

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday August 18, 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 (plural of focus): Pacific North West (**PNW**) and Rhone Valley (**RHO**)

Highlights: a Rhone white of some note plus real winners from Washington, Spain and Australia.

Argentina ...

Chakana 2010 Reserve Malbec (\$15.95 - #18671) - nice, juicy blackberry, black cherry, plum, vanilla and spice. (****)

Australia ...

Evans & Tate 2009 Metricup Road Shiraz (\$19.95 - #606905) - there's a juicy complexity to this wine that's quite appealing which is enhanced by the peppery finish. (****+)

Small Gully 2008 Mr. Black's Concoction Shiraz (\$24.95 - #222059) - menthol, smoke and black cherry sweetness. (** 1/2+)

Three Pond 2011 Semillon (\$19.95 - #285049) - lemongrass, citrus, earthy with a refreshingly long finish. (** 1/2+)

Torbreck 2010 Woodcutter's Shiraz (\$27.95 - #927533) - dark fruit, cassis, black pepper, cocoa, with licorice on the finish. (****)

Wakefield 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #744235) - a beauty: tasty dark fruit, juicy with eucalyptus notes. (****+)

Zonte's Footstep Lake Doctor Shiraz 2009 (\$16.95 - #72975) - cherry, raspberry and plum; a real fruit bomb. (** 1/2+)

Canada - (British Columbia) ...

Mission Hill 2010 Reserve Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #545012) - black cherry, anise seed, raspberry-cherry with a little earthiness. (** 1/2) - **PNW**

Quails' Gate 2010 Chardonnay (\$21.95 - #377770) - soft and subtle, with buttery, vanilla, lemon and peach. (** 1/2+) - **PNW**

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

Calmus 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #285809) - ****

Calmus 2010 Riesling (\$16.95 - #158642) - *** 1/2

Fielding 2011 Pinot Gris (\$21.95 - #251108) - ****

Southbrook 2010 Triomphe Cabernet Franc (\$21.95 - #275958) - *** 1/2+

Union 2010 Squared Red (\$17.95 - #292359) - *** 1/2+

Chile ...

Anakena 2011 Lilen Single Vineyard Viognier (\$14.95 - #45138) - spiced finish, hints of tropical on the mid with a intense citrus start. (** 1/2)

San Pedro 1865 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 (\$19.95 - #37911) - minty-black fruit, typical and tasty. (****)

France - (Beaujolais) ...

Domaine Ruet 2010 La Fontenelle Chiroubles (\$16.95 - #282095) - very cherry and mineral. (***

1/2)

France - (Burgundy) ...

Cave de Lugny 2009 Cuvee Millesime Brut Cremant de Bourgogne (\$18.95 - #183764) - creamy yet with nice acidity and good citrus. (** 1/2+)

Domaine Chevallier 2009 Chablis (\$19.95 - #112227) - nice mineral note and mixes well with the fruit. (** 1/2)

France - (Loire) ...

Domaine du haut Bourg 2010 Muscadet Cotes de Grandlieu (\$15.95 - #289363) - tangy grapefruit with good acidity. (** 1/2)

Guy Saget 2010 Sancerre Blanc (\$19.95 - #287078) - grassy, hay and pink grapefruit cocktail. (** 1/2)

France - (Midi) ...

Chateau Paul Mas 2010 Clos des Mures (\$18.95 - #286393) - sweet and spicy, nice dark fruit with toasty-oaky-spice. (** 1/2+)

France - (Rhone) ...

Bosquet des Papes 2010 Cuvee Tradition Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$42.95 - #726687) - full on flavour of plum, cherry, licorice, chocolate, raspberry and cassis. (****+) - **RHO**

Domaine Grandy 2010 Vacqueyras (\$18.95 - #287532) - thick and dark with flavourful fruit, hint of spice and chocolate add to the enjoyment. (****) - **RHO**

Domaine les Grands Bois 2010 Cuvee les Trois Soeurs Cotes du Rhone (\$16.95 - #281147) - plum, strawberry, sweet cherry ... big fruited. (****+) - **RHO**

E. Guigal 2011 Cotes du Rhone Blanc (\$15.95 - #290296) - honeysuckle, floral, pineapple, apricot; good value for a nice wine. (****)

Famille Perrin 2010 Les Cornuds Vinsobres (\$17.95 - #566844) - delicate cherry, spice, licorice with a hint of floral undertones. (** 1/2) - **RHO**

Gonnet 2010 Selection L'Olivia Gigondas (\$23.95 - #289306) - nicely spiced, licorice with herbal notes. (** 1/2) - **RHO**

Les Halos de Jupiter 2010 Cotes du Rhone (\$17.95 - #276956) - leaner than one would expect from a Rhone wine, but still very flavourful. (** 1/2) - **RHO**

Italy - (Calabria) ...

Ippolito 1845 Liber Pater Ciro Rosso Classico Superiore 2009 (\$13.95 - #121061) - simple yet fruity; fresh and dried cherries, plum, cocoa and herbs. (****)

Italy - (Friuli) ...

Stocco 2009 Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso (\$14.95 - #289561) - lovely floral and red fruit, hints of leather on the smoky finish. (** 1/2)

Italy - (Molise) ...

Di Majo Norante Contado Riserva Aglianico del Molise 2009 (\$15.95 - #967208) - smoky black fruit, tobacco and raspberry, especially on the finish. (** 1/2+)

Italy - (Piedmont) ...

La Casa in Collina Barbaresco 2008 (\$29.95 - #968974) - gentle spice with sweet and sour cranberry and red cherry. (****)

Italy - (Puglia) ...

Cantine due Palme 2009 Primitivo (\$15.95 - #658351) - primer for those who want to get into Zinfandel. (** 1/2)

Italy - (Sicily) ...

Villa Tonino 2010 Grillo (\$13.95 - #289579) - apple, citrus peel with a pith finish. (** 1/2)

Italy - (Tuscany) ...

Altesino 2009 Rosso di Altesino (\$18.95 - #658369) - dried cherry, plum, raspberry with a long spiced finish including white pepper. (****)

Italy - (Veneto) ...

Angelo Bortolin 2010 Extra Dry Prosecco Superiore (\$17.95 - #282616) - lively and lemony, a real mouth-wakener; this even shows a little minerality. (****)

Verbena 2007 Brunello di Montalcino (\$37.95 - #165126) - sweet spice, nice fruit, sweet mid-palate, vanilla-tobacco with a dry finish. (****+)

Lebanon ...

Elias Tanios Touma 2008 Le Fleuron Heritage (\$N/A - #307793) - sweet cherries and spice with hints of pepper and sweet tobacco. (** 1/2)

New Zealand ...

Delta 2010 Pinot Noir (\$23.95 - 675231) - cran-raspberry with a nice earthy component. (** 1/2)

Southbank 2010 Chardonnay (\$17.95 - #278523) - melon, tangerine with a nice toasty-buttery finish. (** 1/2)

Portugal ...

Messias 10 Anos Tawny Port (\$23.95 - #87205) - orange peel, cinnamon, creme-brulee, caramel, marmalade, nutty, fig jam and with a bit of a salt lick note on the finish; nice long finish. (****)

South Africa ...

Bellingham 2009 Shiraz with a Dash of Viognier (\$14.95 - #278739) - very smoky and mocha oriented, good dark fruit and big tannins. (****)

Flagstone 2005 The Treaty Tree Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot (\$14.95 - #278382) - smoky and tarry with an interesting fruit-spice; interesting smoky tobacco finish ... wait 2-3 years. (** 1/2+)

Spain ...

Buil & Gine Gine Gine 2009 (\$17.95 - #67843) - good fruit to spice ratio, fresh and lively fruit, quite juicy; now under screwcap. (****)

Cellar Besllum Besllum 2008 (\$15.95 - #283515) - vanilla, plum, black cherry with sweet herbs and silky tannins. (** 1/2+)

Ribota 2009 (\$15.95 - #280628) - juicy dark fruit, mocha, vanilla, milk chocolate and black licorice. (** 1/2+)

United States - (California) ...

Bommarito 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.95 - #213918) - simple, approachable and chocolatey. (** 1/2)

Calera 2009 Pinot Noir (\$31.95 - #933044) - lots of fruit, juicy cherry, strawberry and sweet spices. (****+)

Chamisal 2011 Unoaked Stainless Chardonnay (\$25.95 - #289223) - tropically tinged with nice acidity. (** 1/2+)

Geyser Peak 2007 Block Collection Walking Tree Cabernet Sauvignon (\$28.95 - #161323) - juicy and spicy, black fruited with nice spice on the finish. (****)

Kenwood 2010 Chardonnay (\$17.95 -- #158790) - delicate pineapple, vanilla, lightly buttered toast; a nice balance of fruit and oak. (** 1/2+)

Mer Soleil 2009 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (\$34.95 - #958975) - sweet oak, sweet fruit with a nice mouthfeel, heavy weight oak. (****)

Paso Creek 2009 Zinfandel (\$19.95 - #279810) - simple and juicy, plum, cherry, cola, vanilla and chocolate. (** 1/2+)

Seghesio 2009 Old Vine Zinfandel (\$49.95 - #56879) - if this were cheaper I'd buy it by the barrel; pure Zin for Zin-fans ... bring on the BBQ ribs. (****+)

St. Supery 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #339663) - hits you over the head with tropical, limeade and melon. (** 1/2+)

Summers 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$29.95 - #279398) - raspberry, cherry with hints of white pepper. (** 1/2+)

United States - (Washington) ...

*** *Columbia Crest 2009 H3 Cabernet Sauvignon* (\$19.95 - #210047) - currants, plum, black cherry, and mocha; a lovely wine. (****+) - PNW

What I'll Be Lining Up For - August 18, 2012 ...

Wakefield 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #744235) - Australia

E. Guigal 2011 Cotes du Rhone Blanc (\$15.95 - #290296) – France
Buil & Gine Gine Gine 2009 (\$17.95 - #67843) – Spain
Columbia Crest 2009 H3 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #210047) – United States

Happy Shopping

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