

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday July 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

On the agenda this release is Australia (OZ) and the Loire Valley (LV), but I think the best wines come from Spain and another part of France - let's take a look:

Argentina ...

Altocedro 2009 Reserva Malbec (\$24.95 - #187880) - very vanilla-smoke and quite spicy with brambly black fruit (** 1/2)

Clos de los Siete 2009 (\$21.95 - #622571) - best in a few years, cedar smoke and black fruit very appealing (****+)

Australia ...

Buller Victoria Tawny (\$18.95 - #271403) - nice version of a Tawny, there's more chocolate and caramel than fruit, but there's also really good spice (****+) - **OZ**

Caledonia 2008 Astralis Reserve Chardonnay (\$39.95 - #284935) - best of the Aussies chards on offer, but know right now you gotta love oak (** 1/2) - **OZ**

De Bortoli 2008 Melba Lucia (\$28.95 - #238022) - odd combination for Australia, Cab and Sangiovese, usually an Italian blend, but this works in the heat with spiced earthy blackberries. (** 1/2) - **OZ**

Domaine Portet Fontaine Shiraz/Cabernet/Merlot (\$19.95 - #281410) - nice blend, good balance; sour cherry and spice with a little sandalwood and an elegance (** 1/2+) - **OZ**

Pyrenees Ridge 2009 Shiraz (\$20.95 - #661918) - black pepper, chocolate, rich plum, toasted cinnamon, licorice, mineral and spice (****+) - **OZ**

Rutherglen Estates 2008 Petite Sirah (\$20.95 - #179127) - spicy first and foremost, the fruit comes in much later (** 1/2) - **OZ**

Tahbilk 2008 Shiraz (\$20.95 - #214742) - nice white pepper, plum, chocolate and spice ... good lingering finish (****) - **OZ**

Austria ...

Hiedler 2010 Gruner Veltliner Trocken Langenlois Thal 1er Cru (\$23.95 - #285056) - herbal and floral notes in the mouth, sweet pea and mineral sensation; this wine requires additional sips (** 1/2+)

Canada ... (Ontario) - [click on wine name for full review](#)

[Featherstone 2011 Sauvignon Blanc](#) (\$19.95 - #89011) - ****+

[Fielding 2010 Viognier](#) (\$25.95 - #142323) - ** 1/2

[Malivoire 2010 Gewurztraminer](#) (\$24.95 - #542522) - ****

Chile ...

Arboleda 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$18.95 - #606764) - minty blueberry and blackberry; supple and sweet (** 1/2+)

France ... (Bordeaux)

Domaine de Viaud 2001 (\$26.95 - #282475) - get an aged Bordeaux without having to lie it down

yourself (** 1/2)

France ... (Loire)

Bernard Reverdy & Fils 2010 Sancerre (\$22.95 - #200055) - nice grassiness with hints of grapefruit (** 1/2) - LV

Vincent Rimbault 2010 Les Terrages Demi Sec Vouvray (\$17.95 - #271973) - pleasant and easy to drink with lime rickety and floral notes (** 1/2) - LV

France ... (Midi)

Gerard Bertrand 2008 Grand Terroir Tautavel Grenache/Syrah/Carignan (\$17.95 - #272575) - smooth, juicy yet spicy, a lovely blend and well priced (****)

Le Cirque 2010 Carignan/Mourvedre/Syrah (\$14.95 - #277079) - the circus is in town and it's as far and enjoyable as you think it can be: vanilla, smoky, blackberry, black cherry and cocoa (****+)

France ... (Rhône)

Clos des Cazaux Cuvee St. Roch Vacqueyras (\$18.95 - #279513) - lots of lovely red fruit with sweet spiced meat, Montreal style (****)

Delas Haute Pierre Chateauneuf du Pape 2009 (\$37.95 - #74195) - well-balanced oak spice, vanilla, blackberry, tobacco and plum (****+)

Italy ... (Tuscany)

Carpineto 2010 Chianti Classico (\$18.95 - #356048) - red cherries, cinnamon, interesting wood spice mixed with good fruit (** 1/2+)

Rocca Delle Macie 2006 Chianti Classico Riserva (\$21.95 - #930966) - wood smoke, vanilla, blue and black berries, and oak spice with great persistence on the palate (****+)

Italy ... (Veneto)

Monte Vicario 2010 Soave Classico (\$13.95 - #282087) - dry entry with a sweet melon core; refreshing and tasty (** 1/2+)

Tenuta S. Anna Prosecco Superiore de Valdobbiadene (\$18.95 - 281386) - pretty floral notes with sweet pear, pineapple along for the ride; a really good summer bubbly (** 1/2)

Portugal ...

Casa de Santa 2011 Vitoria Rosé (\$12.95 - #273797) - lots of raspberry (** 1/2)

Fado 2009 (\$13.95 - #283135) - not a fan of the music but the wine is tasty with sweet supple fruit (** 1/2+)

Morgadio da Torre 2011 Alvarinho Vinho Verde (\$17.95 - 960955) - mineral and lime pith (** 1/2)

Newman's Celebrated Port (\$14.95 - #134908) - there's a fun playfulness about this Port amongst the sweet cherry and chocolate notes, there's even an interesting Canadian spin (****+)

Quinta do Cachao 2009 Reserva Tinto (\$18.95 - #280396) - black cherry with a seam of chocolate and hint of cafe mocha on the finish (****)

New Zealand ...

Clos Henri Bel Echo Terroir Greywacke Pinot Noir 2010 (\$18.95 - #159137) - fig, black cherry, spice, sour cherry and a hint of spiced plum (** 1/2+)

Sileni 2010 The Lodge Chardonnay (\$18.95 - #278549) - has both fruit and barrel notes, creamy with good acidity, very well balanced (** 1/2+)

Two Tracks 2010 Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - #269274) - earthy-raspberry and spice with hints of beet root (** 1/2)

Whitehaven 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #278556) - very grassy with gooseberry notes, there's a bit of creaminess along with decent acidity on the tongue (** 1/2+)

South Africa ...

Cathedral Cellar 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$14.95 - 662718) - pleasant, easy drinking, full of grapefruit cocktail (** 1/2)

Spain ...

Castano 2009 Solanera Vinas Viejas (\$15.95 - #276162) - sweet black fruit with a vanilla seam, well priced for a drink now wine for the BBQ (****+)

Martin Codax 2010 Albarino (\$16.95 - #984906) - lemon and peach pit, a little fuller than the

Portuguese version but equally tasty (** 1/2)

United States ... (California)

De Loach 2009 OFS Chardonnay (\$37.95 - #729343) - soft on smell, big on taste (****)

Fog Head 2010 Highland Series Reserve Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - #212944) - fruit driven with enough acidity, good earthy-spicy not to make it interesting (****)

Quivira 2009 Zinfandel (\$29.95 - #249250) - ripe, rich raspberry with cola, plum and chocolate with a hint of spice (** 1/2+)

Rodney Strong 2009 Knotty Vines Zinfandel (\$22.95 - #363358) - plum, white pepper and cherry (** 1/2)

Sonoma-Cutrer 2008 Grower-Vintner Pinot Noir (\$29.95 - #140723) - fruit driven, very red oriented: cherry, licorice with vanilla and smoke (** 1/2+)

The Show 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #140715) - juicy wine that should be received at your next get together this summer (\$17.95 - #140715)

United States ... (Oregon)

Longplay 2009 Lia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$27.95 - #267344) - smooth, clean, sour raspberry, cherry and sweet cranberry (** 1/2)

United States ... (Washington)

Kung Fu Girl 2010 Riesling (\$18.95 - #273953) - nice lime zing with a whisp of minerality and hint of sweetness; it really comes together on the finish (** 1/2)

Uruguay ...

Pisano 2008 Rio de los Pajaros Reserve Merlot/Tannat (\$15.95 - #269506) - highly coffee-d but with balancing black fruit; this shows real promise for Uruguay (** 1/2)

If You Can Afford It ... wines that deliver even for their high price

Hewitt Vineyards 2008 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (\$69.95) - ****

What I'll Be Lining Up For - July 21, 2012 ...

Castano 2009 Solanera Vinas Viejas (\$15.95 - #276162) - Spain

Le Cirque 2010 Carignan/Mourvedre/Syrah (\$14.95 - #277079) - France

Happy Shopping

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 to sign up for the free bi-weekly newsletter and feel free to browse around a little while you're there.



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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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