

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday August 17, 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 ... Aussie Whites (**AW**) and The Other Italy (**OI**)

The Skinny ... A rather sparse and under-whelming Aussie White focus and a so-so Italy look makes this a prime candidate for the summertime blues ... but there are three Chardonnays that save the day (Ontario / Burgundy / Oregon) and a Zin worthy of a backyard BBQ (California).

Argentina ...

Dieter Meier Puro Corte 2010 (\$16.95 - #305094) – chocolate, white pepper and black cherry. (**
½+)

Fabre Montmayou 2010 Gran Reserva Malbec (\$19.95 - #279802) – juicy raspberry, plum and spice. (**
½+)

Sottano 2009 Reserva de Familia Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.95 - #324707) – nice herbal, chocolate, vanilla, plum with a nice spice-tannin finish. (****)

Australia ...

Bird in the Hand 2011 Sparkling Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - #327429) – just of touch of colour to this bubbly with a funny little melon note along with nice acidity and strawberry. (**
½)

Bird in the Hand Two in the Bush 2011 Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #327759) – cocoa-cherry with grippy tannins. (**
½+)

D'Arenberg 2011 The Hermit Crab Viognier/Marsanne (\$18.95 - #662775) – pear skin, peach pit and spiced pineapple. (**
½+)

Paxton 2011 MV Shiraz (\$17.95 - #327403) – peppery, blackberry, cassis with real presence on the palate. (****)

Canada (British Columbia) ...

Quails' Gate 2011 Pinot Noir (\$26.95 - #585760) – lots of raspberry, mocha with spiced cranberry on the finish. (****)

Canada (Ontario) ... *click on wine name for full review*

Coffin Ridge 2012 Bone Dry Riesling (\$17.00 - #232744) - ****

Daniel Lenko 2010 Old Vines Chardonnay (\$22.95 - #352328) - ****

Fielding 2012 Unoaked Chardonnay (\$14.95 - #164491) - **
½+

Good Earth 2012 Betty's Blend (\$17.95 - #327791) - ****

Henry of Pelham 2010 Family Tree Red (\$18.95 - #247882) - ****

Palatine Hills 2012 Neufeld Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (\$18.00 - #352344) - **
½+

Sunnybrook 2011 Cherry Blossom Wine (\$18.95 - #331082) - ****

France (Beaujolais) ...

Domaine des Houdieres 2011 Fleurie (\$16.95 - #342725) – spiced cherry with a meaty middle. (**
½+)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau Haut Colombier 2009 (\$17.95 - #336891) – mocha and spice with cassis and some chalky notes. (**
½+)

Chateau la Fleur Grands Landes Fleur Carrere 2010 (\$17.95 - #336909) – smoky, meaty, leathery and mocha; quite interesting. (**
½+)

Chateau Prieure Canteloup 2009 (\$18.85 - #194415) – dark berries, coffee and spice; drinks well right now. (** ½+)

Cheval Quancard 2011 Reserve Sauvignon/Semillon (\$14.95 - #336842)- dry white with some smoky notes, grilled tropical fruit like guava and papaya with a chalky finish. (** ½+)

France (Burgundy) ...

Domaine de la Croix Senaillet Saint-Veran (\$22.95 - #337832) – pleasant palate with lemon-lime, and nice minerality also look for hints of melon on the finish; very fresh tasting. (****+)

France (Champagne) ...

Jacquart Mosaïque Brut Champagne (\$44.95 - #664672) – biscuity, honeycomb, beeswax and lanolin with bits of lemon curd. (****)

France (Rhone) ...

Domaine Grand Veneur 2010 Clos de Sixte Lirac (\$23.95 - #076349) – lots of dark fruit with elements of spice and pepper to even it out. (****)

Domaine Lafond 2012 Roc-Epine Tavel Rose (\$17.95 - #950709) – pretty in pink with raspberry and strawberry, hints of watermelon and mineral, nice dry finish with peppered notes. (** ½+)

Domaine Marie Blanche Cotes du Rhone Villages Signargues 2010 (\$16.95 - #328179) – lots of juicy red and black berries. (****)

Germany ...

Schmitges Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spatlese 2011 (\$25.95 - #336180) – great mineral, citrus, and talc; dried apple and some spice also make an appearance, very pretty. This will catch you off guard; it's a Spatlese with a nice drying ability. (****)

Italy (Abruzzo) ...

Talamonti 2008 Tre Saggi Montepulciano D'Abruzzo (\$15.95 - #204016) – vanilla, cherry and spice. (** ½+) – **OI**

Italy (Alto Adige / Trentino) ...

Mezzacorona 2009 Teroldego Rotaliano Riserva (\$15.95 - #732222) – lots of fruit, red and black, with licorice and clove notes. (****) – **OI**

Italy (Calabria) ...

Ippolito 1845 Calabrese Rosso 2011 (\$19.95 - #338970) – nice spiced cherry with dark cocoa. (** ½+) - **OI**

Italy (Campania) ...

Terredora Loggia della Serra Greco di Tufo 2011 (\$17.95 - #983197) – has a real mouth presence with smoky vanilla and grilled pineapple. (****) - **OI**

Italy (Lazio) ...

Cantine Volpetti 2011 Le Piantate (\$15.95 - #344242) – think of liquid good and plenty with cherry syrup. (** ½+) - **OI**

Italy (Sardinia) ...

Argiolas Perdera 2010 (\$17.95 - #297556) – sweet cherry with hints of licorice. (****) - **OI**

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Caparzo 2010 Rosso di Montalcino (\$19.95 - #333575) – nice red fruit based easy drinking red with a little spiced plum and some herbal notes on the finish. (** ½+)

Volpaia 2010 Chianti Classico (\$24.95 - #953828) – juicy beginning leads to some herbs and spice on the finish. (****)

Italy (Umbria) ...

Villa Mora 2008 Montefalco Sagrantino (\$19.95 - #342394) – dark fruit, anise and herbs. (** ½+) – **OI**

Italy (Veneto) ...

Pasqua 2010 Black Label Ripasso Valpolicella Superiore (\$18.95 - #203968) – smooth, easy drinking, blackberry, plum and black cherry with hints of spiced mocha on finish. (** ½+)

New Zealand ...

HaHa 2011 Pinot Noir (\$21.95 - #331116) – juicy blackberry and cassis with vanilla and spice. (** ½+)

Spinyback 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (\$18.95 - #694737) – the nose is grassy but the palate is grapefruit/passionfruit cocktail. (****)

Portugal ...

Burro Velho Aragonese/Syrah 2010 (\$14.95 - #342774) – cherry and chocolate by the truck load. (****)

Spain ...

Finca Nueva 2008 Crianza (\$16.95 - #292763) – plenty of vanilla and spiced cherry. (** ½+)

Jose Pariente Verdejo 2012 (\$16.95 - #345058) – crisp with grapefruit pith, floral and mineral with a little smokiness. (** ½)

Torres 2010 Celeste Crianza (\$22.95 - #210872) – fruit forward with spice backing a nicely balanced finish. (****)

Totus Tuus Reserva Cava (\$15.95 - #226282) – nice lemon and apple crispness. (** ½+)

United States (California) ...

Cline 2011 Ancient Vines Zinfandel (\$19.95 - #719211) – it's the usual vanilla, cola, cherry, and raspberry; in this case usual is a good thing. (****+)

First Press 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$21.95 - #188110) – nice blackberry and black cherry with lots of juicy fruit and a little spice; ready to drink. (** ½+)

J. Lohr 2011 October Night Chardonnay (\$26.95 - #225375) – vanilla cream seems to be the saving grace of this Chard. (** ½+)

Truchard 2011 Chardonnay (\$34.95 - #060459) – sweet fruited and tropical with pear and vanilla notes; there's also a nice bite back on the lingering finish. (****)

United States (Oregon) ...

Carabella 2009 Dijon 76 Clone Chardonnay (\$26.95 - #180133) – big and creamy with nice tropical notes, plenty of vanilla and creamy peach. (****+)

Elk Cove 2011 Pinot Noir (\$37.95 - #234534) – plenty of sweet, juicy cherry with herbs and spice ... also available in 375ml size. (** ½+)

United States (Washington) ...

Chateau Ste. Michelle 2009 Canoe Ridge Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (\$35.95 - #955617) – smooth with chocolate, pepper and cherry. (****)

Columbia Crest 2010 H3 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #210047) – juicy with plum, vanilla and cherry cola. (** ½+)

What I'll Be Lining Up For – August 17, 2013 ...

Carabella 2009 Dijon 76 Clone Chardonnay (\$26.95 - #180133) – Oregon, USA

Cline 2011 Ancient Vines Zinfandel (\$19.95 - #719211) – California, USA

Daniel Lenko 2010 Old Vines Chardonnay (\$22.95 - #352328) – Ontario, Canada

Domaine de la Croix Senaillet Saint-Veran (\$22.95 - #337832) – Burgundy, 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.



Socially Speaking ...

Follow Michael Pinkus, the Grape Guy's (almost) daily **Tweets** at <http://twitter.com/TheGrapeGuy>. You can become a friend on **facebook**: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/mepinkus>. "Linked In" folks can find Michael at <http://ca.linkedin.com/pub/michael-pinkus/14/704/4b8>

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

© OntarioWineReview.com 2013. All rights reserved.

You may use the content of this newsletter by including full credit to Michael Pinkus, Grape Guy and a link to www.ontariowinereview.com