

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday March 19, 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*

We got another two things to focus on in this release: Wines from the Iberian Peninsula, Spain and Portugal (IB) and some Californian Icon wines (CALI) ... The wines that are part of the spotlight are labeled as such:

Argentina – Red ...

Colome Estate 2008 Malbec (\$34.95 - #0194308) – dark fruit and chocolate with black cherry; this is one tasty sucker. (**¹/₂+))

Weinert 2005 Malbec (\$15.95 - #0556795) – juicy red fruit nose with a dark fruited palate, decent amount of acidity, drink over the next 2-3 years. (**¹/₂))

Australia – Red ...

Giant Steps 2008 Harry's Monster (\$39.95 - #0221846) – lots of big black flavour, dark fruit and spice, real tasty and real boozy. (****+))

Penfolds 2007 Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz (\$34.95 - #0422782) – pure blackberry deliciousness with a touch of black licorice on the finish. (****))

The Watcher 2008 (\$19.95 - #0219196) – big nose with plum and black cherry, nice palate with 14.5% alcohol, big fruit bomb, ready to drink flavours. (****))

Canada – Red ...

(Ontario)

[Calamus 2007 Reserve Red](#) (\$19.95 - #0223990)

[Inniskillin 2007 Winemaker's Series Montague Vineyard Pinot Noir](#) (\$24.95 - #0997353)

Chile – Red ...

Altair 2005 Sideral (\$24.95 - #0660837) – minty, blackberry and spice, good flavour profile. (**¹/₂))

France – Red ...

(Bordeaux)

Chateau Castaing 2008 (\$17.95 - #0206631) – nice solid black fruit core here with spice and vanilla notes to back it up. (****))

(Rhône)

Cave de Monterail 2009 Seguret (\$13.95 - #0195065) – quite the value in a ready to drink Cote du Rhône red, lots of raspberry, plum and chocolate notes; a steal for the upcoming BBQ season. (****+))

La Crau de Ma Mere 2007 Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$46.95 - #0941740) – lots of fruit here, raspberry, strawberry and licorice, nice dry tannins with ageing potential to spare (****))

France – Sparkling ...

Domaine Roger Luquet Blanc de Blancs Brut Cremant de Bourgogne (\$19.95 - #0957894) – crisp, moussy with green apple tartness. (****+))

France – White ...

(Loire)

Caves de la Tourangelle 2009 Grande Reserve Touraine (\$14.95 - #0196733) – nice little Sauvignon Blanc here, while the nose is a bit subdued the palate sings. (****)

Germany – White ...

Studert-Prum 2009 Riesling Kabinett (\$18.95 - #0970129) – subtle bit of mineral and apple on the nose, delicious apple, mineral and talc burst on the palate; nice finish. (****)

Lingenfelder 2009 Bird Label Riesling (\$13.95 - #0568634) – simplicity is best here and the bird delivers with talc, peach and hints of pear puree. (** ½+)

Italy – Red ...

(Abruzzo)

Tre Saggi 2006 Montepulciano D'Abruzzo (\$15.95 - #0204016) – chocolate and dark fruit on the nose leads to chocolate and dark fruit on the palate. Ends with licorice, spice and cocoa (**** ½)

(Piedmont)

Brezza 2006 Barolo (\$37.95 - #0711788) – spicy dried fruit with lovely seam of dried cherry and acidity on the finish. (****+)

Gaja 2008 Sito Moresco (\$53.95 - #0976043) – meaty red with dark fruit, big wood and dryingly big tannins; with time should turn into something even more delicious. (****)

(Puglia)

Vinosia 2008 Primitivo (\$14.95 - #0203950) – the nose is lackluster but the palate is lively with plum, cherry and chocolate, there's also a vanilla backing ... one of the better Prims I have tasted in quite some time it doesn't hide the jammy sweet quality of this variety or its relation to California Zin. (****+)

(Tuscany)

Spiaggiole Morellino di Scansano (\$15.95 - #0203398) – pretty simple sipper with heaps of fruit. (***+)

Tenuta di Capraia 2007 Chianti Classico (\$18.95 - #0135277) – flowery, plum, chocolate and cedar all hit the mouth, in that order. (****)

(Veneto)

Pasqua 2008 Black Label Ripasso Valpolicella Superiore (\$18.95 - #0203968) – licorice and wood spice, chocolate, spiced cherry with a long persistent finish. (** ½)

New Zealand – White ...

Auntsfield 2009 Long Cow Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #0663286) – big nose with a more subtle palate, there's herbs amongst the grapefruit/citrus, very nice. (****+)

Lone Kauri 2009 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (\$14.95 - #0138974) – very tropical, good gooseberry and grassy nose with a grassy palate and a nice finish. (** ½)

Portugal – Dessert ...

Quinta da Romaneira 2004 Unfiltered Late Bottled Vintage Port (\$19.95 - #0196758) – lovely nose of plum, cherry and chocolate; big bite of acidity with dark plum, chocolate, black cherry, clean quick finish keeps it from getting a higher mark, I want my port to linger a little longer. (****+) – (IB)

Portugal- Red ...

Cistus 2007 Reserva (\$18.95 - #0145052) – minty nose with red cherry and plum; nice and smooth. (** ½) – (IB)

Herdade Penedo Gordo Vinho Tinto (\$13.95 - #0218339) – plum, chocolate and red cherry. (** ½) – (IB)

Quinta Nova Pomares 2008 (\$16.95 - #0214007) – pretty floral nose, decent palate that shows mostly cherry fruit. (****) – (IB)

Portugal – White ...

Adega Vila Real 2009 Reserva Branco (\$14.95 - #0218289) – nice nose, palate is soft with vanilla cream and mac apple; good acidity with longevity on the finish. (** ½) – (IB)

Varanda Do Conde 2009 Alvarinho/Trajadura Vinho Verde (\$13.95 - #0966663) – grapefruit and lots of it, hint of lime, good finish. (** ½) – (IB)

Spain – Red ...

El Cotto Crianza (\$14.95 - #0190504) – delicate nose and flavour profile, light yet easy drinking, oaky and spicy finish with mocha, vanilla and dried cherry through the palate. (****+) – **(IB)**

Eternum Viti 2008 (\$18.95 - #0210963) – plum, mint, cherry, sweet coffee/mocha notes on the mid-palate; good acid balance on the finish. (****) – **(IB)**

Finca Sobreno Crianza 2007 (\$17.95 - #0040360) – lots of dark fruit and tannins backed by mocha and violets. (** ½+) – **(IB)**

Spain – White ...

Leira 2009 Albarino (\$16.95 - #0115816) – a little pear, a little citrus, nice taste. (** ½) – **(IB)**

United States – Red ...

(California)

Beringer 2005 Bancroft Ranch Single Vineyard Merlot (\$69.95 - #0340497) – cassis, chocolate nose lovely and tasty, smooth and supple. (****+) – **(CALI)**

Caymus 2008 Special Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (\$119.95 - #0711663) – lots of chocolate, blackberry and blueberry notes, big 15.4% alcohol, really delicious. (**** ½) – **(CALI)**

Jonata 2005 El Corazon de Jonata (\$59.95 - #0218917) – sexy, supple and delicious. (****+)

Jonata 2006 Todos (\$59.95 - #0218941) – lovely fruit, another version of supple and delicious from this winery, good tannins, very nice. (**** ½)

Pahlmeyer 2006 Proprietary Red (\$119.95 - #0967992) – lots of yummy dark fruit, high alcohol (15.2%) but very tasty. (**** ½) – **(CALI)**

Santa Barbara Wine Company 2009 Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - #0194332) – cherry fruit, a touch of smoke and earth, but the fruit really lifts this one, good finish. (** ½+)

United States – White ...

(California)

Kendall-Jackson 2008 Jackson Hills Chardonnay (\$34.95 - #0210146) – now there's something here, something exotic: fruit wrapped in almond and hazelnut topped with caramel, yup I think that's it, oh, plus the spice on the finish. (****+)

Grape Guy Top 3 ... what I'll be lining up for on March 19, 2011:

Vinosia 2008 Primitivo (\$14.95 - #0203950) – Italy

Tre Saggi 2006 Montepulciano D'Abruzzo (\$15.95 - #0204016) – Italy

Cave de Montrail 2009 Seguret (\$13.95 - #0195065) – France

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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