay Q 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$14.95 - #276493) - this is a totally grassy number, perfect for the first day you grab out the mower. (** 1/2)

Tamaya 2009 Reserva Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah (\$15.95 - #0062497) - sweet fruit,

raspberry/strawberry jam, juicy and easy drinking. (** 1/2+)

France ...

(Alsace)

Pierre Sparr 2009 Reserve Pinot Gris (\$14.95 - #983395) - hints of sweetness on the mid-palate are a pre-cursor to a dry finish; nice floral and dry pear notes. (** 1/2)

(Bordeaux)

Chateau Beausejour 2009 (\$14.95 - #264267) - approachable wine that is blackberry dominated. (** 1/2+)

(Burgundy)

Domaine Rebougeon-Mure 2009 Volnay (\$39.95 - #264218) - nice strawberry and sour cherry notes with a decent amount of acidity and spice on the finish. (** 1/2+)

Michel Picard 2009 Chardonnay Bourgogne (\$17.95 - #264440) - no doubt this is Chardonnay, a little fruit, whack of oak and a nice caramel peach note. (** 1/2)

(Loire)

Chateau Moncontour 2009 Cuvee Predilection Brut Vouvray (\$18.95 - #168963) - hint of sweet fruit with good acidity on the finish. (****+)

Saget la Perriere Marie de Beauregard Vouvray 2009 (\$17.95 - #276691) - slightly honeyed with a pear and mineral note, good example of Vouvray. (****)

(Rhône)

Brotte Chateau de Bord la Croix de Fregere Cotes du Rhone Villages Laudun 2009 (\$16.95 - #264218) - juicy and fruity, nice depth of flavour, sweet dark fruit with a slight anise note. (****+)



Italy ...

(Abruzzo)

Jorio 2009 Montepulciano D'Abruzzo (\$13.95 - #134577) - delicate and delicious with red berries and a touch of spice; supple and easy on the palate. (** 1/2)

(Puglia)

La Corte 2010 Old Vines Primitivo di Manduria (\$15.95 - #269019) - rich dark plum and chocolate. (** 1/2+)

(Tuscany)

Antinori 2007 Badia a Passignano Chianti Riserva (\$43.95 - #384552) - rich dark fruit, dark chocolate, kirsch, cassis with just lovely fruit and spice mix, good acidity on the replaying finish. (****+)

Mastrojanni 2006 Brunello di Montalcino (\$25.95 - #0033381) - full flavoured, full bodied with the dichotomy of dried yet jammy fruit. (** 1/2+)

Rocca di Castagnoli 2009 Chianti Classico (\$19.95 - #222810) - sour fruit, pepper, rustic, raspberry, strawberry with good acidity. (** 1/2+)

(Veneto)

Luigi Righetti 2009 Campolieti Ripasso Valpolicella Classico Superiore (\$15.95 - #695890) - good spiced fruit, more red than black, and a nice mix of each with spiced plum and Christmas cake. (** 1/2+)

Monte del Fra 2010 Bardolino (\$12.95 - #134544) - light raspberry jam with slight mocha notes. (** 1/2)

New Zealand ...

Babich Fernhill 2010 Individual Vineyard Viognier (\$16.95 - #269282) - unripened peach and pear nose with a fresh fruity palate and lovely finish. (** 1/2+)

Portugal ...

Astrolabium 2008 Reserva Tinto (\$15.95 - #276121) - lively red fruit, nice spice and herbal notes, a touch earthy with good acidity. (****)

Calem 1998 Colheita Single Vintage Tawny Port (\$25.95 - #264259) - orange peel, prune, raisins and spice on the nose; dried cherries, raisin pie, big spice and whopping acidity on the palate; a finish of spiced-apricot, cherry, burnt orange peel and caramel. (****)

Passadouro 2008 Vinho Tinto (\$21.95 - #267997) - dark fruit, dark chocolate, gentle spice, plum

and blackberry. (** 1/2+)

South Africa ...

Blue Crane 2008 Full Flight Red (\$16.95 - #267831) - fruit forward and very approachable without the South African stink character, this one really screams fruit. (****)

Hamilton Russell 2010 Chardonnay (\$31.95 - #931006) - lots of oak but with lots of Chardonnay character; really long finish. (** 1/2+)

Spier 2008 Creative Block 3 (\$19.95 - #263632) - has that South African tarry note on the nose but it comes out as coffee and spice on the palate with a good finish. (****)



Spain ...

Rotllan Torra 2007 Crianza (\$17.95 - #267989) - menthol on the nose and palate, red plum, juicy dark fruit with a nice spice finish. (** 1/2)

United States ...

(California)

Belle Glos 2009 Las Alturas Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$44.95 - #212076) - blackberry, sour black cherry, hint of floral and spice, bold and full bodied; Pinot for those who like their Aussie alcohol, 14.7%. (****+)

Candor Lot 3 Zinfandel (\$21.95 - #133389) - fruit forward, raspberry, vanilla, cherry cola, vanilla, touch of herbal, vanilla and milk chocolate; you can tell what dominates here. (** 1/2+)

St Francis 2009 Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #317131) - easy drinking, ready to go Chardonnay in a Cali-style. (** 1/2)

(Oregon)

Maysara 3o Pinot Noir 2008 (\$24.95 - #269167) - dark fruit, nice tannins, good acidity. (** 1/2)

Best Buys ... over deliver for the price

Famiglia Bianchi 2011 Chardonnay (\$14.95 - #0001461) - lime cordial and vanilla caramel with a touch of spice. (** 1/2+) ... Argentina (ARG)

If You Can Afford It ... expensive but worth it

Chimney Rock 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$57.95 - #731810) - nicely complex (****+)

Antinori 2008 Solaia (\$249.95 - #987586) - lovely dark fruit with great silky tannins, (**** 1/2)

What I'll be Lining Up For ... April 14, 2012

Brotte Chateau de Bord la Croix de Fregere Cotes du Rhone Villages Laudun 2009 (\$16.95 - #264218) - France

Blue Crane 2008 Full Flight Red (\$16.95 - #267831) - South Africa



Happy Shopping

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To contact me with feedback, article ideas, comments, concerns or questions – email michael@ontariowinereview.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

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