

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday February 2, 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.

Foci ... Valentines (**VAL**), Sparkling (**SPK**) and Signature (**SIG**) wines

The Skinny ... Not sure what constitutes the focus wines, except of course the sparklings; Monroe fans should be happy this release.

Argentina ...

Familia Zuccardi 2011 Organica Torrontes (\$13.95 - #232694) - gentle, not as in your face as some Torrontes, a cross between Sauvignon Blanc and Gewurztraminer. (** 1/2) - **SIG**

Australia ...

Best's Great Western Bin No. 1 Shiraz 2010 (\$24.95 - #222323) - cocoa and spice with hints of coffee. (****)

Duck Shoot 2010 Pinot Noir (\$17.95 - #311373) - pleasant fruit from start to middle with a nice earthy finish. (** 1/2+)

Yalumba 2010 The Strapper GSM (\$19.95 - #295873) - good flavours are what make this one: spiced chocolate and black cherry. (****)

Canada (Ontario) ...

Featherstone 2011 Black Sheep Riesling (\$16.95 - #080234) - **** (**SIG**)

Featherstone 2008 Joy Premium Cuvee Sparkling (\$34.95 - #310334) - **** 1/2 (**VAL**)

Megalomaniac 2008 ColdHearted Riesling Icewine (\$29.95 / 200ml - #243519) - *** 1/2

Peller Estates Ice Cuvee Rosee (\$34.95 - #113035) - *** 1/2 (**SPK**)

Rosewood Estates 2009 Natural Fermentation Reserve Pinot Noir (\$39.95 - #318345) - ****+

Sandbanks 2011 Love Cassis Aperitivo (\$14.95 / 375ml - #318394) - *** 1/2 (**VAL**)

Stratus 2011 Red Icewine (\$39.95 / 200ml - #056689) - *** 1/2 (**VAL**)

Tawse 2010 Sketches Of Niagara Riesling (\$17.95 - #089029) - ****+

Chile ...

Santa Alicia 2009 Gran Reserva de Los Andes Carmenere (\$19.95 - #093831) - nicely spiced and well-spiced. (****) - **SIG**

Vina Tarapaca 2010 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (\$16.95 - #018721) - minty dark fruit with a hint of smokiness. (** 1/2) - **SIG**

France (Alsace) ...

Bestheim 2011 Reserve Pinot Gris (\$15.95 - #315143) - floral, orange, pear, with a touch of wildflower honey. (** 1/2+)

France (Beaujolais) ...

Les Terres Bleues 2011 Cote de Brouilly (\$16.95 - #590521) - spiced black cherry with Pom juice notes. (** 1/2)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau Pey de Pont 2009 (\$15.95 - #307918) - nice cherry with hints of cranberry, toasted oak and woody notes. (** 1/2)

France (Burgundy) ...

Domaine Chene Macon-Milly Lamartine 2011 (\$17.95 - #302711) - fresh Chardonnay with good

exotic fruit and pleasant pineapple notes. (**1/2+)

Eric Forest 2009 L'Ame Forest Pouilly-Fuisse (\$27.95 - #301911) - pretty, well-balanced, floral, spice and white fruit nuances. (** 1/2+)

France (Loire) ...

Chateau de Fontaine-Audon 2011 (\$27.95 - #745893) - flint, struck match, grassy and citrus. (** 1/2) - **VAL**

France (Midi) ...

Hecht & Bannier 2010 Cotes du Roussillon Villages (\$23.95 - #142802) - robust fruit, spiced-cocoa and nice ageability. (****)

France (Rhône) ...

Domaine Grand Veneur 2010 Les Champavins Cotes du Rhône (\$18.95 - #076331) - sexy, supple plum and cherry, chocolate, new leather in the background along with great spice at a great price. (**** 1/2)

Monge Granon Clairette de die Tradition (\$17.95 - #305474) - think of Moscato but with more bubbles. (** 1/2) - **SPK**

Germany ...

Loosen Bros. Dr. L. Sparkling Riesling (\$13.95 - #296095) - it's a Dr. L Riesling with bubbles, definitely sweet, nice acidity and very fresh. (** 1/2+) - **SPK**

Studert-Prum Wehlene Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett (\$16.95 - #970129) - interesting hit of spice amongst the orange, mineral/talc notes. (****)

Italy (Abruzzo) ...

Kellerei St. Magdalena Pinot Grigio 2011 (\$14.95 - #249466) - fresh and refreshing. (** 1/2)

Italy (Piedmont) ...

Pelassa Bracco Enrichetta Langhe 2011 (\$16.95 - #305508) - nose of lilac, leather, spice and mocha; hints of spiced cherry, raspberry, dark berries and good balancing acidity on the palate. (****+)

Italy (Puglia) ...

Poderi Angelini 2008 Primitivo di Manduria (\$17.95 - #268136) - plum, cherry, mocha, vanilla, dark berries with a sweet undercurrent. (****)

Sampietrana 1952 Riserva Brindisi 2008 (\$15.95 - #310086) - sweet blackberry, cassis, plum with some odd cooking spice along with sweet cherry; interesting. (** 1/2+)

Italy (Sicily) ...

Spadina Una Rosa Signature Nero D'Avola 2009 (\$18.95 - #010330) - easy drinking yet meaty in the places that matter. (** 1/2+)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Carpineto 2006 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano (\$29.95 - #368910) - spice, pepper, blackberry, cassis, leather and tobacco. (****)

Rocca delle Macie 2008 Chianti Classico Riserva (\$21.95 - #930966) - nice plum and spice, pepper and mocha right to the finish. (****)

Italy (Veneto) ...

Foss Marai Extra Dry Prosecco (\$19.95 - #729392) - citrusy with hints of sweetness. (** 1/2) - **SPK**

New Zealand ...

Dashwood 2010 Pinot Noir (\$21.95 - #296202) - earthy, spicy, peppery, dark cherry, cassis and plum. (** 1/2+) - **SIG**

Portugal ...

Cockburn's Special Reserve Port (\$17.95 - #063180) - smooth with cherry and dark cocoa (** 1/2+)

Quinta da Ponte 2008 Pedrinha (\$14.95 - #219188) - great cherry notes, raspberry, and plum, this one is quite fruit driven with a great fruit core. Smooth and sexy. (****)

South Africa ...

Cirrus 2007 Syrah (\$33.95 - #054338) - slight South Africa stink on the palate though mostly drinkable with good plum, violet and dark fruit notes. (** 1/2) - **SIG**

Spain ...

Juan Gil 2010 Red (\$21.95 - #001677) - this is a real beauty by one of my favourite producer of Spain; sexy, smooth, blackberry jam, mmm mmm. (****+)

Muga Conde de Haro Brut Cava (\$19.95 - #168559) - a serious outing from Spain, good bubble, dry, citrus notes and apple core. (** 1/2+) - **SPK**

United States (California) ...

Marilyn 25 Silver Anniversary Merlot 2009 (\$39.95 - #306738) - often wondered about the seriousness of this wine: mocha, cinnamon dominated. (** 1/2) - **VAL**

Marimar Estate 2007 La Masia Pinot Noir (\$34.95 - #303974) - has a nice cherry, tobacco and peppered note. (****)

Sebastiani 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #640573) - nice and juicy. (** 1/2+)

Simi 2010 Chardonnay (\$20.95 - #673806) - lime and pear, vanilla and spice; very pleasant with a nice linger on the palate. (****)

Treana 2009 Red (\$39.95 - #011221) - smooth dark fruited, chocolate, blackberry and spice. (****)

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

Chappellet 2009 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (\$68.95 - #704254) - ****

Dominus 2009 (\$151.95 - #212381) - ****+

Dutton Estate 2010 Dutton Palm Vineyard Chardonnay (\$53.95 - #234856) - ****+

What I'll be Lining Up For - February 2, 2013 ...

Domaine Grand Veneur 2010 Les Champavins Cotes du Rhone (\$18.95 - #076331) - France

Juan Gil 2010 Red (\$21.95 - #001677) - Spain

Pelassa Bricco Enrichetta Langhe 2011 (\$16.95 - #305508) - Italy

Happy Shopping

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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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