

## OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



### OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday January 21, 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

As we go into the second Vintages release of the year the focus is on Australia and all her glory (OZ) with a small look at "lesser known grapes" (LKG) ... so here we go ...

#### Argentina ...

**Luigi Bosca 2008 Reserva Syrah** (\$17.95 - #143412) - nice syrah with white pepper, raspberry and vanilla notes ... finish is nicely spiced. (\*\* 1/2+)

**Michel Torino 2010 Cuma Organic Torrontes** (\$12.95 - 262014) - spicy orange and limeade, nice example of Argentina's signature white. (\*\* 1/2)

#### Australia ...

**Hewitson 2009 Miss Henry** (\$23.95 - #107870) - raspberry dominant, silky tannins and good flavour. (\*\* 1/2+) - **OZ**

**Jim Barry 2009 The Lodge Hill Shiraz** (\$24.95 - #998476) - nice elegant wine, not an over the top fruit bomb, delicate for an Aussie Shiraz. (\*\*\*\*+) - **OZ**

**Piramimma 2008 Petit Verdot** (\$26.95 - #986752) - chocolate and cherry, blackberry and some pepper. (\*\* 1/2+) - **LKG**

**Sister's Run 2009 Shiraz** (\$15.95 - #222018) - big fruit, big flavour, big fun; great buy in an Aussie Shiraz that hits all the marks. (\*\*\*\*+) - **OZ**

**Torbreck 2009 Cuvee Juveniles** (\$29.95 - #723940) - chocolate, blackberry, black fruit and plum. (\*\*\*\*) - **OZ**

**Wakefield 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$17.95 - #744235) - juicy blackberry, chocolate, cherry with a great finish; this is the wine that put Wakefield on the map and it still delivers. (\*\*\*\*+) - **OZ**

**Yabby Lake 2007 Pinot Noir** (\$49.95 - #262402) - earthy with sweet cranberry and hints of cherry; nice tannins and spice on the finish. (\*\* 1/2+) - **OZ**

#### Canada ...

(Ontario) - visit [OntarioWineReview.com](http://OntarioWineReview.com) for full review

[13th Street 2010 Merlot](#) (\$17.95 - #270504)

[Ridgepoint 2009 Merlot](#) (\$17.95 - #0270488)

[Vineland 2009 Sauvignon Blanc](#) (\$16.95 - #551168)

#### Chile ...

**Concha y Toro 2009 Serie Riberas Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$14.95 - #256693) - a real beauty of dark fruit, hint of mint, rich chocolate, cassis, blackberry and vanilla; great value. (\*\*\*\* 1/2)

**Santa Carolina 2009 Barrica Selection Petit Verdot** (\$14.95 - #007484) - minty blackberry, smooth with a slight bit of white pepper and hint of chocolate. (\*\*\*\*) - **LKG**

#### France ...

(Alsace)

**Jean Geiler 2009 Lieu Dit Vogelgarten Pinot Gris** (\$17.95 - #259739) - lovely sippable Pinot Gris with a dash of sweet pear mid-palate to the finish. (\*\*\*\*)

*Pierre Sparr 2010 Reserve Pinot Blanc* (\$14.95 - #134635) - dry, crisp green apple yet with a nice bit of juiciness. (\*\* 1/2+)

(Bordeaux)

*Chateau de Treviac 2008* (\$15.95 - #670505) - very dark fruited with nice spice and good tannin bite. (\*\* 1/2+)

(Loire)

*Bougrier 2010 Vouvray* (\$13.95 - #1068880) - delicate sweetness with mac and delicious apple; lovely finish that has a good bit of acidity. (\*\* 1/2+)

*Chateau Salmoniere 2010 Vieilles Vignes Muscadet Sevre & Maine* (\$13.95 - #142380) - as the name of this Chateau might suggest it would be a nice pairing with seafood. (\*\* 1/2)

(Rhône)

*Domaine Beau Mistral 2009 Saint Martin Rasteau Cotes du Rhone Villages* (\$22.95 - #251629) - red and black fruit, nice spice, big tannins and dark cocoa on the finish. (\*\*\*\*)

*Domaine de Cabasse Gigondas 2007* (\$29.95 - #142075) - a silkiness smoothness to the finish, and lovely red fruit on the mid-palate. (\*\*\*\*)

*Domaine de Cristia 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape* (\$42.95 - #067678) - plum, chocolate, fig, blackberry jam and red licorice on the finish. Beauty. (\*\*\*\* 1/2)

*Perrin & Fils 2009 Muscat de Beaumes de Venise* (\$16.95 / 375ml - #004713) - floral and spice mingle on this one, sweet and tasty. (\*\*\*\*)

### Italy ...

(Emilia-Romagna)

*Umberto Cesari 2007 Liano Sangiovese/Cabernet Sauvignon* (\$28.95 - #225086) - there's an interesting sweetness in the core of this wine that is very appealing, also a dusting of cinnamon and clove. (\*\*\*\*)

(Piedmont)

*Marchesi di Barolo 2009 Langhe Rosso* (\$17.95 - #229773) - red and black fruit with touches of smoke and rugged tannins. (\*\* 1/2)

(Puglia)

*Menhir 2007 Salento Primitivo di Manduria* (\$15.95 - #268086) - rich black cherry, some vanilla and plum; nice juicy plum finish. (\*\* 1/2+)

(Tuscany)

*Cennatoio 2009 Chianti Classico* (\$15.95 - #232561) - smooth and ready to drink. (\*\* 1/2)

*Ruffino 2008 Santadame Chianti Classico* (\$19.95 - #523076) - black currant, mineral with a touch of coffee. (\*\* 1/2)

*Sassoregale 2009 Sangiovese* (\$15.95 - #251785) - red fruit dominant, a little rustic but easy drinking, great for pizza and pasta night. (\*\* 1/2)

(Umbria)

*Castello della Sala 2010 Bramito del Cervo Chardonnay* (\$21.95 - #176792) - good quality, lively acidity with plenty of citrus on the mid-palate; nice linger with apple and peach on the finish. (\*\* 1/2+)

(Veneto)

*I Campi Campo Vulcano Soave Classico 2009* (\$19.95 - #269969) - crisp, clean and flinty on the tongue with mouth cleansing acidity. (\*\* 1/2)

*Zenato 2008 Valpolicella Superiore* (\$15.95 - 995704) - mocha, plum, and black cherry, decent little wine here. (\*\* 1/2+)

### New Zealand ...

*Ostler 2010 Blue House Vines Pinot Gris* (\$24.95 - #269142) - a nice mixture of pear and peach on both the nose and taste. (\*\*\*\*)

### Portugal ...

*Carla Ferreira Unipessoal Conceito Contraste 2008* (\$17.95 - #268003) - very plum, black fruited and chocolate on the nose; pretty on the palate. (\*\* 1/2+)

*Chocapalha 2008 Reserve Tinto* (\$24.95 - #266643) - nice dark fruit with a lovely juiciness and nice tannins on the finish ... hold 5+ years. (\*\* 1/2+)

*Quinta de Ventozelo Reserva Ruby Port* (\$16.95 - #141 028) - a creamy smooth offering loaded

with red berries, chocolate, plum and loads of acidic bite. (\*\* 1/2+)

#### South Africa ...

*Edgebaston 2010 The Pepper Pot* (\$16.95 - #269092) - coffee, chocolate and a hint of tar, though nothing too off-putting. (\*\* 1/2)

#### Spain ...

*Descendientes de J. Palacios 2009 Petalos* (\$21.95 - #675207) - dark berries, vanilla and chocolate, some real bite to the finish. (\*\* 1/2+) - **LKG**

#### United States ...

(California)

*Blackbird 2008 Arise Red* (\$59.95 - #0261719) - really juicy, blackberry and black cherry, vanilla, sweet spice and chocolate. (\*\*\*\*+)

*Brazin 2008 (B)Old Vine Zinfandel* (\$18.95 - #256750) - big old Zin with typical Zin flavours, if you drink the stuff you'll know what I mean. (\*\* 1/2+)

*Chateau St. Jean 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon* (\$19.95 - #038034) - juicy, chocolate and red berries. (\*\*\*\*)

*Edge Wines 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon* (\$27.95 - #034223) - blueberry, spice, vanilla, cassis and hints of oak. (\*\*\*\*)

*Loredona 2009 Pinot Noir* (\$16.95 - #057620) - floral and cherry on the nose leads to raspberry, cranberry and cherry on the palate; a little earthy spice on the finish ... this is a nice one. (\*\*\*\*+)

*Ravenswood 2008 Single Vineyard Belloni Zinfandel* (\$44.95 - #672741) - lovely Zin with finesse: plum, blackberry, raspberry and caramel notes. (\*\*\*\*+)

(Oregon)

*Lia's Vineyard Longplay Pinot Noir 2008* (\$23.95 - #267344) - super nose with concentrated earthy notes; black cherry on the palate with a whole whack of spice. (\*\* 1/2)

#### Best Buy(s) ...

*Alamos 2010 Malbec* (\$13.95 - #467951) - Argentina ... \*\*\*\*

#### Grape Guy Top 3 ... what I'll be lining up for on January 21, 2012:

*Sister's Run 2009 Shiraz* (\$15.95 - #222018) - Australia

*Concha y Toro 2009 Serie Riberas Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon* (\$14.95 - #256693) - Chile

*Loredona 2009 Pinot Noir* (\$16.95 - #057620) - United States

Happy Shopping.

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**About OntarioWineReview:** a website devoted to the love, enjoyment and promotion of Ontario's wines, wineries and lots more wine related issues – visit [www.ontariowinereview.com](http://www.ontariowinereview.com) to sign up for the free bi-weekly newsletter and feel free to browse around a little while you're there.



**What can the Grape Guy do for you ...** Michael Pinkus (Grape Guy) provides a variety of wine related services that you might be interested in taking advantage of: he gives lectures, leads seminars, conducts tastings, sets up tours; consults, selects and judges. He also gives interviews, broadcasts, podcasts and writes. [Contact the Grape Guy if you require any of these services or have any questions.](#)



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

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