

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday April 12, 2014

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 ... Easter (**ETR**) and Italian Appassimento (**APP**)

The Skinny ... Light load in the great wines to buy department, but the ones really worth buying are quite worth it.

Argentina ...

Alamos 2013 Viognier (\$13.95 - #507830) – rich and lively with pear and pineapple puree. (**
½+)

Catena 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #985002) – rich dark fruit, black and blue berries, vanilla, cocoa; just really delicious fruit. (****+)

Trivento 2012 Amado Sur Malbec / Bonarda / Syrah (\$16.95 - #037036) – juicy black cherry and cassis with hints of white pepper. (**
½+)

Australia ...

Grant Burge 2012 5th Generation Shiraz (\$18.95 - #361295) – I like the price while the wine is tasty with subtle black berry fruit. (**
½+)

Jim Barry 2010 The Cover Drive Cabernet Sauvignon (\$26.95 - #677476) – great dark fruit with an element of spice to keep it truly honest. (****)

Canada (British Columbia) ...

Dirty Laundry 2011 Merlot (\$31.95 - #366179) – soft and fruity with mainly blueberry and mocha keeping it together. (**
½+)

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

[Featherstone 2013 Rosé](#) (\$14.95 - #117861) - **
½+ (ETR)

[Fielding Estate 2013 Sauvignon Blanc](#) (\$18.95 - #131235) – **
½+

[Lailey 2012 Chardonnay](#) (\$19.95 - #193482) - ****+ (ETR)

[Rosewood Estates 2010 Reserve Pinot Noir](#) (\$39.95 - #318345) - ****+ (ETR)

[Tawse 2011 Sketches Cabernet Merlot](#) (\$20.95 - #130252) - **
½+

Chile ...

Conchy y Toro 2008 Marques de Casa Concha Carmenere (\$19.95 - #169862) – nicely spiced black and blue berries. (**
½+)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau La Croix de Gay 2010 (\$49.85 - #259150) – smoky black fruit and cedar. (****)

France (Burgundy) ...

Georges DuBoeuf 2011 Clef du Bief Moulin A Vent (\$24.95 - #371807) - gentle and easy with good fruit. (**
½+)

Italy (Abruzzo) ...

Ulisse 2012 Unico Pecorino (\$19.95 - #249128) – grilled pineapple rind, pineapple core and banana skin; light, crisp and delightful. (****)

Italy (Piedmont) ...

FontanaFredda 2012 Gavi di Gavi (\$18.95 - #366948) – lemon and peach fight it out and the

winner just happens to be you. (** ½+)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Caparzo 2011 Rosso di Montalcino (\$19.95 - #333575) – pleasant and fruit driven; a classy little wine. (****)

Podere Dell'Anselmo 2010 Chianti Montespertoli (\$19.95 - #371690) – nicely spiced with cherry and blackberry, good herb and smoky notes too. (****)

Italy (Veneto) ...

Astoria 2012 Millesimato Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore (\$21.95 - #369504) – nice sweetness, pleasant and summery. (** ½+)

Monte Zovo 2011 Sa'Solin Ripasso Valpolicella (\$17.95 - #650713) – mocha, coffee and smoke rules the roost here. (** ½+) – APP

Speri 2011 Ripasso della Valpolicella Classico Superiore (\$21.95 - #370353) – nice cherry core, which makes the wine clean and incredibly chuggable, but the acidity makes it food friendly. (****) – APP

Tedeschi 2012 Capitel Nicalo Appassimento Valpolicella Superiore (\$16.95 - #984997) – simplistic label does not mean simplistic wine; this one is loaded with flavour and good value. (****+) – APP

Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2010 Selezione Antonio Castagnedi Amarone del Valpolicella Classico (\$43.95 - #685107) – rich, robust, dark fruited and chocolaty. (****+) – APP

Zenato 2010 Ripassa Valpolicella Superiore (\$25.95 - #479766) – lots of juicy aspects here with black cherry, hints of chocolate with a touch of floral and fig. (****) - APP

New Zealand ...

Julicher 2010 99 Rows Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #367979) – spiced-black cherry, anise, and white smoke with good length. (****)

Momo 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.95 - #009167) – bright and lively with grapefruit and lime zest. (** ½+)

Spain ...

Williams & Humbert Walnut Brown Oloroso (\$13.95 - #437467) – hazelnut and almond with caramel, spice, fig, great spicy and acid finish. (****)

United States (California) ...

Aquinas 2009 Philosopher's Blend (\$32.95 - #361899) – rich and succulent with a mix of red and black fruit, vanilla and cherry take charge on the finish. (****)

Bridlewood 2012 Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - #361824) – lots of vanilla and juicy cherry, maybe too much for a Pinot, then spiced plum swings in to rescue the finish. (** ½+)

Handcraft 2011 Petite Sirah (\$17.95 - #361907) – blueberry, white pepper, coffee, violets and spice notes with chocolaty elements amongst the peppery finish. (****)

La Crema 2012 Chardonnay (\$37.95 - #067231) – creamy texture with subtle pith notes, firm mouthfeel with peach and some tropical fruit along with vanilla and spice. (****)

Lander-Jenkins 2011 Spirit Hawk Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #162651) – pretty mango / pineapple and vanilla with depth, nice character and quite mouth filling; quite tasty with good acid backbone for freshness. (****+)

St. Francis 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$29.95 - #671164) – juicy blueberry and blackberry with hints of vanilla. (****)

United States (Oregon) ...

Bachelor 2011 Oregon Chardonnay (\$29.95 - #273334) - a mixed bag of aromas and flavours, from smoke, mineral and baked peach on the nose to white butter and mineral stoniness on the palate ... it's a touch fat in the mouth, but with lovely flavour (** ½).

Domaine Drouhin 2011 Pinot Noir (\$45.95 - #961284) – flavourful black cherry and spiced-cranberry notes. (** ½+)

United States (Washington) ...

L'Ecole No.41 2011 Red (\$29.95 - #366237) – juicy, spicy and woody. (** ½+)

In-Store Discoveries – wines that just appear on the shelves of your local Vintages outlet ...

Bollig-Lenhert 2005 Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spatlese (\$22.95 - #368787) – Germany - ****

Georges DuBoeuf 2011 Clef du Bief Moulin A Vent (\$24.95 - #371807) - Burgundy, France - *** ½+

JCB No. 21 Brut Cremant de Bourgogne (\$27.95 - #371831) – Burgundy, France - ****

Luce 2008 Brunello di Montalcino (\$109.95 - #120881) – Tuscany, Italy - ****

Pali Alphabets 2011 Pinot Noir (\$26.95 - #369835) – Washington, USA - *** ½+

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

Speri 2010 La Roggia Recioto Della Valpolicella Classico (\$55.95 / 500ml - #366997) – Veneto, Italy - ****+

What I'll Be Lining Up For – April 12, 2014 ...

Catena 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #985002) – Argentina

Handcraft 2011 Petite Sirah (\$17.95 - #361907) – California, USA

Lander-Jenkins 2011 Spirit Hawk Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #162651) – California, USA

Tedeschi 2012 Capitel Nicalo Appassimento Valpolicella Superiore (\$16.95 - #984997) – Veneto, Italy

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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