

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday November 23, 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 ... Our Finest (**FINE**) and Premium Spirits (not tasted)

The Skinny ... Lots of expensive wines are part of the 'Our Finest' collection released this time out, bargain wines are few and far between this time of year. If you're looking for a few bargains take a look at the What I'm Lining Up For section.

Argentina ...

Mendel 2010 Malbec (\$24.95 - #108225) – soft and juicy with blackberry and a brambly consistency. (**¹/₂+))

Susana Balbo 2011 Signature Malbec (\$19.95 - #79798) – milk chocolate and mint with hints of mineral and a nice smokiness; finish is black cherry with a strong mocha latte finish. (****)

Canada (Ontario) ...

Bachelor 2011 Lowrey Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$44.95 - #361816) - **** ¹/₂

Creekside 2010 Broken Press Reserve Syrah (\$39.95 - #202127) - *** ¹/₂+ (**FINE**)

Daniel Lenko 2010 Old Vines Merlot (\$34.95 - #75622) - ****

Featherstone 2012 Black Sheep Riesling (\$16.95 - #80234) - **** ¹/₂

Flat Rock Cellars 2011 Gravity Pinot Noir (\$29.95 - #001560) - *** ¹/₂+

Hidden Bench 2011 Estate Pinot Noir (\$32.95 - #274753) - *** ¹/₂+

Palatine Hills 2010 Neufeld Vineyard Meritage (\$29.95 - #361378) - ****+

Rosewood 2011 Pinot Noir (\$21.95 - #112177) - *** ¹/₂+

Stratus 2010 Red (\$44.20 - #131037) - **** (**FINE**)

Stratus 2010 White (\$44.20 - #660704) - *** ¹/₂ (**FINE**)

Union 2007 Fortified "Forte" (\$16.95 - #361758) - **** ¹/₂

Chile ...

Koyle 2010 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (\$15.95 - #256073) – pure minty blackberry, cassis and sweet blueberry. (**¹/₂+))

Santa Carolina 2010 Gran Reserva Chardonnay (\$14.95 - #928580) – nice spiciness with juicy grilled pineapple. (**¹/₂+))

France (Alsace) ...

Hauler Muenchberg 2011 Riesling (\$21.95 - #360370) – peach, mineral and citrus, hints of pear and floral nuances with pleasant linger on the finish. (****)

Ruhlmann 2011 Vieilles Vignes Gewurztraminer (\$19.95 - #982082) – soft and mellow with rose petal and a juiciness rather than spiciness along, with a nice hit of orange blossom. (**¹/₂+))

France (Beaujolais) ...

Chateau du Chatelard 2011 Cuvee Les Vieux Granits Fleurie (\$20.95 - #207886) – black cherry and white pepper; this one has some edginess. (****)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau D'Escurac 2009 (\$24.95 - #191197) – there's a welcoming sweetness of dark fruit. (**¹/₂+))

Chateau Potensac 2009 (\$41.85 - #197780) – blackberry, black currant, spice, cinnamon, smoky and dark cocoa; finesse with good ageability. (****+)

Chateau Puy Blanquet 2009 (\$25.85 - #192989) – sour black cherry and spice. (** ½+)

Domaine de Viaud 2001 (\$28.95 - #282475) – great chance to buy a Bordeaux wine without waiting to drink it: in other words it is pre-aged. (** ½+)

France (*Burgundy*) ...

Domaine Deliance Ruban Vert Brut Cremant de Bourgogne (\$19.95 - #355917) – crisp with nice minerality and acid bite, a touch of floral with nice citrus notes. (** ½+)

La Chablisienne 2010 Montmains Chablis 1er Cru (\$28.95 - #265090) – lime meringue character with elements of spice and baked apple. (** ½+)

France (*Rhone*) ...

Domaine Cros de Romet 2011 Cairanne Cotes du Rhone Villages (\$23.95 - #42986) – fruit is forefront with raspberry, cherry and plum with hints of chocolate, white pepper and delicately spiced; this one is real pretty. (****+)

Italy (*Marche*) ...

Costa Farnal Prosecco (\$19.95 - #358382) – cute little bulbous bubbles that come off creamy with nice acidity and a pleasant apple and lemon note. (****)

Italy (*Sardinia*) ...

Jerzu Chuerra Riserva Cannonau di Sardegna 2008 (\$16.95 - #270272) – juicy red berries with an herbal quality; this one grows on you with raspberry and nice acidity and coffee-like finish, (****)

Italy (*Tuscany*) ...

Ricasoli Brolio Chianti Classico 2010 (\$23.95 - #003962) – juicy and easy drinking with sweet cherry and ripe strawberry. (****)

Rocca di Castagnoli 2009 Poggio A'Fratelli Chianti Classico Riserva (\$29.95 - #023358) – raspberry and herbal quality with nice acidity. (** ½+)

Tenuta San Guido 2011 Guidalberto (\$49.95 - #72439) – dark fruit and chocolate with a clash of white pepper and nice blackberry intensity; long and lingering finish. (****)

Tenuta Sette Ponti 2010 Crognolo (\$31.95 - #727636) – interestingly spicy with an intensity of dark fruit, cherry and full flavoured. (****)

Portugal ...

Offley 10 Year Old Tawny Port (\$25.95 - #297788) – love the complexity and layers in this tawny: orange zest, caramel and plenty of spice with good acidity on the finish. (****)

Ramos Pinto Collection 2009 (\$29.95 - #341875) – comes off thin at first but has nice fruit and good acidity. (** ½+)

Spain ...

Domini de la Cartoixa Formiga de Galena 2009 (\$25.95 - #344671) – never mind the ants on the label this one is far from pesky: big red berry fruit of cherry, strawberry and plum. (** ½+)

Vega Saucó Adoremus Tinta de Toro (\$19.95 - #26881) – smoky, vanilla spice and chocolate with lots of plum to drive it. (** ½+)

United States (*California*) ...

Belle Glos 2011 Las Alturas Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$44.95 - #212076) – it's a nice wine but it sure does not come across as Pinot with its plum, chocolate and black cherry. (****)

Beringer 2010 Merlot (\$34.95 - #919647) – juicy, method and cherry with peppered-raspberry backing. (** ½+)

J Lohr 2010 Hilltop Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$39.95 - #686584) – juicy, almost sweet fruited with mocha, blackberry and black cherry; this has lots going for it. (****)

Peachy Canyon 2011 Westside Zinfandel (\$26.95 - #930644) – plenty to be excited about here: vanilla, cherry, plum, Christmas spice on the nose, along with cherry, blackberry jam and mocha highlight the palate. (****+)

Roederer Estate Brut Rosé (\$36.95 - #479758) – peach and raspberry palate with mineral, lemon and biscotti on the nose. (****)

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

Ambullneo Vineyards 2007 Fang Blanc (\$62.95 - #357541) – California, USA (****) – **FINE**

Antinori 2010 Solaia (\$251.95 - #987586) – Tuscany, Italy (****+) – **FINE**

Catena Zapata 2009 Nicolas Catena Zapata (\$109.95 - #662072) – Argentina (****+) – **FINE**

Chateau de Beaucastel 2011 Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$89.95 - #711317) – Rhone, France (****+) – **FINE**
Dunn Vineyards 2009 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon (\$109.95 - #193763) – California, USA (****) - **FINE**
Elderton 2009 Command Single Vineyard Shiraz (\$89.95 - #716142) – Australia (****) – **FINE**
Krug Grande Cuvee Brut Champagne (\$271.95 - #38562) – Champagne, France (****+) – **FINE**
Masi 2006 Campolongo di Torbe Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (\$99.95 - #548677) – Veneto, Italy (****+) – **FINE**
Masi 2006 Mazzano Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (\$99.95 - #215764) – Veneto, Italy (**½+) – **FINE**
Mollydooker 2010 Carnival of Love (\$99.95 - #242743) – Australia (****) – **FINE**
Ornellaia 2010 (\$189.95 - #722470) – Tuscany, Italy (****+) – **FINE**
Pahlmeyer 2009 Proprietary Red (\$159.95 - #329375) – California, USA (**** ½) – **FINE**
Paul Hobbs 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$89.95 - #119065) – California, USA (****) – **FINE**
Quinta do Portal 2003 Vintage Port (\$58.95 - #345041) – Portugal (****+) - **FINE**
Rodney Strong 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$59.95 - #382325) – California, USA (**½+) – **FINE**
Silver Oak 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$134.95 - #936039) – California, USA (**½+) – **FINE**

What I'll Be Lining Up For – November 23, 2013 ...

Domaine Cros de Romet 2011 Cairanne Cotes du Rhone Villages (\$23.95 - #42986) – France
Susana Balbo 2011 Signature Malbec (\$19.95 - #79798) – Argentina

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 ...

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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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