

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday September 15, 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

Key: Wine colour indicators - Red are red wines, Yellow are whites, etc.

The Focus: Ontario

The Highlights: Italian wines amaze plus stunners from both Rhone and Washington

The Skinny: lots of corked bottles at this release ... are we seeing an influx of bad cork again?

Argentina ...

Luca 2010 G Lot Chardonnay (\$27.95 - #167338) - full flavoured Chardonnay with a very silent nose. (** 1/2+)

Luigi Bosca 2009 Single Vineyard Malbec (\$21.95 - #74922) - brambly, blackberry and cocoa. (** 1/2)

Maiepe 2010 Reserve Malbec (\$17.95 - #247320) - sweet cedar with cherry and spice. (** 1/2)

Australia ...

Charles Cimicky 2008 The Autograph Shiraz (\$34.95 - #27326) - nicely fruited and spiced. (** 1/2+)

Formby & Adams 2007 Leading Horse Cabernet Sauvignon (\$21.95 - #287508) - chocolate, anise, dark berries, vanilla and spiced fruit. (** 1/2+)

Penfolds 2009 Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz (\$34.95 - #422782) - good dark fruit, peppery and pleasant. (** 1/2+)

Piramimma 2008 Old Bush Vine Grenache (\$24.95 - #108068) - intensity of flavour: coffee, mocha, dark berries, all-spice and licorice. (****)

The Black Chook 2010 Shiraz/Viognier (\$17.95 - #66738) - good value in this Aussie-style blend. (** 1/2+)

Canada - (Ontario) ...

2027 2011 Falls Vineyard Riesling (\$18.95 - #294041) - ****+

Bachelor 2010 Niagara Chardonnay (\$29.95 - #302083) - ****+

Chateau des Charmes 2009 Vidal Icewine (\$25.95 / 200ml - #565861) - ****

Closson Chase 2009 Closson Chase Vineyard Chardonnay (\$29.95 - #148866) - ****+

Coffin Ridge 2011 Bone Dry Riesling (\$17.00 - #232744) - ****

Colio Estate 2007 CEV Reserve Cabernet Franc (\$20.95 - #432096) - ****+

Featherstone 2010 Cabernet Franc (\$16.95 - #64618) - **** 1/2+

Flat Rock Cellars 2010 Gravity Pinot Noir (\$29.95 - #001560) - *** 1/2+

Henry of Pelham 2010 Reserve Baco Noir (\$24.95 - #461699) - ****

Henry of Pelham 2007 Reserve Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #268391) - ****+

Inniskillin 2008 Riesling Icewine (\$69.95 / 375ml - #558288) - ****+

Inniskillin 2011 Vidal Sparkling Icewine (\$79.95 - #560367) - ****

Jackson-Triggs 2011 Delaine Chardonnay (\$24.95 - #623454) - *** 1/2+

Lakeview Cellars 2011 Reserve Riesling (\$16.95 - #294074) - *** 1/2

Norman Hardie 2010 County Unfiltered Pinot Noir (\$35.00 - #125310) - **** 1/2

Peller Estates NV Ice Cuvee (\$34.95 - #113035) - *** 1/2

[Vineland Estates 2011 Elevation Riesling](#) (\$19.95 - #38117) - *** 1/2+

Chile ...

Concha y Toro 2011 Serie Riberas Gran Reserva Chardonnay (\$16.00 - #287995) - retains fruit, some smoke along with apple skin notes. (***) 1/2+

Cono Sur 2008 20 Barrels Cabernet Sauvignon (\$26.95 - #94128) - just black fruit, currants, mocha, slight tobacco note with spiced blackberry finish. (****)

Koyle 2009 Reserva Syrah (\$15.95 - #273961) - smoky, black pepper, meaty and blackberry. (***) 1/2+

Sol de Andes 2009 Reserva Especial Chardonnay (\$17.95 - #254326) - crisp of fruit with mineral complexity. (***) 1/2+

France - (Alsace) ...

Cave de Hoen Mausberg Blanc de Blancs Brut Cremant D'Alsace (\$17.95 - #171785) - creamy with a raciness mid-palate to finish and nice tangerine flavour. (***) 1/2+

France - (Beaujolais) ...

Domaine de la Chanaise 2010 Morgon (\$18.95 - #288068) - lots of dark cherry fruit with mineral undertones and a good long finish; the only question here is to chill or not to chill. (****+)

France - (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau D'Argadens 2008 (\$16.95 - #681643) - delivers a punch of fruit nicely wound in spice. (***) 1/2+

Christian Moueix 2009 Saint-Emilion (\$19.95 - #979955) - soft cherry, cedar, spice and nicely balanced. (***) 1/2

France - (Burgundy) ...

Chateau Philippe-le-Hardi 2009 Mercurey Les Puillets 1er Cru (\$29.95 - #295071) - rich, bold, mainly fruit driven with spice and toast. (****)

Domaine la Soufrandise 2010 Clos Marie Pouilly-Fuisse (\$27.95 - #42622) - a yummy blend of floral, butter and orange peel. (***) 1/2

France - (Loire) ...

Domaine Jacky Marteau 2011 Sauvignon Touraine (\$12.95 - #745349) - citrus peel, grapefruit pith with a touch of grass on the finish; very well priced. (***) 1/2

France - (Midi) ...

Chateau de Millegrand 2010 Minervois (\$16.95 - #288944) - spice, leather, meaty, smoky, licorice with medium tannins; shows finesse. (****)

France - (Rhône) ...

Famille Perrin 2010 Peyre Blanche Cairanne Cotes du Rhone-Villages (\$17.95 - #650960) - intensity of smoked meat and blackberries. (***) 1/2+

La Font des Grieres 2009 Gigondas (\$19.95 - #175729) - intense red fruit, well integrated wood, fruit and alcohol (15%); the finish of spicy berries makes this a real beauty. (****) 1/2

Germany ...

Loosen Bros. 2011 Dr. L Riesling (\$13.95 - #599274) - mellower than usual, drier not as acidic as previous vintages. (***) 1/2

Italy - (Abruzzo) ...

D'Angelo 2009 Aglianico del Vulture (\$18.95 - #971689) - sweetly herbed and spiced with smoky, meaty, clove and cherry. (***) 1/2+

Italy - (Piedmont) ...

Gemma 2007 Barolo (\$29.95 - #285502) - earthy and spicy, sour cherry and cranberry fruit with a touch of cinnamon. (***) 1/2+

Italy - (Puglia) ...

Li Veli Montecoco Primitivo 2009 (\$18.95 - #281436) - dark and red fruit with good plum and spice. (***) 1/2+

Italy - (Sardinia) ...

Argiolas 2009 Perdera (\$17.95 - #297556) - juicy of dark fruit, sweet spices and herbs with a lovely finish. (****+)

Italy - (Sicily) ...

Morgante 2010 Nero D'avola (\$14.95 - #40816) - sweet blackberry and chocolate, plum, cherry, almost Zin-like with intense cherry finish; good value. (****+)

Italy - (Tuscany) ...

Collosorbo 2006 Brunello di Montalcino (\$49.95 - #285742) - sweet tar and spice with smoke and dark cherries. (****)

Le Fonti 2009 Chianti Classico (\$19.95 - #295162) - coffee and licorice, black cherry with a hint of floral and mineral along with a spiced finish; good stuffing. (****+)

Marchesi de Frescobaldi 2009 Tenuta di Castiglioni (\$21.95 - #145920) - still delivers the good with herbal, spice, blackberry and cherry; firm yet approachable. (****+)

Ruffino 2007 Ducale Oro Chianti Classico Riserva (\$43.95 - #353201) - dark fruit and spice lead the charge, dry finish with plenty of cedar. (***/2)

Italy - (Veneto) ...

Adalia Singat 2011 Soave (\$13.95 - #289603) - lime zest and tangerine. (***/2)

Tommasi 2008 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (\$49.95 - #356220) - fruit driven, sweet spice and big cherry. (****)

Portugal ...

Azul Portugal 2007 Vinho Tinto (\$12.95 - #292060) - earthy-blackberry, black cherry, smoky and toasty. (***/2+)

Quinta de Ventozelo 2002 Vintage Port (\$42.95 - #286419) - the fruit and spice mingle well in the wine with a bite from the acidity on the finish. (****+)

South Africa ...

Ataraxia 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.95 - #282814) - pretty with floral and grassy notes with a grapefruit pith finish. (***/2+)

Spain ...

Bodegas Lan 2007 Reserva (\$21.95 - #42929) - earthy, blackberry, plum, cocoa and spice, with hints of tobacco, floral and meat notes; nice complexity. (****)

Peique 2010 Tinto Mencia (\$14.95 - #219204) - interesting spice and sweet berries. (***/2)

United States - (California) ...

Eberle 2007 Steinbeck & Wine-Bush Vineyards Zinfandel (\$29.95 - #279851) - a juicy Zin with lots of raspberry, blackberry and cherry, gently spiced. (***/2)

Napa Cellars 2010 Chardonnay (\$23.95 - #225342) - big and ballsy with oak tones along with nuts, caramel, baked peach, pear and a nice spice on the finish. (****)

Roederer Estate 2003 L'ermitage Brut Sparkling Wine (\$54.95 - #183392) - lovely, fresh, and biscuity with good lemon, lime notes and big acid bite. (****)

Rutherford Ranch 2008 Zinfandel (~\$20.00 - #279828) - spicy Zin with menthol, vanilla-cola and cherry. (****)

Sebastiani 2010 Chardonnay (\$17.95 - #30791) - soft, supple, juicy; toasty with melon and peach notes, good value in a Cali-Chard. (****)

Signorello 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$62.95 - #60152) - big, bold and black fruited, tarry yet juicy; smoky and meaty. (***/2+)

Stonestreet Alexander Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 (\$29.95 - #004002) - cocoa core with blackberries and smoke. (***/2+)

Summers Ranch 2008 Reserve Merlot (\$34.95 - #279372) - juicy and full of fruit with a coffee backing. (***/2+)

United States - (Oregon) ...

Cristom Sommers 2008 Reserve Pinot Noir (\$43.00 - #942490) - lovely spicebox and sandalwood which hides a layer of black fruit. (****+)

United States - (Washington) ...

Columbia Crest 2009 H3 Les Chevaux (\$20.95 - 287425) - another beauty from the H3 line of wine: cocoa, mocha, and dark berries; a must buy. (****/2)

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

Joseph Phelps 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$79.95 - #189795) - ****+

Pahlmeyer 2008 Proprietary Red (\$149.95 - #967992) - **** +

Two Hands 2010 Lily's Garden Shiraz (\$62.95 - #683086) - ****+

What I'll Be Lining Up For - August 23, 2012 ... wines not to miss

Domaine de la Chanaise 2010 Morgon (\$18.95 - #288068) - France

Chateau de Millegrand 2010 Minervois (\$16.95 - #288944) - France

La Font des Grieres 2009 Gigondas (\$19.95 - #175729) - France

Morgante 2010 Nero D'avola (\$14.95 - #40816) - Italy

Columbia Crest 2009 H3 Les Chevaux (\$20.95 - 287425) - United States

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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