

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday January 19, 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 ... BC Wines (**BC**) and Spanish Wines (**SPN**) - Robbie Burns also fits in here somewhere, but that ain't my bag (do people still say that?)

The Skinny ... Some really lovely Italian fare for not a lot of dough, and one of the best damn LBVs I've had in quite some time.

Argentina ...

Dante Robino 2009 Reserva Malbec (\$19.95 - #301473) - nice black cherry, vanilla and rhapsody in cherry-plum and port like. (****)

Pascual Toso Alta Reserve Malbec 2009 (\$32.95 - #261958) - juicy and sweet of fruit with hints of tobacco, cherry and blackberry. (****)

Australia ...

Chain of Ponds 2008 The Ledge Shiraz (\$29.95 - #59899) - complex Shiraz plays games in the mouth with spice and fruit while adding chocolate, mocha, raspberry, cherry and freewheeling tannins. (**** 1/2)

MollyDooker 2010 The Maitre D' Cabernet Sauvignon (\$29.95 - #246629) - juicy, jammy and jazzy; this is one delicious sip. (****)

Canada (British Columbia) ...

Burrowing Owl 2009 Merlot (\$41.95 - #585737) - lots of smoky edges with strawberry, plum, blackberry and blueberry on the interior. (****) - **BC**

Burrowing Owl 2010 Pinot Noir (\$41.95 - #556613) - easy on the cherry, cranberry, tart at the beginning with a cherry fruit finish and nice tannins. (** 1/2+) - **BC**

Mission Hill 2008 Quatrain (\$44.95 - #218636) - there's a mocha note throughout this one, very spicy and some violet character before tannins take over; hold for a couple of years. (****+) - **BC**

Quail's Gate 2011 Chardonnay (\$20.95 - #377770) - nicely quaffable with really good fruit expression. (** 1/2+) - **BC**

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

[Flat Rock 2009 Chardonnay](#) (\$16.95 - #286278) - ****+

[Foreign Affair 2009 Sauvignon Blanc](#) (\$24.95 - #307587) - *** 1/2

[Jackson-Triggs 2010 Grand Reserve Shiraz](#) (\$19.95 - #317941) - ****+

[Pillitteri Estates 2010 Cabernet Franc](#) (\$17.95 - #13763) - *** 1/2+

[Pondview 2010 Cabernet Merlot](#) (\$19.15 - #307561) - *** 1/2

Chile ...

Bisquertt 2010 La Joya Reserve Merlot (\$13.95 - #301440) - lots of nice minty aromas with sweet blackberry, blueberry, mocha and spice. (****)

Valdivieso 2009 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #312769) - it may be typically Chilean with mint and dark fruit but it also has a juicy core that really wins you over; this is just really delicious. (**** 1/2)

France (Alsace) ...

Anne Boecklin 2010 Gewurztraminer (\$18.95 - #141226) - sweet Alsatian Gewurzt that hits all the

right notes. (** 1/2)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau de Gironville 2009 (\$23.85 - #193086) - mocha hits the front palate, coffee on the mid with a dark fruit finish. (****)

Chateau La Fleur Jonquet 2009 (\$20.95 - #307280) - coffee nose, smooth blackberry fruit on the palate with mocha and spice backing. (** 1/2+)

France (Burgundy) ...

Mallory & Benjamin Talmard 2010 Macon-Uchizy (\$14.95 - #733956) - fresh and lively well-integrated Chardonnay. (****)

Roche de Bellene 2010 Vieilles Vignes Bourgogne Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #299867) - fresh white fruit, pear, apple and a little lemon meringue. (** 1/2+)

France (Champagne) ...

Beaumont des Crayerer Grande Reserve Brut Champagne (\$41.95 - #309922) - nice and biscuity with fresh bread and almond notes. (****)

France (Southwest) ...

Clos Troteligotte Kor Malbec 2009 (\$16.95 - #299982) - brambly berry and spice with nice heft on the palate. (** 1/2+)

Germany ...

CH Berres 2010 Urziger Wurzgarten Riesling Spatlese (\$24.95 - #301952) - sweet with nice balanced acidity making it sweet but with bite. (****)

Italy (Calabria) ...

Odoardi Savuto 2006 (\$13.95 - #303057) - interesting blend of indigenous grapes, of which only 10% is the recognizable Sangiovese; mint and herbal notes, nice mineral with sweet mocha and toffee mixed with blackberry fruit. (****)

Italy (Piedmont) ...

Casetta 2008 Barolo (\$29.95 - #004523) - sweet smokiness with herbed licorice. (** 1/2+)

Italy (Puglia) ...

Masserie Pisari 2010 Primitivo (\$14.95 - #270306) - a pure Zinfandel knock off from the fruit to the spice, vanilla and cola. (****)

Italy (Sicily) ...

Marchesi Mazzei Zisola Nero D'Avola 2009 (\$25.95 - #303925) - sweet dark fruit to its very core, boysenberry, raspberry mix with vanilla and plum. (****+)

Italy (Sparkling) ...

Fantinel Extra Dry Prosecco (\$14.95 - #297812) - lovely, elegant, sweet apple and tropical notes; this is a pretty sipper that could get you in a whole lotta trouble. (****)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Caprili 2007 Brunello di Montalcino (\$44.95 - #305888) - mocha, strawberry with hints of herbal notes along with spice. (****)

Castellani Poggio Al Casone 2010 La Cattura (\$18.95 - #121194) - has an interesting peppered-blackberry with sweetness at its core; really tasty. (****+)

Fattoria La Ripa 2009 Chianti Classico (\$19.95 - #651596) - modern take on Chianti that seems to keep a rustic edge. (** 1/2+)

I Greppi Greppicante Bolgheri 2009 (\$23.95 - #170381) - nice and soft, almost too easy to drink. (****)

Macedonia ...

Bovin 2010 Vranec (\$13.95 - #144345) - highly drinkable with chocolate and cherry; this is the surprise of the release. (** 1/2)

Mexico ...

LA Cetto 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$11.95 - #114066) - juicy strawberry, raspberry, kirsch; good value. (** 1/2)

New Zealand ...

Spy Valley 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #686675) - easy drinking Sauv Blanc with a mix of tropical and grapefruit. (** 1/2)

Portugal ...

Borges 2007 Vintage Port (\$29.95 - #250639) - softer than you would expect from a young vintage port, though there is nice spice here. (****)

Dow's 2007 Late Bottled Vintage Port (\$16.95 - #613927) - lovely and expressive version of LBV with spiced chocolate and generous dark fruit; this is a must buy. (**** 1/2+)

Quinta de Foz de Arouce Red 2008 (\$19.95 - #303545) - nicely integrated with juicy fruit and drying tannins, makes it an interesting wine to drink. (***) 1/2+

Scotland ...

Dunkeld Atholl Brose (\$49.95 - #303230) - not really sure what to make of this but wow talk about a head clearer: creamy, spicy, vanilla, it burns with some real bite yet there's an oatmeal note; weird but tasty. (****)

South Africa ...

The Grinder 2011 Pinotage (\$13.95 - #269076) - your morning beverage awaits in a glass of wine. (***) 1/2)

Spain ...

Borsao 2010 Tres Picos Garnacha (\$19.95 - #273748) - lush and juicy, great dark fruit with chocolate at its core; good finish that screams black cherry, vanilla and just the right amount of tannins. (****+) - SPN

Planets de Prior Pons 2008 (\$22.95 - #314559) - nice plummy, chocolaty notes with cranberry and licorice. (***) 1/2+) - SPN

Rioja Bordon 2004 Gran Reserva (\$22.95 - #114454) - black cherry, spiced cassis, hints of cinnamon and tannins. (***) 1/2+) - SPN

Sarada 2009 Seleccion Garnacha Tintorera/Monastrell (\$15.95 - #309872) - think juicy then dial it back a notch, dry finish with big spice. (****) - SPN

Senorio de Rubios 2011 Albarino (\$17.95 - #314427) - think of this one as a soft Sauvignon Blanc; interesting. (***) 1/2) - SPN

Solar de Sael 2007 Crianza Mencia (\$15.95 - #311902) - cherry, plum, chocolate though all drier than expected. (***) 1/2+) - SPN

United States (California) ...

Ca'Momi 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$22.95 - #315002) - cassis and blueberry, easy to drink. (***) 1/2+)

Cline Cellars 2010 Cashmere (\$19.95 - #161539) - pretty with lavender and cherry notes. (***) 1/2)

Ironstone 2011 Old Vine Zinfandel (\$17.95 - #951889) - for Zin fans who can't wait for BBQ-season; the juicy, jammy typical Zin, but still tasty. (***) 1/2)

J. Lohr 2011 October Night Chardonnay (\$26.95 - #225375) - starts off fully loaded with oak but ends tropically delicious with fruit and vanilla with just a hint of toffee and nicely spiced. (****+)

United States (Washington) ...

Columbia Crest 2009 H3 Merlot (\$19.95 - #209874) - soft, supple and easy drinking. (***) 1/2+)

What I'll Be Lining Up For - January 19, 2013 ...

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Castellani Poggio Al Casone 2010 La Cattura (\$18.95 - #121194) - Italy

Dow's 2007 Late Bottled Vintage Port (\$16.95 - #613927) - Portugal

J. Lohr 2011 October Night Chardonnay (\$26.95 - #225375) - United States

Valdivieso 2009 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #312769) - Chile

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.](#)



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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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