

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday December 11, 2010

*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*

The only release in December is all about "festive celebrating", as we get into gift giving season the LCBO believes you're going to pry your wallet open a little wider. I am going to forego segregating the "holiday" wines and put them all in their country of origin. Here we go ...

Argentina – Red ...

Kaiken 2008 Ultra Malbec (\$19.95 - #0050849) – sweet black fruit, black cherry, plum and licorice notes, with a little vanilla on the finish. (****)

Los Clop 2006 Reserva Malbec (\$15.95 - #0186650) – a good price for this sweet red licorice dominated wine. (*** ½)

Trapiche Fausto Orellana de Escobar Single Vineyard Malbec 2007 (\$39.95 - #0178145) – rich colour which matches the flavour: lots of big black fruit, coffee, mocha blackberry and a touch of mineral complexity. (**** ½)

Argentina – White ...

Alamos 2009 Torrontes (\$13.95 - #0081539) – you'd swear this is a Gewurztraminer knock-off on the nose with all the floral/rosy notes coming off it, and the palate is no different ... this one's nice and light at a price worth picking up. If you haven't tried Torrontes yet this would be a good time. (*** ½)

Australia – Dessert ...

Dutschke Old Codger Tawny (\$19.95 - #0199786) – this is a real beauty for those who like Tawnies with a twist: caramel coated roasted almonds with a cherry sweetness and spicy finish. (**** ½)

Canada – Dessert ...

(Ontario)

[The Ice House 2006 Northern Ice Vidal Icewine](#) (\$39.95 / 375ml - #0196188)

Canada – Red ...

(Ontario)

[Creekside Estate 2007 Laura Red](#) (\$19.95 - #0117960)

[Stratus 2007 Cabernet Franc](#) (\$38.20 - #0665034)

Canada – Sparkling ...

(British Columbia)

Sumac Ridge 2006 Steller's Jay Brut Sparkling Wine (\$24.95) – there's a lovely lemony smell which turns into a fun fizz with a touch of sweet apple and lemon rind on the palate, the real winning part here is the peach finish. (****)

(Ontario)

[13th Street Premier Cuvee Brut Sparkling Wine](#) (\$29.95 - #0142679)

[Peller Estates Ice Cuvee Rosé](#) (\$35.20 - #0113035)

Canada – White ...

(Ontario)

[Thirty Bench 2009 Riesling](#) (\$18.70 - #0024133)

Chile – Red ...

Casa Silva 2008 Los Lingues Gran Reserva Carmenere (\$17.95 - #0059477) – big on mint, black fruit and raspberry liqueur. (****)

Santa Ema Amplus Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 (\$19.95 - #0076307) – the nose smells juicy with sweet red fruit but does not lead to juiciness on the palate where it's dry dark fruit, this interesting dichotomy ends with a nice black fruit finish. (****)

France – Red ...

(Bordeaux)

Chateau Rigaud 2008 (\$18.95 - #0198366) – lots of darkness in fruit and colour, graphite, blackberry, cassis, cinnamon, spice with coffee finish and plenty of tannin grip. (****)

(Burgundy)

Vincent Lacombe Pommard 2009 (\$36.95 - #0185637) – cherry and plum kicks it off leading to dark fruit and tannins in the mouth; this Pinot has real stuffing with spices and herbs on the finish, leaves the tongue a little dusty. (****)

(Midi)

Hecht & Bannier Minervois 2007 (\$18.95 - #0017764) – nice dark fruit: cassis, black cherry jam with just enough spice to make the mix very delish. (**** ½)

(Rhône)

Le Vieux Donjon 2008 Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$52.95 - #0700922) – sweet smoke and red licorice on the nose, spice, licorice and blackberry on the palate. (****)

France – Sparkling ...

(Burgundy)

Charles Duret Brut Cremant de Bourgogne (\$17.95 – 0185694) – great acidity with bread, biscuit and hazelnut; simple yet sexy. (****)

(Champagne)

Heidsieck & Co. Monopole Blue Top Brut Champagne (\$49.95 - #0068288) – toasty and nutty with an alluring nose and nice palate, creamy smooth and delicious. (**** ½)

France – White ...

(Alsace)

Anne Boecklin 2008 Reserve Gewurztraminer (\$17.95 - #0141226) – now here's the real deal. Pretty nose with an even better palate: touch of floral, a little bit of thrills gum soapiness with a dash of spice; delicate and delicious while being impressively priced. (**** ½)

(Burgundy)

Jean-Pierre Teissedre 2009 Pouilly Fuisse (\$22.95 - #0183483) – delicate and fresh, fruity and flavourful, definitely one you'll enjoy. (****)

Italy – Red ...

(Tuscany)

Rocca Delle Macie Chianti Riserva 2006 (\$15.00 - #0111641) – good value for this wine that's a little rough around the edges, but the herbs, spice and dried fruit make it very delicious. (****½)

Tenuta Sette Ponti Oreno 2007 (\$69.95 - #0735597) – a real beauty, big, luscious and delicious. (**** ½)

(Veneto)

Tenuta Sant'Antonio Selezione Antonio Castagnedi Amarone Della Valpolicella 2006 (\$41.95 - #0685107) – this one is lovely, simply lovely. (****)

Italy – Sparkling Wine ...

(Veneto)

Santa Margherita Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore (\$17.95 - #0687582) – light and fruity, good fizz with lemon and apple notes; an easy sipper. (****)

New Zealand – Red ...

Kim Crawford Small Parcel Rise and Shine Creek Pinot Noir 2007 (\$29.95 - #0035337) – lots of dark fruit with hints of earth and smoked cranberry. (****)

New Zealand – White ...

Wither Hills Wairau Valley 2009 Sauvignon Blanc (\$18.95 - #0919514) – typical fruit driven number with lots of grass, gooseberry and grapefruit all with good acidity; very appealing. (****)

Spain – Red ...

Acustic Celler Acustic 2008 (\$18.95 - #0190728) – nice fruit, sweet blackberry, cassis, hints of red licorice; layers of fruit, spice and chocolate. (**** ½)

Juan Gil 2009 White Label de Cepas Viejas Monastrell (\$14.95 - #0013656) – cherries and spice and everything nice, that's what this Juan Gil is made of; good value too. (**** ½)

Solar de Libano 2006 Crianza (\$14.95 - #0190579) – red raspberry and licorice with good wood notes, touch of dried cran-cherry, lots of life in this bottle. (****)

Vina Vilano Crianza 2006 (\$14.95 - #0190777) – sweet fruit of both red and black, pepper, spice, a little woody with some mineral notes on the finish. (****)

Spain – Sparkling ...

Segura Viudas Brut Reserve Heredad Cava (\$29.95 - #0558825) – slightly sweet sparkle with mac apple, this is a good fizz for easy quaffing and a fair bit of partying. (****)

United States – Red ...

(California)

Cliff Lede 2006 Poetry Cabernet Sauvignon (\$126.95 - #0014209) – the smell is supple, silky and sexy, so is the taste; pricey but tasty. (****)

Ridge 2008 Geyserville (\$43.95 - #0723072) – inky colour, flavours are smoky, chocolate, mocha mixed in with some black raspberry. (****)

(Oregon)

Domaine Serene Yamhill Cuvee Pinot Noir 2007 (\$46.95 - #0186858) – it's a cross between the earthiness of France and the fruitiness of California, a nice bridge showing what has made Oregon famous. (****)

United States – Sparkling ...

(California)

Gloria Ferrer Sonoma Brut Sparkling Wine (\$23.95 - #0192898) – Gloria makes some nice bubbles with light aromatics that are fizzy and friendly, this is no different. (****)

United States – White ...

Fog Crest 2006 Chardonnay (\$47.95 - #0211292) – holy cow, what a lovely nose of baked caramel apple pie, the palate is succulent with almond/hazelnut toffee and I liked the apparent sweetness though it finished dry; and that finish was cheek-sucklingly good. (****½)

Gainey Vineyard 2008 Chardonnay (\$24.95 - #0205484) – nice vanilla and fruit with a touch of caramel, nut and it all culminates on a beautiful finish that makes it very appealing. (****)

McManis Family Vineyards 2009 Viognier (\$19.95 - #0658112) – big exotic fruit nose and the palate follows; decent amount of acidity on the finish, all finished with the flavour of pineapple core which seems to hang around forever. (**** ½)

Grape Guy Holiday Top 5 ... I'll be lining up for on December 11, 2010:

Dutschke Old Codger Tawny (\$19.95 - #0199786) – Australia

McManis Family Vineyards 2009 Viognier (\$19.95 - #0658112) – USA

Hecht & Bannier Minervois 2007 (\$18.95 - #0017764) – France

Rocca Delle Macie Chianti Riserva 2006 (\$15.00 - #0111641) - Italy

Celler Acustic Acustic 2008 (\$18.95 - #0190728) - Spain

Happy Shopping.

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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.

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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