

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday October 27, 2012

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.

Foci ... California (**CAL**) and Bordeaux (**BOR**), plus some large format gifting (**GIFT**) wines.
The Skinny ... sad to say that the Bordeaux wines offered better value than their US counterparts.

Argentina ...

Clos de los Siete 2009 (\$21.95 - #622571) - delivers on fruit, spice and vanilla and there seems to be a juiciness developing. (****)

Lindaflor 2007 Malbec (\$42.95 - #109322) - inky black in colour, violet aromas with black cherry, blackberry, cassis and spice. (** 1/2+)

Trapiche 2007 Fincas Las Palmas Malbec (\$17.95 - #186668) - lovely cherry and spice, hints of chocolate and vanilla with a raspberry linger. (****+)

Australia ...

Langmeil Blacksmith Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 (\$24.95 - #644039) - chocolate, plum, black cherry with good spice, full in the mouth. (****+)

Canada (Ontario) ...

Coyote's Run 2011 Red Paw Vineyard Pinot Gris (\$17.95 - #116582) - ****+

Lailey 2010 Merlot (\$25.00 - #591396) - *** 1/2+

Malivoire 2010 Albert's Honour Old Vines Foch (\$24.95 - #551036) - *** 1/2

Mike Weir 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (\$14.95 - #686972) - *** 1/2+

Peninsula Ridge 2010 AJ Lepp Vineyards Reserve Merlot (\$19.95 - #299222) - ****+

Stratus 2007 Red (\$99.95 / 1500ml - #291088) - **** 1/2 - **GIFT**

Chile ...

Concha y Toro 2009 Terrunyo Block 27 Vineyard Selection Carmenere (\$29.95 - #562892) - fruit and chocolate mix with sweet blackberry jam and cassis; real silky smoothness on the palate. (** 1/2+)

Santa Carolina 2009 Reserva de Familia Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #684597) - minty dark fruit, chocolate, cassis, and framboise, but you can't get away from that minty character. (** 1/2+)

France (Beaujolais) ...

Louis Jadot 2009 Chateau des Jacques Morgon (\$23.95 - #653584) - good black cherry with nice acidity and mild tannins. (** 1/2+)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau de L'Estang 2009 (\$18.95 - #0191551) - quite a lovely easy drinking Bordeaux with vanilla and cherry; smooth and satisfyingly simple. (****+) - **BOR**

Chateau la Croix Chaigneau 2009 (\$23.95 - #173278) - nice flavour with decent tannins, dark cherry, spice and smoke with a wooden-cherry finish. (****) - **BOR**

Chateau la Gravette Lacombe 2009 (\$19.95 - #295808) - smoky and licorice notes, more intense than others at this price point. (****) - **BOR**

Chateau Larose Trintaudon 2009 (\$24.95 - #297945) - licorice, blackberry and cherry. (****) - **BOR**

Chateau Lestruelle 2009 (\$18.95 - #295840) - vanilla, cinnamon, cherry, blackberry and really nice spice. (****+) - **BOR**

Chateau Toumilon Blanc 2009 (\$16.95 - #314864) - fresh and clean with hints of lime and peach pit. (** 1/2) - **BOR**

Chateau Teyssier 2009 (\$39.95 - #303784) - nicely spiced, fruit, garigue, coffee, mocha and a spicy finish. (****) - **BOR**

France (*Burgundy*) ...

Jean-Marc Brocard 2008 Kimmeridgian Chardonnay (\$17.95 - #290049) - mineral, apple core and lemon zest. (** 1/2+)

Roger Belland 2009 Santenay-Commes 1er Cru (\$33.95 - #725549) - smoky cigar, smoked meat, cinnamon and plenty of tannin. (** 1/2+)

France (*Midi*) ...

Domaine Puig-Parahy 2010 Cuvee Georges (\$15.95 - #171025) - funny aromas of spice, but the palate is very satisfying with herbs and spice amongst plum and blackberry. (****)

Hecht & Bannier 2010 Minervois (\$19.95 - #17764) - lots of dark fruit and chocolate, the 14.5% alcohol makes it smooth across the palate. (****)

France (*Rhone*) ...

Delas Freres Saint-Esprit Cotes du Rhone 2010 (\$15.95 - #729962) - nicely layered with chocolate, plum, licorice and oak. (****)

Domaine Cros de Romet Cairanne Cotes du Rhone Villages 2010 (\$21.95 - #42986) - there's a sweetness on the mid palate that's rather appealing. (****)

Mas des Bressades 2011 Cuvee Tradition Blanc (\$14.95 - #701094) - you gotta like citrus to like this one, especially the rind. (** 1/2)

Germany ...

Dr. Loosen 2011 Red Slate Riesling Dry (\$19.95 - #295923) - and the good doctor means dry, very dry; mineral dominates here with spice and hints of green apple; not your usual German Riesling here. (****)

Italy (*Piedmont*) ...

Demaria 2007 Barbera D'alba Superiore (\$15.95 - #290098) - flavourful dark fruited Barbera with smoky-cigar box notes. (** 1/2+)

Marchesi di Barolo 2011 Gavi di Gavi (\$19.95 - #155382) - grapefruit rind with good acidity. (** 1/2)

Poderi Colla Dardi 2007 Le Rose Bussia Barolo (\$49.95 - #596890) - nice dried cherry and spice with white pepper backing. (** 1/2+)

Italy (*Puglia*) ...

Solantico 2009 Riserva Salice Salentino (\$14.95 - #289694) - plum and dark berries, really nice fruit here. (** 1/2+)

Italy (*Tuscany*) ...

Antinori 2008 Marchese Antinori Chianti Classico Riserva (\$29.95 - #512384) - pretty hefty and smoky wine with licorice, herbs, dark fruit and plenty of tannins. (****)

Fattori 2007 Brunello di Montalcino (\$34.95 - #33498) - while it starts dry it does have a plump fruit finish. (** 1/2+)

Italy (*Veneto*) ...

Bisot Crede Brut Prosecco di Valdobbiadene Superiore (\$19.95 - #297242) - crisp and refreshing with a touch of sweetness; easy to drink. (** 1/2)

Lena di Mezzo 2009 Ripasso Valpolicella Classico Superiore (\$17.00 - #165662) - juicy and fruit Ripasso with lots of flavour to spare; sitting and sipping will not be a problem with this cherry and plum number. (****)

Tedeschi 2011 Filadonna Pinot Grigio (\$15.95 - #295881) - pith-based flavours: lemon and grapefruit. (** 1/2)

New Zealand ...

Jules Taylor 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #224428) - restraint New Zealand-style, has gooseberry and some tropical notes of pineapple and passion-fruit. (****+)

Seresin 2009 Chardonnay (\$24.95 - #19190) - keeps its fruit with enough barrel notes to make it seem elegant on the palate, plus there's the long lasting vanilla / toffee finish. (****)

Portugal ...

Meandro do Vale Meao 2009 (\$22.95 - #244731) - it'll be worth it after a few years of cellaring, the

plum and black cherry will come around; needs decanting now. (****)

Vidigal 2007 Reserva Touriga Nacional (\$16.95 - #293456) - plenty of blackberry and plum with a touch of herbal essence. (** 1/2+)

South Africa ...

Melk's 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$15.95 - #294306) - fruit drive with black cherry and plum leading the charge. (** 1/2)

Spain ...

Senda 2008 66 Tempranillo (\$13.95 - #296475) - dark and brooding fruit with nice coffee and chocolate notes. (** 1/2+)

United States (California) ...

Beringer 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$39.95 - #91058) - blackberry, cassis and chocolate, a real mosaic of flavours. (****)

Brazin (B)old Vine Zinfandel (\$19.95 - #256750) - nice plum, cherry, spice, vanilla and licorice. (****)

Conundrum 2010 Red (\$23.95 - #294298) - plum, cherry, and other sweet fruits of the red persuasion, simplistic and over-priced but tasty. (** 1/2)

Emmolo 2008 Merlot (\$35.95 - #96024) - chocolate, blueberry and spice with hints of mocha on the finish. (****) - **CAL**

Fess Parker 2010 Viognier (\$24.95 - #297523) - exotic and fleshy, floral, tropical with a touch of sweetness. (** 1/2+)

Gloria Ferrer Sonoma Brut Sparkling Wine (\$26.95 - #192898) - has a nice peach skin taste with balancing acidity. (** 1/2+)

Ironstone 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #537597) - raspberry, blackberry, vanilla and cherry; a real every day pleaser. (****) - **CAL**

Melville 2010 Verna's Estate Pinot Noir (\$34.95 - #291021) - juicy raspberry, cherry, bright red fruit with good acidity on the finish; contagiously drinkable. (****) - **CAL**

United States (Oregon) ...

Chehalem 2009 3-Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$31.95 - #949909) - juicy sour cherry, cranberry and raspberry. (****)

If You Can Afford It ... wines worthy their lofty price tag

Antinori 2009 Solaia (\$251.95 - #987586) - **** 1/2+

Chateau Montelena Estate 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$144.95 - #709881) - ****+ - CAL

Far Niente 2010 Chardonnay (\$74.95 - #539130) - ** 1/2+

Goldeneye 2009 Pinot Noir (\$59.95 - #659854) - ** 1/2+ - CAL

Hauts de Pontet-Canet 2009 (\$54.85 - #194548) - ****+ - BOR

Moet & Chandon 2002 Grand Vintage Brut Champagne (\$81.95 - #69773) - ****+

Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2008 Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon (\$51.95 - #708982) - **** - CAL

What I'll Be Lining Up For - October 27, 2012 ...

Dr. Loosen 2011 Red Slate Riesling Dry (\$19.95 - #295923) – Germany

Chateau Lestruelle 2009 (\$18.95 - #295840) – France

Langmeil Blacksmith Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 (\$24.95 - #644039) - Australia

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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