

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday June 22, 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 ... Canada Day (**CD**), Southern Rhone (**SR**), South Africa (**SAF**)

The Skinny ... For a multi-focus release like this one it's funny that the wines that offer the best value are from Spain and Portugal.

Argentina ...

Famiglia Bianchi 2012 Chardonnay (\$14.95 - #001461) ... nice creamed vanilla and toffee apple. (**¹/₂+)

Finca El Origen 2010 Gran Reserva Malbec (\$21.95 - #065425) ... chocolate, mocha and toasty with plum and black cherry fruit. (****)

Australia ...

3 Rings 2008 Shiraz (\$19.95 - #015495) ... it's all raspberry and cherry, succulent and juicy on both the palate and the nose. (**¹/₂+)

The Hedonist 2009 Shiraz (\$23.95 - #090191) ... big fruit with chocolaty and chalky notes with smoky vanilla and deep rich red berries. (****)

Wakefield 2012 Merlot (\$17.95 - #683201) ... soft, supple blackberry and blueberry with hits of mocha – drink or hold for up to 5 years. (**¹/₂+)

Canada (British Columbia) ...

Calliope 2010 Figure Eight Red (\$22.95 - #324582) ... mocha, white pepper and blueberry; interesting and tasty bevvy. (**¹/₂) - **CD**

Canada (Nova Scotia) ...

Benjamin Bridge 2012 Nova 7 (\$25.95 - #256289) ... a nice bit of spritz here with some orange and floral notes – a fun little drink. (**¹/₂) – **CD**

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

[*Featherstone 2012 Sauvignon Blanc*](#) (\$19.95 - #089011) - (**¹/₂+)

[*Reif 2011 Vidal Icewine*](#) (\$24.95 / 200ml - #544791) - (****¹/₂) (**CD**)

[*Rockway Vineyards 2010 Small Lot Reserve Cabernet Franc*](#) (\$23.95 - #346239) - (****+)

[*Rockway Vineyards 2010 Small Lot Reserve Syrah*](#) (\$21.95 - #346221) - (**¹/₂+)

[*Rockway Vineyards 2011 Small Lot Reserve Chardonnay*](#) (\$18.95 - #346155) - (**¹/₂+)

[*Rosewood 2011 Semillon*](#) (\$17.95 - 177758) - (****)

[*Sue-Ann Staff 2011 Sparkling & Sassy Sparkling Riesling*](#) (\$27.95 - #344622) - (**¹/₂+)

[*Tollgate 2010 Merlot*](#) (\$24.95 - #344101) - (**¹/₂) (**CD**)

[*Vineland 2011 Pinot Meunier*](#) (\$17.95 - #225508) - (**¹/₂+)

Chile ...

Concha y Toro 2009 Marques de Casa Concha Syrah (\$19.95 - #019042) ... smoky, cassis and vanilla tones; also look for anise and violets; pretty wine, good price. (****)

France (Alsace) ...

Domaines Schlumberger Kessler 2008 Pinot Gris (\$25.95 - #249623) ... a little sweetness and good minerality with pretty floral tones and good finish. (****+)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau La Commanderie 2009 (\$29.95 - #035774) ... oak, spice with intense dark fruit. (**¹/₂+)

Chateau Saint Christoly 2009 (\$19.95 - #321265) ... mocha and meaty with black currant and vanilla. (**¹/₂+)

France (Burgundy) ...

Mallory & Benjamin Talmard 2011 Macon-Uchizy (\$14.95 - #733956) ... nice apple, lemon combo, supple, sexy and smooth with hints of mineral, good finish; a great value Chardonnay. (****+)

France (Loire) ...

Bougrier Touraine 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$16.95 - #322644) ... nice Sauv Blanc character with grassy and grapefruit pith; not hit you in the face, well-balanced. (**¹/₂+)

Domaine Seguin 2011 Pouilly Fume (\$23.95 - #081414) ... grapefruit zest and pith with hints of lanolin. (**¹/₂+)

France (Midi) ...

Domaine la Borie Blanche Terroirs D'Altitude 2008 (\$18.95 - #328542) ... smoky dark chocolate and vanilla with some dusty and herbal notes. (**¹/₂+)

France (Provence) ...

Caves D'Esclans 2012 Whispering Angel Rosé (\$19.95 - #325076) ... seriously good rosé, dry and fruity without going over the top – this one shows some real elegance. (****)

France (Rhône) ...

Chateau la Nerthe 2010 Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$43.95 - #735407) ... blueberry, raspberry with some minerality. (****) – **SR**

Chateau Mont Redon 2009 Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$39.95 - #959627) ... nice roasted fruit with big floral and woody component. (**¹/₂) – **SR**

Chateau Signac 2009 Cuvee Terra Amata (\$22.95 - #140079) ... chocolate and red licorice abound, there's also some white pepper that appears on the finish, nice juicy mouthfeel. (****) – **SR**

Domaine de la Charbonniere 2010 Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$39.95 - #062711) ... big, rich fruit driven red with smoky undertones. (****+) – **SR**

Famille Perrin 2012 Tavel Rosé (\$19.95 - #680801) ... lots of berries in the bottle that ends very dry. (**¹/₂+)

La Ferme du Mont 2011 Le Ponnant Cotes du Rhone-Villages (\$17.00 - #171371) ... lots of rich red fruit along with cassis, red licorice and blueberry. (**¹/₂+) – **SR**

Le Gravilla 2011 Sablet Cotes du Rhone-Villages (\$15.95 - #078790) ... juicy style of wine that's nicely balanced and easy drinking. (****¹/₂+) – **SR**

Ortas L'Estellan Gigondas 2011 (\$19.95 - #328435) ... smoked cedar, vanilla and blackberry. (**¹/₂+) – **SR**

Italy (Alto Adige) ...

Tramin 2011 Pinot Grigio (\$16.95 - #627059) ... fresh and crisp with more white fruit than citrus, say a 70-30 mix. (**¹/₂+)

Italy (Campania) ...

Neromora 2009 (\$18.95 - #320739) ... sweet black fruit with tobacco and plum along with hints of chocolate-cherry; rich, juicy and succulent. (****)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Castello di Meleto 2009 Chianti Classico (\$20.95 - #332114) ... a fruit driven Chianti with smoke and sour cherry notes. (**¹/₂)

Poggio Il Castellare 2010 Rosso di Montalcino (\$20.95 - #330662) ... big red and black cherry with firm tannins but with a lively juiciness to it. (****)

New Zealand ...

Pegasus Bay 2009 Pinot Noir (\$48.95 - #031294) ... rich black fruit with coffee and red cherry but also shows a nice seam of earthiness. (****)

Stoneleigh 2011 Latitude Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #325654) ... nice mix of earth, cranberry and raspberry with seasoning spice. (**¹/₂+)

Stoneleigh 2012 Latitude Sauvignon Blanc (\$21.95 - #324228) ... round and clean, well-balanced and flavourful. (****)

Portugal ...

Calem 2006 Late Bottled Vintage Port (\$19.95 - #912550) ... smooth yet spicy with chocolate,

raspberry and cherry with a good acid balance. (****+)

Quinta do Roncao 2011 Reserva (\$14.95 - #147942) ... supple red and black fruit with the most noticeable being plum and raspberry. (****)

South Africa ...

Avondale 2010 Cyclus (\$29.95 - #295220) ... has nice structure, some real intensity and good mouthfeel. (** ½) - SAF

Spain ...

Burgans 2011 Albarino (\$18.95 - #945063) ... a little baked fruit mixed with mac apple and lemon pith. (** ½)

Marques de Murrieta 2006 Finca Ygay Reserva (\$24.95 - #209148) ... dusty with a sweet fruit middle and nice berry finish. (** ½+)

Torres Floralis Moscatel Oro (\$16.95 - #642173) ... the depth of caramelized spiced orange peel is incredible; it's the cat's ass of yumminess. (**** ½)

Vina Eguia 2007 Reserva (\$17.95 - #325845) ... lots of black fruit mixed with vanilla; comes across sweet but it ends nice and dry – nicely aged. (****+)

United States (California) ...

Bonterra 2010 Zinfandel (\$19.95 - #530139) ... seems they're getting their act together with Zin as it has what I like in one. (** ½+)

Decoy 2011 Pinot Noir (\$29.95 - #191833) ... juicy raspberry, some strawberry, good acidity with a long, lingering finish. (****)

Kunde 2008 Zinfandel (\$21.95 - #965921) ... a BBQ ready Zin; smooth and sexy with cola, vanilla, red raspberry, nice acidity and sweetness of fruit. (****)

McManis Family Vineyards 2011 Zinfandel (\$17.00 - #256735) ... a simple, easy to drink Zin for those not up-to-date with the grape. (** ½)

Napa Cellars 2011 Chardonnay (\$23.95 - #225342) ... buttery, rich oak, the fruit is so-so but if you like and think Cali-Chard this is what you're looking for. (** ½+)

Rock Wall 2011 Obsidian (\$24.95 - #287144) ... very nice and flavourful with licorice, cola and raspberry there's also a nice bit of tannins that bite back. (****)

Vina Robles 2009 Red 4 (\$19.95 - #261628) ... sweet, juicy fruit with some elegance and nice dark fruit at its base. (****)

United States (Washington) ...

Columbia Crest 2010 Grand Estates Chardonnay (\$16.95 - #366542) ... pretty peach pit, floral with a touch of apple, nice acidic balance and delicious flavour, pleasant linger. (****)

If You Can Afford It – wines worthy of their high price ...

Caymus 2010 Special Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (\$139.95) - ****

What I'll Be Lining Up For – June 22, 2013 ...

Caves D'Esclans 2012 Whispering Angel Rosé (\$19.95 - #325076) ... Provence

Columbia Crest 2010 Grand Estates Chardonnay (\$16.95 - #366542) ... Washington

Mallory & Benjamin Talmard 2011 Macon-Uchizy (\$14.95 - #733956) ... Burgundy

Quinta do Roncao 2011 Reserva (\$14.95 - #147942) ... Portugal

Torres Floralis Moscatel Oro (\$16.95 - #642173) ... Spain

Vina Eguia 2007 Reserva (\$17.95 - #325845) ... Spain

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