

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday April 13, 2013

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 Foci: Portugal (**Port**) and New Zealand (**NZ**)

The Skinny: Make sure you go to the Circus, or better yet make sure the Circus comes to you, plus there's a fantastic Chilean Chardonnay`

Argentina ...

Dona Silvina 2009 Malbec (\$19.95 - #303024) – cedar, tobacco, blackberry and spice. (**¹/₂+)

Australia ...

Pirathon 2010 Shiraz (\$28.95 - #130278) – blackberry, black cherry, cassis, white pepper and juicy plum. (****+)

Two Hands 2011 Angels' Share Shiraz (\$30.95 - #009480) – typically delicious wine from Two Hands. (****)

Canada (Ontario) ...

Featherstone 2012 Rosé (\$14.95 - #117861) - *** ¹/₂+

Fielding Estate 2011 Cabernet Franc (\$21.95 - #36194) - ****+

Hinterland 2012 Whitecap (\$22.00 - #332809) - *** ¹/₂+

Huff Estates 2008 South Bay Chardonnay (\$29.95 - #88955) - **** ¹/₂

Norman Hardie 2011 County Unfiltered Pinot Noir (\$35.00 - #125310) - **** ¹/₂

Reif 2011 The Magician Pinot Noir/Shiraz (\$19.95 - #246413) - *** ¹/₂+

Rosehall Run 2010 Cuvee County Chardonnay (\$21.95 - #132928) - *** ¹/₂+

Viewpointe Estate 2011 Auxerrois (\$14.95 - #327239) - *** ¹/₂+

Chile ...

Maycas del Limari 2009 Reserve Especial Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #162040) – nice fruit on the palate: peach, pear and apple sauce, good minerality, hints of vanilla and spice all finishing with nice seam of acidity. (****+)

France (Alsace) ...

Hugel 2011 Gentil (\$14.95 - #367284) – flinty, minerally and dry with a touch of pineapple. (**¹/₂+) France (Beaujolais) ...

Domaine des Marrans 2011 Fleurie (\$19.95 - #324897) – juicy cherry, very appealing and robust has a good finish and nice mouth presence. (****)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau du Seuil 2009 (\$24.95 - #326785) – anise, leather, black cherry skin and followed up with earthy tannins. (****)

Chateau Villars 2009 (\$27.95 - #191270) – robust and earthy with plenty of dark fruit. (****)

France (Burgundy) ...

Bachelder 2010 Bourgogne Chardonnay (\$29.95 - #272005) – mineral chalkiness, thick white fruit: apple/peach puree; touches of flint on both the palate and finish. (****)

France (Loire) ...

Chateau Favray 2011 Pouilly-Fume (\$21.95 - #323642) – pure Sauvignon Blanc here with a grassy palate and nose. (**¹/₂+)

Langlois-Chateau Brut Cremant de Loire (\$18.95 - #996272) – crisp lemon-lime that's zippy and zingy, dry with a green apple and lemon finish. (****+)

France (Midi) ...

Le Cirque 2011 Carignan/Mourvedre/Syrah (\$15.95 - #277079) – stunning value for this wonderfully robust, red licorice, raspberry, chocolate, plum and peppery wine; buy lots. (**** ½)

France (Rhône) ...

Balma Venitia Terrasse Pavee Segruet Cotes du Rhone-Villages 2010 (\$16.95 - #320192) – nice and juicy; this is simple bbq fare. (*** ½+)

Domaine de la Tete Noire Tradition Vacqueyras 2010 (\$25.95 - #323667) – this one will take some sips to get used to but it's well worth it. (****)

Germany ...

Dr. Hermann 2007 Urziger Wurzgarten Riesling Spatlese (\$16.95 - #313528) – sweet yet balanced by the acidity; nice peach, hint of petrol; good value in an aged Riesling. (*** ½+)

Greece ...

Alpha Estate 2008 Hedgehog Vineyard Xinomavro (\$19.95 - #259762) – anise and caraway spice on the nose, dark berries, blueberry skin and black pepper on the palate. (*** ½+)

Italy (Marche) ...

De Angelis 2009 Rosso Piceno Superiore (\$14.95 - #324756) – earthy, leathery and herbal, but also with plum, blackberry that adds depth of flavour. (*** ½+)

Italy (Piedmont) ...

Bera 2011 Moscato D'Asti (\$16.95 - #317156) – it's Moscato and that's a good thing. (*** ½+)

Ferinando Principiano 2007 Serralunga Barolo (\$42.95 - #210955) – elegance of spice, anise, herbs and dried red fruit. (****)

Principessa 2011 Gavia Gavi (\$19.95 - #250696) – light and cheerful, green apple, floral and citrus. (*** ½)

Italy (Sicily) ...

Cusumano Noa 2008 (\$18.95 - #109512) – blackberry, cinnamon and a touch earthy. (*** ½+)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Castello di Monterinaldi 2007 Chianti Classico Riserva (\$23.95 - #317370) – dark chocolate coated cherry and cranberry with peppery seasoning. (*** ½+)

Rocca delle Macie 2008 Ser Gioveto (\$39.95 - #974964) – hint of oxidization adds to the enjoyment of the wine; dried cherry and freeze dried raspberry. (*** ½+)

Villa Cafaggio 2009 Chianti Classico (\$20.95 - #176776) – juicy version of Chianti, mixing old world rusticity with new world drinkability. (*** ½+)

Italy (Veneto) ...

Borin 2009 Vigna Costa Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #317610) – this wine is really very juicy, which is the best thing about it. (*** ½+)

Santi Vigneti di Monteforte Soave Classico 2011 (\$14.95 - #316067) – lemon pith, grapefruit and a little pea pod. (*** ½)

New Zealand ...

Cloudy Bay 2010 Pinot Noir (\$37.95 - #598813) – pretty hefty red berries, especially black cherry and nicely seasoned. (****) - NZ

Cloudy Bay 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (\$29.95 - #304469) – gentle and easy drinking if not a little straight forward for a New Zealand Savvy B. (*** ½) – NZ

Dog Point Vineyard 2011 Chardonnay (\$39.95 - #238568) – a nice buttery-toastiness that has heavy wood notes and a good long finish. (*** ½) – NZ

Dog Point Vineyard 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (\$23.95 - #677450) – toned down Sauv Blanc with soft grassy, gooseberry, flinty with grapefruit zest. (****) – NZ

Kim Crawford 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #680983) – light citrus, apple pulp and lime pith. (*** ½) - NZ

Oyster Bay 2012 Sparkling Cuvee Rosé (\$21.95 - #280172) – still delicate and delightful with hints of raspberry and strawberry on the nose; palate shows hints of raspberry-peach and good acidity. (****) - NZ

Portugal ...

Delaforce 2009 Touriga Nacional (\$18.95 - #324517) – black cherry, raspberry, chocolate with a touch of smoke and spice; there's a nice juiciness and drinkability, good bbq wine. (****) – **PORT**
Monte Vilar 2011 Reserva (\$14.95 - #276105) – full on cherry assault of the sense. (** ½+) – **PORT**
Quinta de Ventozelo 2009 Reserva (\$21.95 - #21329) – lusciously smooth and easy drinking. (** ½+) - **PORT**
Vinhos Barbeito 5-Year-Old Boal Madeira (\$15.95 - #325183) – caramel, toffee, lemon zest and vanilla cream; a lovely dessert wine. (****) – **PORT**

Spain ...

Marques de Caceres 2005 Tinto Reserva (\$24.95 - #702761) – plum, blackberry, chocolate and cinnamon. (** ½+)

United States (California) ...

Adelaida Cellars Estate 2009 Zinfandel (\$33.95 - #312652) – rich, complex, a beauty of a bbq wine with nice pepper notes along with sweet raspberry and vanilla. (****+)
Beaulieu Vineyard 2010 BV Cabernet Sauvignon (\$25.95 - #987420) – nice drinkable Cab with good dark and red fruit mix. (** ½)
Brewer-Clifton 2009 Mount Carmel Pinot Noir (\$64.95 - #311647) – succulent and juicy style of Pinot: berries, cherries and spice. (****+)
Estancia 2011 Pinot Noir (\$20.95 - #421586) – lots and lots of red fruit, juicy and easy drinking. (****)
Kendal-Jackson 2010 Grand Reserve Chardonnay (\$27.95 - #59576) – has an easy elegance, lovely peach and apple with enough balancing creaminess to make it exciting. (****)
Uvaggio 2009 Barbara (\$22.95 - #317750) – another Italian migrates to California and becomes a juicy fruity wine with touches of spice. (****)

If You Can Afford It – wines worth their lofty price tag ...

Chalk Hill 2010 Chardonnay (\$57.95 - #706580) - ****
Merry Edwards 2009 Pinot Noir (\$54.95 - #656850) - ****+
Opus One 2009 (\$385.00 - #26310) - ****

What I'll Be Lining Up For – Saturday April 13, 2013 ...

Maycas del Limari 2009 Reserve Especial Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #162040) – Chile
Norman Hardie 2011 County Unfiltered Pinot Noir (\$35.00 - #125310) - Ontario
Domaine des Marrans 2011 Fleurie (\$19.95 - #324897) – France
Le Cirque 2011 Carignan/Mourvedre/Syrah (\$15.95 - #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.



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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