

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday January 8, 2011

*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*

Today's release is all about "Smart Buys", wines that offer good value for under \$20 ... the wines that are spotlighted are marked with as 'SB':

Argentina – Red ...

Altocedro La Consulta Reserva Malbec 2007 (\$23.95 - #0187880) – powerful and delicious: black fruit, licorice, cassis, raspberry, black cherry and chocolate ... sweet and juicy. (**** ½)

La Posta Pizzella Family Vineyard 2008 Malbec (\$15.00 - #0166298) – now this is really lovely, full of fruit and lots of enjoyment; a real winner. (**** ½) – (SB)

Australia – Red ...

Majella 2008 The Musician Cabernet/Shiraz (\$19.95 - #0142018) – lovely chocolate notes in the mouth with really nice black cherry; juicy palate with just a bit of tannins. (****)

Thorn-Clarke 2008 Terra Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon (\$14.95 - #0203158) – as a liker of Thorn-Clarke wines I try not to be bias when I taste them, this one is juicy and flavourful, cherry jam nose followed by a wonderful red berry palate, the price is respectable and worthy of a multiple purchase. (**** ½)

Torbreck 2008 Woodcutter's Shiraz (\$27.95 - #0927533) – when this wine first hit the market it was under twenty-bucks, and it's been creeping up ever since: blueberry, blackberry, pepper and chocolate ... still very good. (****)

Canada – Red ...

(Ontario)

[*Chateau des Charmes 2007 Old Vines Estate Bottled Pinot Noir*](#) (\$18.95 - #0256834)

[*Henry of Pelham 2007 Merlot*](#) (\$17.95 - #0091165)

Canada – White ...

(Ontario)

[*Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate 2009 Silver Series Sauvignon Blanc*](#) (\$17.95 - #0209577) – (SB)

[*Thirteenth Street 2009 White Palette*](#) (\$14.95 - #0207340) – (SB)

Chile – Red ...

Montes Limited Selection Cabernet Sauvignon/Carmenere 2008 (\$14.95 - #0016071) – I have bought a bottle of this every year since the 2004 vintage ... and I'll do it again: mint, black fruit and raspberry, can be aged 5 years easy. (****) – (SB)

France – Red ...

(Bordeaux)

Chateau La Fleur Terrien 2008 (\$15.00 - #0199059) – smooth easy drinking Bordeaux red, with lots of pepper within. (****) – (SB)

(Beaujolais)

Domaine Andre Cologne & Fils 2009 Beaujolais-Villages (\$13.95 - #0187591) – strawberry and cherry take up residence on the nose, there's a little bit of grip on the palate, just give it a year to mellow out and drink to your heart's content, nice acidity on the finish. (****)

France – White ...

(Alsace)

Jean Geiler 2009 Chasselas (\$12.95 - #0141150) – this is not a grape you see very often so here is a cheap and cheerful way to give it a try, there's a sweetness of fruit here that is worth checking out. (** ½)

(Burgundy)

Roux Pere & Fils 2009 Les Murelles Chardonnay Bourgogne (\$14.95 - #0156455) – fruit, finesse and nice mineral notes; crisp, clean and delicious. Nice intensity for the price point. (** ½+)

(Loire)

Domaine Bellevue 2009 Sauvignon Blanc Touraine (\$12.95 - #0082305) – this is the anti-New Zealand Savvy-B, peach and pear with a hint of lime cordial. (****)

Germany – White ...

Reichsgraf Von Kesselstatt 2007 Riesling Kabinett (\$19.95 - #0189654) – intense minerality here along with apple, peach, pear and citrus notes, good acidity on the palate prickles at the tongue ... balanced with some nice sweetness. (**** ½)

Geil 2009 Riesling Kabinett (\$15.95 - #0994764) – minerally yet with good sweetness, there is also some floral and pear notes; good value. (****)

Italy – Red ...

(Puglia)

Cantele 2007 Riserva Salice Salentino (\$13.95 - #0724328) – lots of fruit on the nose, the palate delivers lots of fruit, strawberry dominates with a hint of cassis; very tasty. (****)

(Sicily)

Baglio di Pianetto Y Nero D'Avola (\$14.95 - #0207423) – black raspberry and strawberry take the nose for a ride, while lovely strawberry fruit finds its way to the palate, ends with a linger-long-time finish. (**** ½)

(Tuscany)

Compagnia di Volpaia Citto 2008 (\$14.95 - #0134817) – nice raspberry with a touch of cherry on the nose, black cherry toasted with cinnamon on the palate, quite enjoyable. (** ½+)

Piccini Villa Al Cortile Riserva Brunello di Montalcino 2004 (\$42.95 - #0205724) – nice black fruit, licorice root and a touch of earth and some dried fruit sweetness. (****)

New Zealand – White ...

Sileni Cellar Selection 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (\$15.95 - #0662882) – this one hits all the sweets spots of a Kiwi Sauvignon Blanc without going overboard or breaking the bank. (**** ½)

Portugal – Dessert ...

Portal Fine Ruby Port (\$15.95 - #0087254) – for a simple ruby this has some punch, lots of cherry and chocolate with a spiced kick. (****) – (SB)

Portugal – White ...

Passaros 2009 Vinho Verde (\$12.95 - #0190546) – tropical, citrus and mineral all come through in this tasty crisp white. (****)

South Africa – Red ...

Flagstone 2007 The Music Room Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #0205245) – plenty of spice with a touch of earth and dark berries; sit for a couple of years to let that earthiness mellow and then this one should be music to your palate. (****)

Guardian Peak 2008 Shiraz (\$11.95 - #0652602) – smooth, clean and easy drinking, this wine will take away those winter blues with its tasty playfulness. (** ½)

Spain – Red ...

Bodegas Palacio Glorioso Crianza 2006 (\$15.95 - #0340844) – toasted raspberry coffee bean nose leads to a very fruit driven palate. (****) – (SB)

United States – Red ...

(California)

A By Acacia 2009 Pinot Noir (\$17.95 - #0118927) – black cherry, cranberry and dirty strawberries take charge of this wine, full of tannins on the palate, but not so many as to make them intrusive. (****)

Folie a Deux 2009 Menage a Trois Red (\$17.95 - #0665158) – I still like this sweet fruited, juicy and friendly blend of Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, though I think it overpriced here in Ontario. (**+ 1/2)

Sumptuary 2007 Zinfandel (\$15.95 - #0203869) – a decent Zin that hits all the high notes of spice, plum, vanilla with a touch of chocolate covered cherries; ready to drink now. (****)

United States – White ...

(California)

Cline 2008 Viognier (\$14.95 - #0128421) – peaches and clove on the nose, tasty on the tongue with topical fruit, great value. (****+)

(Oregon)

King Estate Signature Collection 2009 Pinot Gris (\$17.95 - #0983627) – flavourful and fun, nice to see something other than Pinot Noir from Oregon, this wine shows that they make good Gris too. (****)

Grape Guy Top 3 ... what I'll be lining up for on January 8, 2011:

Cline 2008 Viognier (\$14.95 - #0128421) – United States

La Posta Pizzella Family Vineyard 2008 Malbec (\$15.00 - #0166298) - Argentina

Thorn-Clarke 2008 Terra Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon (\$14.95 - #0203158) - Australia

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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