

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday November 27, 2010

*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*

Just like last release this one is about "finest" wines and ones you will buy without any help from me ... with 157 wines in this release I will stick with a world view of the release and basic info, or we're never gonna get through this one together:

Argentina – Red ...

Pascual Toso Alta 2007 Reserve Syrah (\$29.95 - #0191601) – on the nose the fruit is dark and rich, the flavour follows from there. (****)

Australia – Red ...

Marquis Philips 2008 Shiraz (\$19.95 - #0017475) – such a sweet nose due in part to the 16% alcohol, but the fruit plays a part too. Chocolate covered black cherry, smooth and supple a real crowd pleaser, hedonistic with a great chocolaty finish. (****½)

Peter Lehmann 2008 Layers (\$17.95 - #0138883) – raspberry, cherry, smooth, soft and easy; great for the party you'll hold or are going to. (****)

Shottesbrooke 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #0198275) – pretty minty nose with a rich dark fruit palate. (****)

Canada – Red ...

(Ontario)

[*Stratus 2007 Red*](#) (\$44.20 - #0131037)

[*Tawse 2007 Meritage*](#) (\$57.95 - #0111963)

Canada – White ...

(Ontario)

[*Organized Crime 2008 Riesling*](#) (\$21.20 - #0213173)

Chile – Red ...

Vina Casablanca 2008 El Bosque Carmenere (\$14.95 - #0199836) – black fruit driven with mint and a juiciness on the palate. (****)

France – Red ...

(Burgundy)

Jean-Claude Fromont Bourgogne 2009 (\$17.95 - #0199521) – pretty nose of floral and cherry, palate delivers sour cherry and a little earthiness; dry on the tongue with a medium finish. (****½)
(Rhône)

Domaine Galevan Paroles de Femme 2007 Cotes du Rhone (\$15.00 - #0125930) – good chocolate, cherry, raspberry, vanilla and a touch of spice; a little sour on the finish and quite dry. Good price. (****)

Domaine la Fourmone Tresor du Poete Vacqueyras (\$24.95 - #0194704) – red fruit, dried cherries, spice, licorice and pepper. (****)

France – Sparkling ...

(Midi)

Domaine J. Laurens Les Graiménous Crémant de Limoux 2007 (\$17.95 - #0183608) – quite apple-y, this is a fresh, fun and fruity guzzly bubbly. (****)

France – White ...

(Alsace)

Rene Mure 2007 Pinot Gris (\$17.95 - #0597757) – nice spice, a bit soapy with sweet honeyed peach. (****)

(Burgundy)

Domaine Alain Chavy 2008 Puligny-Montrachet Les Folatieres 1er Cru (\$64.95 - #0204628) – good fruit, hints of spice, nice use of wood, buttery with a backing of vanilla cream, very tasty, very good. (****)

Germany – White ...

Schloss Schonborn 2008 Riesling Kabinett (\$18.95 - #0070946) – lovely nose and taste, very Riesling-esque, fans will enjoy this beauty. (****)

Italy – Red ...

(Tuscany)

Caparzo 2004 Brunello di Montalcino (\$43.95 - #0579094) – this is a beauty of a Brunello. Spices, herbs, good fruit, some dried some fresh, and good tannins. (****½)

Casanova di Neri Sant'Antimo Rosso 2008 (\$23.95 - #0204578) – oh boy, does this have a big hit of chocolate both on the nose and taste; elegant and dry. (****)

Fuligni 2005 Brunello di Montalcino (\$53.95 - #0988808) – lots of stuffing here, big herbal note, touch of spice, a bit of earth and nice grippy tannins. (****½)

(Veneto)

Allegrini Palazzo Della Torre 2007 (\$25.00 - #0672931) – chocolate, coffee, dark fruit, licorice with an enticing palate that delivers good sweet fruit and nice heft. (****½)

Monte Zovo Palazzo Mafei Ripasso 2007 (\$13.95 - #0183426) – spice, chocolate and deep fruit flavours, smooth, supple and almost sweet from all the fruit ... great price for this wine, great value. (****)

Italy – Sparkling Wine ...

Ca'Dei Mandorli Brachetto D'Acqui le Donne Dei Boschi 2009 (\$17.95 - #0030536) – sweet strawberry and cherries with nice flavour that lingers long time. This is a dessert sparkler with 5.5% alcohol, so it is light as well. (****)

New Zealand – Red ...

Borthwick Vineyard 2008 Paper Road Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #0179770) – earthy and sour cherry lead the charge here with a good tannin backbone, in a few years it'll be even better. (****)

Portugal – Dessert ...

Quinta de Ventozelo Reserva Port (\$15.95 - #0141028) – lovely dark chocolate, black cherry and spice; this one has a lot of substance. (****½)

Portugal – Red ...

Quinta do Coa Tinto 2007 (\$19.95 - #0182295) – lots of lush plush fruit with nice cocoa notes. (****)

South Africa – Red ...

Robertson Winery 2007 Wolfkloof Shiraz (\$17.95 - #0626341) – nice smooth red berries, slightly tarrish with some blackberry notes backing. (****½)

South Africa – White ...

Delheim 2009 Sur Lie Chardonnay (\$18.95 - #0956219) – nice and fresh with a bit of weighty vanilla on the palate and apple sauce notes. (****½)

Spain – Red ...

Del Jalon Altos Las Pizarras 2005 (\$18.95 - #0194746) – smooth, ripe blackberry, black cherry with a good mouthfeel. (**½)

Sierra Cantabria Seleccion 2008 (\$13.95 - #0190520) – coffee and mocha take center stage here. (**½)

United States – Red ...

(California)

Beringer 2006 Merlot (\$29.95 - #0919647) – juicy and round, the kind of Merlot you know and love, ultimately sippable. (****)

Caymus 2007 Special Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (\$139.95 - #0711663) – really juicy blackberry with chocolate backing, really nice. (****)

Macrostie 2007 Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #0674911) – nice fruit with spiced cherry and some wooden raspberries; tasty and enjoyable. (**½)

United States – Sparkling ...

(California)

Mumm Brut Rosé (\$29.95 - #0205641) – lovely tongue teaser with red fruit notes, good acidity; fresh and fruity, something great for celebrating this season. (****½)

United States – White ...

Matchbook 2008 Old Head Chardonnay (\$17.95 - #0205492) – this is a one-night-stand Chardonnay: quick and easy. (**½)

Mer Soleil 2008 Chardonnay (\$39.95 - #0958975) – sweet pear and apple with a decent hint of spiced vanilla. (**½)

Grape Guy Top 3 ... what I'll be lining up for on November 27, 2010:

Quinta de Ventozelo Reserva Port (\$15.95 - #0141028) – Portugal

Marquis Philips 2008 Shiraz (\$19.95 - #0017475) – Australia

Allegri Palazzo Della Torre 2007 (\$25.00 - #0672931) – Italy

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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