

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday March 2, 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: California Trends (CT) and South/Central Italy (SCI)

The Skinny: Check out Spain and Portugal for great value and a couple of red from Australia really impress.

Argentina ...

Alamos 2010 Seleccion Pinot Noir (\$16.95 - #143172) – juicy with lots of red fruit. (**¹/₂+)

Finca Agostino Inicio Torrontes 2011 (\$14.95 - #303669) – nice with soapy, tangerine and floral notes. (**¹/₂)

Nieto Senetiner 2010 Gran Reserva Malbec/Petit Verdot (\$17.95 - #295170) – there's a kind of vanilla creaminess to this wine; an unexpected grape combination that proves to be very delicious indeed; also lots of dark fruit and some red licorice. (****)

Australia ...

Coriole Redstone Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 (\$19.95 - #141960) – juicy with hints of spiced-vanilla along with red and dark fruit. (**¹/₂+)

Devil's Corner 2011 Pinot Noir (\$20.95 - #317966) – I have a weak spot for Taz Pinot and it continues here with this lovely spice and great acidity; power yet with restrained fruit. (****)

Mollydooker 2010 The Boxer Shiraz (\$29.95 - #246595) – big Shiraz, 16%, with blackberry, white pepper and anise notes. (****)

Mountadam 2010 Unoaked Chardonnay (\$17.95 - #641878) – pleasant on the palate with citrus, peach and nice acidity; clean easy sipper. (**¹/₂+)

Rolf Binder 2009 Ma I? Have This Evening Shiraz/Mataro (\$19.95 - #295899) – this is a beauty, a real seductive wine; as the name suggests this wine has your back on a night out. Shows real elegance and complexity in both aroma and flavour. (****¹/₂)

Yangarra 2008 Shiraz (\$22.95 - #911974) – eucalyptus, dark berry, spice, chocolate along with juicy raspberry, strawberry and cassis. (****+)

Canada (Ontario) ...

[*Konzelmann 2010 Heritage*](#) (\$24.95 - #149179) - **¹/₂+

[*Southbrook Vineyards 2011 Triomphe Chardonnay*](#) (\$21.95 - #172338) - **¹/₂+

[*Sue-Ann Staff 2011 Loved by Lu Riesling*](#) (\$16.95 - #322636) - **¹/₂+

[*Tawse 2011 Gamay Noir*](#) (\$18.95 - #322545) - ****

[*Vintage Ink 2010 Mark of Passion Merlot/Cabernet*](#) (\$17.95 - #250209) - ****

Chile ...

Tabali 2009 Reserva Especial (\$22.95 - #107540) – good fruit, juicy, blackberry, black pepper, blueberry, black cherry and a touch of sandalwood. (****+)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau La Tour de Mons 2009 (\$39.95 - #307959) – juicy middle surrounded by spice, pepper and wood. (**¹/₂+)

Chateau Moulin de la Roquette 2010 Cuvee Speciale L'Esperance (\$19.95 - #307249) – nice spice, dark fruit, cocoa and coffee. (**¹/₂+)

Chateau Segue Longue Monnier 2009 (\$21.95 - #307355) – soft, easy drinking, red berries and cocoa. (** ½+)

France (Burgundy) ...

Pascal Renaud 2011 Cuvee Vieilles Vignes Pouilly-Fuisse (\$26.95 - #303651) – well balanced with nice apple and lemon pith notes. (** ½)

France (Rhône) ...

Cave de Rasteau 2010 La Domeliere Rasteau (\$15.95 - #222927) – well balanced between the fruit, smoky, tannins and earthiness. (** ½+)

Chateau du Trignon 2007 Le Bossu Gigondas (\$27.95 - #309328) – this wine just has some really yummy fruit: smoke, vanilla, plum; very good and the tannins don't overwhelm. (****+)

Le Ferme du Mont 2010 Vendange Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$42.95 - #309245) – very juicy and jammy, well-balanced, sweet fruit takes over the mid. (****+)

France (Southwest) ...

Chateau le Fage 2011 Bergerac Rouge (\$14.95 - #309252) – good dark fruit, hint of spice and pepper but it's always got a core of fruit. (****)

Italy (Abruzzo) ...

Aldiano 2008 Montepulciano D'Abruzzo Riserva (\$17.95 - #51706) – dark chocolate cherry and spice. (** ½+) - **SCI**

Italy (Calabria) ...

Statti Mantonicco Bianco 2010 (\$18.95 - #317644) – refreshing with peach, lime, canned pineapple and orange zest. (****) – **SCI**

Italy (Campania) ...

Selvanova 2009 Vigna Antica Aglianico (\$15.95 - #313494) – dark and smoky of fruit, plenty of spiced-tannin notes. (** ½) – **SCI**

Italy (Emilia-Romagna) ...

Umberto Cesari Liano Sangiovese/Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 (\$29.95 - #225086) – lots of berries and vanilla, kinda jammy but balanced. (****)

Italy (Piedmont) ...

Ca'Dei Mandorli dei Giari Moscato D'Asti 2011 (\$15.95 - #179259) – it's moscato, what's not to like. (** ½)

Italy (Puglia) ...

Apollonio Copertino Rosso 2007 (\$16.95 - #23226) – wonderful plum and blackberry with a touch of earthiness on the finish. (** ½+)

Italy (Sardinia) ...

Jerzu Chuerra 2008 Riserva Cannonau di Sardegna (\$15.95 - #270272) – raspberry, wood spice and mocha. (** ½) - **SCI**

Italy (Sicily) ...

Caruso & Minini Sachia Perricone 2010 (\$13.95 - #211854) – nice black licorice with cassis, coffee and cocoa; a good buy for BBQ season. (****) – **SCI**

Terrelade Nira Nero D'Avola 2010 (\$18.95 - #120980) – red and black fruit, hints of spice with a juicy core; quite tasty. (****) – **SCI**

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Casale Dello Sparviero 2009 Chianti Classico Riserva (\$18.95 - #317313) – rustic leather nose with an indulgent cooked fruit and bacon palate. (** ½+)

San Giorgio Ugoforte Brunello di Montalcino 2006 (\$47.95 - #212431) – baking spice and cherry fruit. (****)

Italy (Veneto) ...

Giuseppe Campagnola 2010 Ripasso della Valpolicella Classico Superiore (\$17.00 - #313486) – nice coffee-laden notes right down the seam with floral accents. (** ½)

Portugal ...

Castelo de Azurara 2010 Reserva (\$14.95 - #314542) – has a little spearmint amongst the red fruit. (****)

Herdade do Sobroso 2010 Sobro Red (\$14.95 - #306563) – clearly a drink and enjoy red, there's a nice cedar quality knocking at the backdoor of the fruit. (****)

Quinta da Lixa Pouco Comum Alvarinho 2011 (\$14.95 - #316968) – lots of lime on this one, both lime and pith. (** ½+)

Spain ...

Finca Nueva 2005 Reserva (\$18.95 - #268425) – nice structure with raspberry, baker's chocolate, cassis, plum and a nice finish seals the deal. (****)

Marques de Caceres 2004 Gran Reserva (\$29.95 - #976670) – plum, tobacco and spice. (** ½+)

Pinol Ludovicus 2010 Tinto (\$13.95 - #313791) – plum, black cherry, hints of chocolate, smooth, vanilla, supple; great value in an easy drinking red. (****)

Tarima 2010 Monastrell (\$12.95 - #310151) – very yummy, easy drinking, plum and cherry with a touch of spice to keep the fruit from getting away; great price. (****)

USA (California) ...

Bonterra 2010 Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - #317685) – light mouthfeel with cherry and hints of oak, cinnamon, vanilla and a nice white pepper finish. (****) - CT

Chalone Estate 2010 Chardonnay (\$29.95 - #80226) – full in the mouth with spice and exotic fruits. (** ½+) – CT

Justin 2010 Syrah (\$36.95 - #684290) – dark fruited and juicy, white pepper and chocolate-raspberry also make an appearance. (****) - CT

Kendall-Jackson 2011 Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #369686) – buttery, melon with a nice use of oak; vanilla cream, peach cobbler and apple; also available in 375ml. (****)

Ridge 2010 Lytton Springs (\$48.95 - #982413) – this wine has a beautiful chocolate core, but is so much more than that. (****+)

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

Beringer 2007 Steinhauer Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$69.95 - #313551) - **** (CT)

Chateau La Tour Carnet 2009 (\$51.85 - #220178) - ****

Justin 2009 Isosceles (\$78.95 - #684282) - ****+ (CT)

Giuseppe Quintarelli 2003 Rosso Ca'Del Merlo (\$97.95 - #958595) - ****

La Jota 2009 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon (\$77.95 - #659755) - ****+ (CT)

What I'll Be Lining Up For on March 2, 2013 ...

Caruso & Minini Sachia Perricone 2010 (\$13.95 - #211854) – Italy

Chateau du Trignon 2007 Le Bossu Gigondas (\$27.95 - #309328) – France

Devil's Corner 2011 Pinot Noir (\$20.95 - #317966) – Australia

Pinol Ludovicus 2010 Tinto (\$13.95 - #313791) – Spain

Rolf Binder 2009 Ma I? Have This Evening Shiraz/Mataro (\$19.95 - #295899) – Australia

Tarima 2010 Monastrell (\$12.95 - #310151) – Spain

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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