

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday May 10, 2014

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.

The Foci ... Germany (**GER**); Rosé (**ROS**) and South America (**SA**)

The Skinny ... It's rosé season and there are plenty coming out, but not all are worth your hard earned dollar, but look for some of the bubbly and the one's from France to impress.

Argentina ...

Achaval Ferrer 2012 Malbec (\$25.95 - #024737) – blackberry, smoky vanilla and tobacco. (**
½+) - **SA**

Hermanos de Domingo Molia 2012 Torrontes (\$16.95 - #303685) – if you've never tried this torrential grape from Argentina this would be a decent place to start: floral and pineapple with hints of lime meringue. (**
½+) – **SA**

Maipo 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$18.95 - #246116) – vanilla, cedar, cassis and blackberry with beauty spice on the finish. (****) – **SA**

Trapiche 2011 Broquel Bonarda (\$14.95 - #055558) – juicy blackberry palate and a red berry nose; playful in the mouth. (**
½+) – **SA**

Australia ...

Saltram 2011 Mamre Brook Cabernet Sauvignon (\$26.95 - #048579) – smoky vanilla and chocolate rule the roost here, fruit takes a backseat. (**
½+)

Canada (British Columbia) ...

Quails' Gate 2011 Merlot (\$25.95 - #169961) – a little mocha amongst the blueberry, raspberry and spice. (****)

Canada (Ontario) ... *click on wine name for full review*

[Burning Kiln 2011 Cureman's Chard Chardonnay](#) (\$19.95 - #310243) - **
½+

[Chateau des Charmes 2011 Brut Rosé](#) (\$28.95 - #078055) - **** (**ROS**)

[Featherstone 2012 Black Sheep Riesling](#) (\$16.95 - #080234) - **** ½

[Flat Rock Cellars 2013 Pinot Noir Rosé](#) (\$16.95 - #039974) - ****+ (**ROS**)

[Flat Rock Cellars 2011 The Rusty Shed Chardonnay](#) (\$24.95 - #001552) - **
½+

[Hinterbrook 2011 Barrel Fermented Reserve Chardonnay](#) (\$19.95 - #292375) - ****+

[Lailey Vineyard 2012 Select Late Harvest Vidal](#) (\$19.95 / 375ml - #072918) - ****

Chile ...

Chilcas 2011 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$17.95 - #369454) – genuine Pinot Noir with raspberry and spiced vanilla with a juicy layer of white pepper. (**
½+) – **SA**

Tabali 2009 Reserva Especial (\$22.95 - #107540) – nice peppery spice and juicy blackberry. (**
½+) - **SA**

France (Alsace) ...

Joseph Cattin Brut Rosé Cremant D'Alsace (\$17.95 - #264572) – touch of sweetness on the raspberry-lemon side of things. (**
½+)

France (Beaujolais) ...

Vignerons de Bel-Air Ete Indien Brouilly 2012 (\$17.95 - #159749) – very juicy with plenty of black cherry. (**
½+)

France (Burgundy) ...

Domaine Vincent Sauvestre 2012 Bourgogne Chardonnay (\$18.95 - #365056) – mineral, citrus with a little vanilla punch and long finish. (****)

Marchand-Tawse 2011 Pinot Noir Bourgogne (\$27.95 – #285601) – cedary and tart cherry with big acidity, mouthfilling tannins and good minerality all with a pleasant finish. (****)

France (Loire) ...

Gratien & Meyer Brut Cremant de Loire (\$18.95 - #369058) – crisp and refreshing with nice apple, lemon and bread crust and good acidity on the finish. (****+)

Jean-Max Roger 2012 Cuvée GC Sancerre (\$29.95 - #189126) – grassy and lemon with grapefruit rind on the finish. (** ½+)

France (Provence) ...

Chateau La Tour de L'Eveque 2013 Rosé (\$18.95 - #319392) – dry and delicate with the right amount of apricot and raspberry notes. (** ½+) - **ROS**

France (Rhône) ...

Delas Freres 2011 Les Launes Crozes-Hermitage (\$22.95 - #701359) – spicy with blackberry and black currant core, plum also sneaks its way in accompanied by a pleasant hit of spice. (** ½+)

Famille Perrin 2011 Les Sinards Chateauneuf du Pape (\$19.95 / 375ml - #005975) – raspberry, cherry, sweet black licorice, vanilla and spice; all well balanced and truly enjoyable. (****+)

Famille Perrin 2013 Tavel Rosé (\$19.95 - #680801) – deliciously fruity with nice raspberry and strawberry with nice acidity. (****) – **ROS**

Mas des Bressades 2013 Cuvée Tradition Rosé (\$15.95 - #950576) – apple core and strawberry with a nice rosy quality, great acidity on the finish. (** ½+)

France (Southwest) ...

Chateau Ferran 2012 Classique (\$16.95 - #370114) – blueberry core with black cherry backing, juicy, sweet middle with a dry tannin based finish. (****+)

Germany ...

Konigschaffhausen Vulkanfelsen Trocken Pinot Gris 2012 (\$15.95 - #597500) – bright, juicy and refreshing with touches of sweetness at its core balanced with acidity. (** ½+) – **GER**

C.H. Berres Urziger Wurzgarten Riesling Spatlese 2011 (\$27.95 - #301952) – nicely balanced sweetness to acidity ratio with apple, peach, and mineral. (****) – **GER**

Max Ferd. Richter Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett 2007 (\$20.95 - #998120) – good talcy-mineral sweetness with apple, peach, pear and a lovely length to the finish. (** ½+) – **GER**

Italy ...

Florio 2010 Vecchioflorio Dolce Marsala Superiore (\$14.95 - #371732) – caramel nut, butterscotch and vanilla; very flavourful. (****)

Italy (Marche) ...

Ripa Marchetti Capolino 2011 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico (\$16.95 - #369363) – quince, pear and apricot. (** ½+)

Italy (Piedmont) ...

Banfi 2009 Regali La Lus Albarossa (\$24.95 - #291575) – I loved the '08 and I'm a fan again with the '09. This is a sit and drink all day kinda wine with great black cherry, touch of spice and dark cocoa; smooth and lovely finish. (**** ½)

FontannaFredda 2008 Serralunga D'Alba Barolo (\$39.95 - #943290) – nicely spiced, good dried cherry and acidity on the finish. (****)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Cantalici Messer Ridolfo Chianti Classico Riserva 2009 (\$33.95 - #368431) – chocolate cherry and black licorice. (** ½+)

Rocca delle Macie 2009 Chianti Classico Riserva (\$21.95 - #930966) – spicy cherry and strawberry with a touch of that old style Chianti earthiness. (** ½+)

Ruffino 2009 Modus (\$28.95 - #912956) – robust dark fruit and spice, there's a tang and juiciness to this one; juicy meets savoury and rustic on the finish. (****)

Italy (Veneto) ...

Remo Farina 2011 Le Pezze Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (\$37.95 - #171587) – a fun Amarone with cherry, chocolate, vanilla, anise and mocha; well-balanced yet juicy. (** ½+)

New Zealand ...

Auntsfield 2011 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$32.95 - #361246) – black cherry meets cranberry

cocktail with touches of anise, black raspberry and currants. (****+)

Borthwick Vineyard 2012 Paddy Borthwick Sauvignon Blanc (\$20.95 - #361220) – there's something interesting that I can't quite put my finger on, but it's very appealing with gooseberry and punched up grapefruit. (** ½+)

The Ned 2013 Pinot Gris (\$16.95 - #267138) – jazzy and refreshing with light peach colour and a good grapefruit cocktail finish. (****)

Portugal ...

Quinta do Noval Black Port (\$24.95 - #235689) – spicy black cherry and black licorice along with plum and big acidity, but remember it is a port with sweetness. (****)

South Africa ...

Fairview 2011 Petite Sirah (\$23.95 - #366252) – has a fun little chocolate note with plenty of plum and spice. (** ½+)

Spain ...

Valdemar 2010 Inspiracion Seleccion (\$17.00 - #166512) – red and black berries mingle with vanilla, licorice and toasty oak. (** ½+)

United States (California) ...

Beaulieu Vineyard 2010 Beauvogue (\$24.95 - #363531) – Beaulieu's version of Apothic Red but with a few more grapes in the mix including Bonarda which help to make it juicy and enjoyably red fruited. (** ½+)

Chandon Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Wine (\$27.95 - #100693) – lively acidity and bread crust notes with slight almandine and lemon finish. (****)

Santa Barbara Winery 2012 Chardonnay (\$21.95 - #989152) – nice vanilla buttery notes with touches of tropical pineapple. (** ½+)

The Crusher 2012 Viognier (\$16.95 - #361964) – white fruit and floral with peach and pineapple puree on the finish. (** ½+)

United States (Oregon) ...

Kings Ridge 2012 Pinot Noir (\$20.95 - #237776) – dark cherry and cranberry with a touch of sweet and a touch of savoury, quite tasty. (****)

United States (Washington) ...

Hedges Cellars 2011 CMS (\$19.95 - #948992) – juicy and tasty with cherry, blueberry and cassis notes. (** ½+)

Milbrandt 2012 Traditions Riesling (\$21.95 - #366278) – pleasant talc and pear notes. (** ½+)

In-Store Discoveries – wines that just appear on the shelves of your local Vintages outlet ...

Coyote's Run 2010 Rare Vintage Meritage (\$39.95 - #042820) – Ontario (**** ½+)

Legacy 2009 (\$98.95 - #708024) – California (** ½+)

Stags' Leap Winery 2010 Ne Cede Malis Petite Sirah (\$89.95 - #589572) – California (****)

Torbreck 2009 The Steading (\$53.95 - #097220) – Australia (****+)

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

Cade 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$79.95 - #296509) – California (****+)

Masi Serego Alighieri 2006 Vaio Armarone Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (\$69.95 - #462812) – Italy (****+)

Montes 2011 Purple Angel (\$56.95 - #062364) – Chile (**** ½) - SA

Opus One 2010 (\$459.00 - #026310) – California (****)

Peju 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$64.95 - #147314) – California (****)

What I'll Be Lining Up For – May 10, 2014 ...

Banfi 2009 Regali La Lus Albarossa (\$24.95 - #291575) – Italy

Chateau Ferran 2012 Classique (\$16.95 - #370114) – France

Gratien & Meyer Brut Cremant de Loire (\$18.95 - #369058) – France

Kings Ridge 2012 Pinot Noir (\$20.95 - #237776) – United States

Maipo 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$18.95 - #246116) – Argentina

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.](#)



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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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