

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday March 31, 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

The focus for this week's release is Easter ... no sure what constitutes an Easter wine but so I guess we'll find out together ...

Argentina ...

Fabre Montmayou 2009 Reserva Malbec (\$15.95 - #261867) - violets, dark fruit, plum with pencil shavings, strawberry and spice. (****)

La Posta 2009 Estela Armando Vineyard Bonarda (\$14.95 - #261586) - easy drinking wine with hints of earthy, violets, raspberry and black cherry. (****+) - **EASTER**

Vistalba 2008 Corte B (\$19.95 - #0024919) - dark fruit, milk chocolate, blueberries, vanilla and cedar; big alcohol, big flavour. (****+)

Zuccardi 2010 Serie A Chardonnay/Viognier (\$14.95 - #262097) - delicate and drinkable. (** 1/2)

Australia ...

Barossa Valley Estate 2007 Moculta Shiraz (\$24.95 - #263707) - white pepper and plum with slight meaty note and good acidity. (****)

Frogmore Creek 2007 Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #182972) - smooth, creamy and slightly spicy with good red fruit flavour. (****)

Gotham 200 8 Old Vine Salmagundi (\$29.95 - #265942 ... *pictured*) - shows delicacy of flavour with lots of dark fruit, vanilla-smoke and dark chocolate and nice spice. (****+)



Peter Lehmann 2010 Layers White (\$15.95 - #167171) - peaches and cream, yellow plum, lemon pith with a refreshingly long finish. (** 1/2)

Canada ...

(British Columbia)

CedarCreek 2008 Pinot Noir (\$31.95 - #0273482) - sweet and smoky, vanilla, cinnamon with sweet cranberry, sour cherry and nicely spiced; ready to drink or lie down a couple of years. (****+)

(Ontario) - [click on wine below for full review](#)

[Cave Spring 2010 Estate Bottled Gewurztraminer](#) (\$17.95 - #302059) - ****+

[Featherstone 2011 Black Sheep Riesling](#) (\$16.95 - #80234) - ****

[Vintage Ink 2010 Rite of Passage Chardonnay](#) (\$16.95 - #245712) - ** 1/2+

Chile ...

Amayna 2008 Chardonnay (\$25.95 - #76265) - aromas of fig and goat cheese in the glass; vanilla, passionfruit with hints of floral and good acidity on the palate. (** 1/2+)

Anakena Ona Pinot Noir 2010 (\$19.95 - #269183) - this is Pinot for non-Pinot drinkers, full of fruit with just mere hints of earth and spice that don't distract from the fruit. (****) - **EASTER**

France ...

(Alsace)

Joseph Cattin Brut Rose Cremant D'Alsace (\$17.95 - #264572) - creamy vanilla-raspbberly with hint of strawberry on the palate; deliciously affordable bubble. (****)

(Beaujolais)

Jean-Paul Brun Terres Dorees Morgon 2010 (\$19.95 - #264465) - smoky, strawberry, licorice with quite a bit of tannins. (** 1/2+)

(Bordeaux)

Chateau La Bourree 2008 (\$17.95 - #138800) - dark and brooding with big tannins. (** 1/2)

Chateau La Fleur Terrien 2009 (\$14.95 - #199059) - soft fruit, dark berries and easy drinking. (** 1/2) - EASTER

Chateau Larrivet Haut-Brion 2004 (\$48.95 - #264283) - lots of tobacco, blackberry and spice. (** 1/2+)

Chateau Tour Haut Vignoble 2008 (\$25.95 - #0087742) - funky aromas but the palate shows really nice flavours and complexity: raspberry, herbal-spice and sour blackberry. (** 1/2+)

(Burgundy)

Domaine Besancenot Beaune Clos du Roi 1er Cru 2009 (\$37.95 - #183772) - gentle spice, sour cherry, earthy, strawberry all with a nice mouth-feel. (** 1/2+)

Vincent Marie-Antoinette Chardonnay Pouilly-Fuisse 2009 (\$26.95 - #525113) - mineral and toasty notes with green apple on the finish; if you were to add bubbles this would be a great sparkler. (****)

(Midi)

Hecht & Bannier 2008 Cotes du Roussillon-Villages (\$22.95 - #142802) - sweet blackberries, vanilla and cherry. (****+)

(Rhone)

Alain Jaume & Fils 2009 Terrasses de Montmirail Gigondas (\$27.95 - #264234) - lovely fruit, delicate spice, lovely wine. (****+)

Domaine de la Janasse 2009 Cotes du Rhone (\$15.95 - #705228 ... pictured) - holy shit this is one lovely wine for the price: fruit is full on with raspberry, cherry and other red fruits dominating, then you have mocha, vanilla and balancing acidity finishing it off. (**** 1/2)



Italy ...

(Abruzzo)

Aldiano 2007 Montepulciano D'Abruzzo Riserva (\$17.95 - #0051706) - a real vanilla-chocolate mouthful, delicious even with those ballsy tannins. Great finish. (****+)

(Friuli)

Cormons 2010 Pinot Grigio (\$14.95 - #734038) - refreshing lime cordial with a touch of floral and dry honey notes. (** 1/2)

(Marche)

Velenosi 2010 Villa Angela Pecorino (\$13.95 - #173252) - gentle on the palate with some peach pit, bartlett pear and a dry finish. (** 1/2)

(Sicily)

Tasca D'Almerita Lamuri Nero D'Avola 2009 (\$17.95 - #568089) - a tasty black fruited number. (** 1/2)

(Tuscany)

Corte Pavone 2005 Brunello di Montalcino (\$49.95 - #0237263) - spicy, rustic nose with sweet dried fruit palate with nice herbal notes. (****)

(Veneto)

Albino Armani 2008 Egle Ripasso Valpolicella Superiore (\$15.95 - #247916) - sweet fruit, cherry-vanilla, plum and hints of herbs. (****+)

Masi Serego Alighieri 650 Anniversario Valpolicella Classico Superiore 2008 (\$23.95 - #661306) - nice spice, plum, raspberry, strawberry with some licorice and anise backing. (****)

New Zealand ...

Auntsfield 2010 Long Cow Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #663286) - full on grapefruit cocktail from nose to finish; hint of grass does appear in the mouth. (** 1/2) - EASTER

Momo 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.95 - #0009167) - nice balance with not too much of anything: flinty pineapple and some melon notes, interestingly subtle. (****)

Tinpot Hut 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (\$18.95 - #267906) - lots of gooseberry with a hint of grapefruit skin. (** 1/2)

Portugal ...

La Rosa 2008 Tinto (\$19.95 - #0933101) - plum and chocolate, blackberry with plenty of acid and tannins. (****)

South Africa ...

Graham Beck 2007 Premier Cuvee Blanc de Blancs Brut (\$24.95 - #907568) - bruised apple with a squeeze of lemon. (** 1/2+) - **EASTER**

L'Avenir 2011 Chenin Blanc (\$18.95 - #72645) - pea pod, pear and floral; dry on the palate. (** 1/2)

United States ...

(California)

Cigarzin 2008 Zinfandel (\$19.95 - #269340 ... pictured) - plummy, chocolatey, vanilla, cherry, dark fruit and spice with a lovely finish; classic. (****+)

Corte Riva 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$39.95 - #0089318) - super concentrated fruit from nose to finish. (****+) - **EASTER**

First Press 2010 Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #199810) - quite Californian, good sipping with nice fruit, hints of barrel tones with vanilla and butter sweetness. (** 1/2) - **EASTER**

Quady 2010 Elysium Black Muscat (\$14.95 / 375ml - #276840) - this is a pretty dessert wine with delicate floral perfume and some bubble gum notes; there's also really good acidity. (** 1/2+)

Raymond R Collection 2009 Field Blend Lot No. 7 (\$17.95 - #265959) - sweet, supple fruit, a lovely BBQ sipper. (** 1/2)

The Pairing 2009 Pinot Noir (\$32.95 - #218958) - cherry, raspberry with a hint of chocolate and tobacco. (****)

The Pairing 2007 Red (\$33.95 - #218909) - full of fruit and full of flavour: cassis, pepper, cocoa and raspberry. (** 1/2+)

(Oregon)

A to Z Wineworks 2009 Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #269258) - fresh and easy drinking with much white fruit flavour. (** 1/2+)

(Washington)

Chateau Ste. Michelle 2008 Indian Wells Merlot (\$25.95 - #408864) - another winning wine from Washington, white pepper, blueberry, cocoa and spice. (** 1/2+)

If You Can Afford It ...

Two Hands 2009 Bella's Garden Shiraz (\$64.95 - #636407) - ****+ (**EASTER**)

What I'll be Buying (Grape Guys top value wines) ...

Domaine de la Janasse 2009 Cotes du Rhone (\$15.95 - #705228) - France

Cigarzin 2008 Zinfandel (\$19.95 - #269340) - USA

La Posta 2009 Estela Armando Vineyard Bonarda (\$14.95 - #261586) - Argentina

Happy Shopping.



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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.](#)



Psst, Pass It On ... keep the good wine flowing. Pass this report onto to friends, family members, loved ones, or any other wine lover on your list of contacts.



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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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