

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday May 11, 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 ... Australian (**OZ**) and Rosé (**RO**) Wines

The Skinny ... A lacklustre release with not a lot of oomph to the wines (bangs for the buck) must be a lull in purchasing at the LCBO because there's usually one deal per release.

Argentina ...

Catena 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #985002) – warm and spicy with chocolate and tobacco and deep cherry at its roots. (****+)

Australia ...

Chateau Tanunda 2010 Grand Barossa Shiraz (\$22.95 - #311365) – sweet and full of juicy blackberries, plum, dark cherry and white pepper. (****+) – **OZ**

Grant Burge 2010 The Holy Trinity Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre (\$29.95 - #236257) – meaty and smoky with raspberries and other dark berries. (****) – **OZ**

Robert Oatley 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #323741) – juicy blackberry and raspberry. (**
½) - **OZ**

Wonderwall 2011 Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon (\$17.95 - #313213) – nicely citrus with some waxy notes along with pea pod. (**
½) – **OZ**

Austria ...

Zantho 2010 Sankt Laurent (\$15.95 - #315556) – black cherry and cranberry notes along with well-balanced spice and wood character. (**
½+)

Canada (British Columbia) ...

Blue Mountain 2011 Chardonnay (\$23.95 - #350108) – rich barrel notes with lime, peach and citrus mixed in. (**
½+)

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

[*Colchester Ridge 2008 Crew Cabernet Sauvignon*](#) (\$25.00 - #328385) - ****+

[*Greenlane Estate 2011 Unoaked Chardonnay*](#) (\$17.95 - #329409) – *** ½

[*Henry of Pelham 2010 Reserve Baco Noir*](#) (\$24.95 - #461699) - ****

[*Mucedere Vineyards 2011 Cabernet Franc*](#) (\$18.20 - #334144) - ****+

[*Pelee Island Winery 2010 Vinedressers Cabernet Sauvignon*](#) (\$19.95 - #530576) - ****+

France (Beaujolais) ...

Mommessin 2010 Domaine de Champ de Cour Moulin-a-Vent (\$17.95 - #430876) – rich cherry, licorice with a juicy middle. (**
½+)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau Saint-Nicolas 2009 (\$17.95 - #138602) – wood driven with cherry and spice; big tannins on this one. (**
½)

Chateau Viallet Nouhant 2009 (\$21.95 - #321398) – fruit is dark with sweet cinnamon, vanilla and cocoa. (****)

Chateau Vieux Sarpe 2010 (\$39.95 - #943662) – nice licorice and spice with smoky-chocolate notes. (****)

France (Burgundy) ...

Domaine du Chardonnay 2011 Chablis (\$19.95 - #183574) – creamed green apple with lemon zest and good minerality. (** ½+)

France (Loire) ...

Domaine D'Orfeuille Brut Vouvray (\$18.95 - #319954) – sweet yet zippy bubbly with nice acidity with a finish that's drier than the mid-palate let's on. (** ½+)

Domaine Thomas & Fils 2011 Cuvee Grand Chaille Sancerre (\$28.95 - #320242) – hints of sweetness amongst the grapefruit cocktail and hints of grassiness; delicate with good acidity. (****)

France (Midi) ...

Gerard Bertrand 2010 Terroir Minervois Syrah/Carignan (\$15.95 - #952804) – very nice easy drinking BBQ ready sipper; minty dark fruit with currants and pepper. (****)

France (Rhône) ...

Domaine Les Grand Bois 2010 Cuvee Philippin Cotes du Rhone-Villages (\$19.95 - #286344) – juicy of fruit, black licorice, chocolate and black cherries, there's also a floral undertone. (****+)

Domaine Maby la Forcadere 2012 Tavel Rosé (\$16.95 - #701318) – sweet and fruity entry with bubblegum, strawberry and raspberry notes, but the finish turns dry and the combination is a real winner. (** ½+) - RO

France (Southwest) ...

Chateau Croze de Pys 2009 Prestige Malbec Cahors (\$16.95 - #681668) – smoky black currant, dark raspberries, cedar and spice. (****)

Greece ...

Kratistos 2008 (\$18.95 - #061473) – nice bitter strawberry and mocha with anise and herbal mixed in; you'll also pick up some wood spice. (** ½+)

Italy (Abruzzo) ...

Costantini 2012 Trebbiano D'Abruzzo (\$17.95 - #323865) – pineapple, melon and a touch of tangerine. (** ½+)

Valle Reale 2008 Montepulciano D'Abruzzo (\$18.95 - #216408) – sweet and smoky with dark fruit, cassis and spice. (****)

Italy (Piedmont) ...

Pelassa San Vito Roero Arneis 2011 (\$19.95 - #317172) – decent mouthfilling wine with pear and peach mixed with baking spice and good acidity. (** ½)

Italy (Puglia) ...

Baroque 2011 Primitivo (\$15.95 - #101410) – there's a weird plummy element here with black cherry notes – weird but quite tasty once you give it a chance. (** ½+)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Badia a Coltibuono 2009 Chianti Classico (\$23.95 - #295964) – sweet fruit, a juicy modern style of Chianti. (** ½+)

Canonica a Cerreto 2006 Sandiavolo (\$24.95 - #270256) – blackberry and licorice with seet herbal notes along with mid-palate spice and a dark finish. (****)

New Zealand ...

Alexia 2010 Pinot Noir (\$22.95 - #312884) – juicy yet toasty with nice strawberry and herbal notes along with hints of earth and leather. (** ½+)

Forrest Estate 2011 The Doctors' Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #317842) – more tropical than citrus along with sweet grass and peach notes; very different than what you're use to but in a delicious style. (** ½)

South Africa ...

Mulderbosch 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé (\$12.95 - #999821) – fresh and pink with lovely strawberry and apple notes. (** ½) – RO

Simonsvlei 2010 Ja-Mocha Pinotage (\$15.95 - #317974) – definitely takes after its name with almond and fudge to boot. (****)

Spain ...

Balbas 2001 Reserva (\$20.95 - #085183) – chocolate raspberries with touches of spiced cedar. (****)

Bodegas Langa 2008 PI 3.1415 Concejon (\$17.95 - #313841) – black cherry and raspberry with bits of chocolate and sweet vanilla thru the mid-palate; very fruity and friendly, this one is hard to

pass up, despite the PI-gimmick label. (****+)

Muga 2012 Rosé (\$12.95 - #603795) – strawberry-tangerine with an interesting dry finish. (** ½) - RO

United States (California) ...

Guenoc 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #104240) – pretty hefty and juicy for an under \$20 Cali-Cab; the fruit and all is just right where you want it to be for right now enjoyment. (****+)

Kunde 2011 Chardonnay (\$21.95 - #745406) – hints of tropicality with melon and good acidity with a sweet white fruit finish. (** ½)

Saintsbury 2009 Stanly Ranch Pinot Noir (\$49.95 - #261594) – sweet blackberry and black cherry with hints of licorice. (****)

Seven Sinners 2010 The Ransom Old Vines Petite Sirah (\$24.95 - #319152) – deep, dark and quite delicious; an impressive wine from this minor grape. (****+)

Simi 2009 Landslide Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$39.95 - #067744) – nice balance of dark fruit, smoky notes along with cocoa and vanilla. (** ½+)

Z 2010 Zinfandel (\$38.95 - #148809) – nice complexity, good fruit and nice extras, you have to drink it to find out what I mean. (****)

United States (Washington) ...

Columbia Crest 2008 Grand Estates Merlot (\$15.95 - #263418) – not as rich as some that have come from here but juicy and tasty none the less with coffee, mocha and cherry. (** ½+)

If You Can Afford It – wines worth their high price ...

Antinori 2007 Pian Delle Vigne (\$59.95 - #651141) – Tuscany (****+)

Groth 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$74.95 - #606517) – California (****)

Manzone 2007 Gramolere Barolo (\$51.95 - #318105) – Piedmont (** ½)

What I'll Be Lining Up For – Saturday May 11, 2013 ...

Bodegas Langa 2008 PI 3.1415 Concejon (\$17.95 - #313841) – Spain

Guenoc 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #104240) – United States

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!

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