

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday July 24, 2010

I am now 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

I'm always looking for good value and I'm not afraid to give or take away a half mark for it – I'll let you know when I've done so.

Two countries take the spotlight: the Aussies (Whites) and the French (Southern France) let's take a taste ...

Australian Whites ...

Unfortunately, I did not find much to write about in this section. It's not that there wasn't anything good, just not much that really made me stand up and take notice, but I did find one good value, this *Jip Jip Rocks 2009 Unoaked Chardonnay* (\$15.95 - #0175752), refreshing and clean with apple, pear and a hint of citrus at a decent price. (****)

Southern France ...

We'll start the French section off with some bubbles. This *Domaine J. Laurens le Moulin Brut Blanquette de Limoux* (\$16.95 - 0108323) is a smooth creamy sparkle with lemon and apple notes, quite tasty (****). These whites from the South are quite nice: *Chateau Dona Baissas Muscat de Rivesaltes 2008* (\$18.95 - #0175273) is a spiced Muscat with sweet ginger ale, along with hints of orange peel and peach through the mid-palate (****). *Saint-Roch 2009 Grenache Blanc/Marsanne* (\$13.95 - #0175232) nice light white fruit with a delicacy on the palate, refreshing and tasty (****). Moving onto the reds there's the *Chateau de Pena 2006* (\$13.95 - #0178392), a touch resinous, but there is black licorice, lots of tannins and some sweet juicy black currants to back it up (****). *Chateau de Serame 2007 Reserve du Chateau Corbieres* (\$15.95 - #0175216), nice fruit, easy drinking with blackberry and black cherry (****). Last red, the *Mas de la Deveze 66 2007* (\$17.95 - #0065797) nice flavour, long finish – blackberry, chocolate with good mouthfeel (****½). Finally, let's look at a rosé, *Bieler Pere & Fils Sabine Rosé 2009* (\$12.95 - #0071423) with its raspberry taste, hints of rhubarb, cherry and nice finishing acidity (****).

Australia – Red ...

Claymore Walk on the Wild Side 2007 Shiraz/Viognier (\$19.95 - #0166983) – this has a lovely violet and bacon with black currant and sweet pepper. (****)

Elderton 2009 Friends Shiraz (\$17.95 - #0660480) – this wine has a lot of drink-now-ability with plum, vanilla and blackberry; look for the lovely red cherry finish. One to consume with, you guessed it, friends. (****)

St. Hallett 2008 Gamekeeper's Shiraz (\$14.95 - #0166991) – this wine is not only tasty with its berry fruit and cocoa/chocolate on the palate, and it's easy sippability for those night around the bbq on the patio, but it's also great value at this price you should pick up a half dozen or so. (****½)

Thorn-Clarke 2007 Shotfire Quartage (\$19.95 - #0024091) – this is always a favourite of mine. Is it the fruit, the cedar, the vanilla or the touch of spice? Heck it's all of the above. A good drinking, or short term cellaring, wine. (****½)

Canada – Red ...

(British Columbia)

Tinhorn Creek 2007 Cabernet Franc (\$19.95 - #0530717) – cherry notes with some tobacco, good

flavour and decent length to the finish. (****)

Canada – White ...

(Ontario)

[Chateau des Charmes 2007 St. David's Bench Vineyard Chardonnay](#) (\$19.95 - #0430991)

[Flat Rock Cellars 2007 Chardonnay](#) (\$19.95 - #0681247)

France – Red ...

(Rhône)

Chateau de Beaucastel 2007 Coudoulet de Beaucastel (\$29.95 - #0048884) – sweet black cherry fruit, a touch smoky, juicy with a currant finish. (****)

Perrin & Fils 2007 Les Cornuds Vinsobres (\$17.95 - #0566844) – red fruit dominated with licorice, white pepper and some smoked bacon. (****)

France – White ...

(Alsace)

Cave de Turckheim 2007 Pinot Gris (\$16.95 - #0034975) – nice palate with a certain thickness in the mouth, notes of apple sauce on the palate with a creaminess, there's some real presence to this wine. (****)

(Loire)

Domaine de la Colline 2008 Sauvignon Touraine (\$11.95 - #0169656) – stony, flinty and grapefruity. (****)

Greece – Dessert ...

Cambas Mavrodaphne of Patras (\$10.95 - #0178004) – a nice sweetie with a spicy kick, check out that price, worth a multiple purchase. (****½)

Greece – Red ...

Lykos Kratistos 2005 (\$16.95 - #0061473) – a pretty explosion of blackberry, plum and cocoa in the mouth along with a little seasoning of herbs and spice. (****)

Spain – Red ...

Celler Pinol Ludovicus 2008 (\$13.95 - #0067033) – black fruit, sweet red cherries and vanilla; really good value here. (****½)

Spain – Rosé ...

Senorio de Sarria Rosado 2009 (\$11.95 - #0168260) – there's a little sweetness to this pink with red cherries, raspberries and strawberries; this is an easy drinking patio sipper that would be great with light summertime fare. (****)

United States – Red ...

(California)

Lockwood Vineyard 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$15.95 - #0683110) – fruit forward red the delivers good value, drink up. (****)

Tres Sabores 2007 Porque No? (\$29.95 - #0186551) – lots of Zinfandel notes like plum, black cherry and vanilla, big fruit, big alcohol, big taste, yum. (****)

(Washington)

Hogue 2006 Genesis Merlot (\$19.95 - #0349415) – blackberry, white pepper with a hint of dark chocolate; lovely, smooth and enjoyable. (****)

United States – White ...

Clay Station 2008 Unoaked Viognier (\$16.95 - #0025411) – lovely fruit here, pineapple-citrus notes, nice acidity, all at a good price. (****½)

Grape Guy Top 3 ... what I'll be lining up for on July 24, 2010:

St. Hallett 2008 Gamekeeper's Shiraz (\$14.95 - #0166991) – Australia

Thorn-Clarke 2007 Shotfire Quartage (\$19.95 - #0024091) – Australia
Cambas Mavrodaphne of Patras (\$10.95 - #0178004) – Greece

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.

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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