

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday February 4, 2012

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

This release looks at California Cabs (**CABS**), Greek wines (**GREC**) and wines for Valentine's Day (**LOVE**) ... I have to be honest, I don't know what constitutes a valentine's day wine but that's what the board called them so we'll have to go with it. Plus there's a More for Less (**MOL**) offering on Ontario wines, previously released wines that the LCBO has put on sale, I'm sure the wineries are getting screwed somehow on this one. And there are a number of wines worth lining up for, so I expanded the What I'm Buying section. So let's see what's on the menu this release ...

Argentina ...

Decero Remolinos Vineyard 2008 Malbec (\$22.95 - #247304) - touch of minty with blackberry and plum. (****)

Don Nieto Senetiner Don Nicanor Malbec 2008 (\$17.95 - #178657) - if colour equaled price this would be double or triple what it is selling for: dark fruit, plum, blackberry, cassis, mocha and black cherry ... good spice and really flavourful with plenty of complexity. (**** 1/2)

La Posta 2008 Angel Paulucci Vineyard Malbec (\$15.95 - #75515) - raspberry and chocolate dominate, well integrated and easy to drink. (****+)

Vina Cobos 2010 Felino Merlot (\$19.95 - #248492) - black fruit, herbal quality, smooth and lush in the mouth with a blueberry-chocolate finish. (****+)

Australia ...

Epsilon 2009 Shiraz (\$24.95 - #39552) - big fruit, big flavour ... takes away the pepper but add lots of raspberry jam. (*** 1/2+)

Kilikanon 2007 Testament Shiraz (\$39.95 - #50047) - dark chocolate, plum, cherry and blackberry on the mid-palate with a licorice and cocoa finish. (****)

S D.O.V. Grenache 2008 (\$22.95 - #267963) - sweet, sweet fruit, very seductive with plum and cherry all the way through. (****)

Tapestry BG & V Shiraz 2009 (\$17.95 - #247155) - this is a real finesse-filled Shiraz, and ballsy to boot and that's saying something ... great spice on the palate along with raspberry and sour cherry, there's even a hint of violets. (**** 1/2)

Canada ...

(British Columbia)

See Ya Later Ranch 2009 Pinot Gris (\$18.95 - #263699) - deep hue, almost peachy colour with good flavour and a nice weight in the mouth; a good winter white. (*** 1/2)

(Ontario) - visit OntarioWineReview.com for full review

[Cattail Creek 2007 Reserve Cabernet Merlot](#) (\$24.95 - #271825)

[G Marquis 2009 The Silver Line Vidal Icewine](#) (\$27.95 - #262477) - **LOVE**

[Henry of Pelham 2010 Pinot Blanc](#) (\$12.95 - #618827) - **MOL**

[Jackson-Triggs 2006 Entourage Silver Series Brut Methode Classique](#) (\$22.95 - #234161)

[Kacaba 2009 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay](#) (\$22.95 - #262436)

[Reif Estate 2007 Reserve Merlot](#) (\$16.95 - #935676) - **MOL**

[Ridgepoint 2009 Cabernet Franc](#) (\$14.95 - #245639) - **MOL**

[Rosewood 2009 Pinot Noir](#) (\$18.00 - #112177) - **MOL**

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[Stratus 2008 Chardonnay](#) (\$42.20 - #267856) - **LOVE**

Chile ...

Maycas del Limari 2007 Especial Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - 256701) - finesse and elegance in the glass, a must purchase, and in quantity. (**** 1/2)

France ...

(Alsace)

Vieil Armand 2009 Medaille Gewurztraminer (\$16.95 - #260158) - check this one out for its spicy rose petal, creamy yet spicy in the mouth with a wonderful linger. (****)

(Bordeaux)

Chateau Haut Canteloup 2009 (\$13.95 - #264747) - great for the price, it's an easy drinking, easy-to-get-acquainted with red Bordeaux for novices. (** 1/2)

(Loire)

Domaine Fouassier 2009 Les Grands Groux Sancerre (\$24.95 - #267948) - lovely grapefruit nose which leads to the same flavour on the tongue; you'll also find a slight minerality here, delicious. (****)

(Midi)

Domaine Boudau 2009 Tradition Cotes du Rousillon-Villages (\$17.95 - #264622) - juicy black fruit and spice. (** 1/2)

Domaine J. Laurens 2009 Les Grainenous Brut Cremant de Limoux (\$18.95 - #183608) - a lemon meringue nose with a creamy, biscuity, lemon pith palate. (** 1/2)

(Rhone)

Lavau 2009 Vacqueyras (\$18.95 - #104927) - tobacco and spice with dark berry backing ... quite nice on the palate. (****)

Olivier Ravoire 2009 Plan de Dieu Cotes du Rhone Villages (\$15.95 - #252171) - I've had better from the region but this is a juicy red-fruited number with hints of chocolate on the finish, for the price worth picking up. (** 1/2)

Xavier 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape (\$39.95 - #244814) - bold yet pretty with lots of dark fruit and chocolate. (****) - **LOVE**

Germany ...

Dr Loosen 2010 Blue Slate Riesling Kabinett (\$19.95 - #160846) - lovely minerality, nice fruit, hint of sweetness, pretty finish; what more could you want? (****+)

Greece ...

Kir-Yianni 2008 Ramnista Xinomavro (\$19.95 - #178020) - rustic yet tasty, full of earthy, blambly notes and cassis with a spice licorice finish ... age 5+ years. (** 1/2+) - **GREC**

Limnos Winery 2010 Muscat of Limnos (\$13.95 - #268029) - this is muscat with bite, a real interesting sweetie. (** 1/2) - **GREC**

Sigalas 2010 Assyrtiko Santorini (\$21.95 - #74781) - powerful ballsy white, very interesting ... serve cold. (** 1/2) - **GREC**

Tsantali 2007 Reserve Rapsani (\$15.95 - #734855) - sour red fruit and spice; drinkable now. (****) - **GREC**

Italy ...

(Abruzzo)

Cuore 2008 Montepulciano D'Abruzzo (\$14.95 - #230631) - lots of dark fruit, mocha notes and smooth; very drinkable. (****)

(Piedmont)

Bricchi Astigiani 2008 Bricco del Perg Barbera D'Asti Superiore (\$16.95 - #234922) - minerally raspberry and cherry, takes a few sips to get into. (** 1/2)

(Tuscany)

Amantis 2006 Sangiovese Montecucco (\$29.95 - #234930) - the ribbed label I am sure adds a few dollars but it's a nice wine none the less with lots of black fruited juiciness. (** 1/2+)

Fontodi 2008 Chianti Classico (\$29.95 - #933317) - decent Chianti that brings the rustic into the present with tannins, acidity and fruit. (** 1/2)

(Veneto)

Albino Armani Egle Ripasso Valpolicella Superiore 2008 (\$15.95 - #247916) - vanilla, cocoa and cherry, drinks smooth with a mocha finish. (** 1/2+)

Maculan 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$14.95 - #987701) - it's an Italian take on the classic cab, juicy yet rustic. (** 1/2+)

Mexico ...

LA Cetto 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$11.95 - #114066) - it's quite simple but you just can't beat the price. (** 1/2)

New Zealand ...

Oyster Bay 2010 Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - #590414) - nice earthy sour cherry and cranberry with a little green vegetation. (** 1/2)

Thatched Hut 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.95 - #262782) - grassy, grapefruit and goosy on the palate. (** 1/2+)

Portugal ...

Cortes de Cima 2010 Chamine (\$15.95 - #650291) - juicy dark fruit: blackberry, blueberry and plum, nice blueberry and vanilla finish. (** 1/2+)

Fita Preta Tinto 2008 (\$19.95 - #244764) - cherry, coffee, vanilla, spice, and plum. (** 1/2+)

South Africa ...

Barista 2010 Pinotage (\$15.95 - #172585) - the South Africans are really playing up the coffee aspect in Pinotage, this one is more cafe mocha than espresso. (** 1/2+)

Muratie 2007 Shiraz (\$24.95 - #663278) - tobacco spice and dark fruit with hints of tar on the finish. (** 1/2)

Spain ...

Codorniu Seleccion Raventos Brut Cava (\$14.95 - #521773) - lovely lemony-apple nose with a bready-lemony palate, a real bargain. (** 1/2+)

Finca Nueva Reserva 2004 (\$19.95 - #268425) - good mix of new world fruit and rustic charm. (** 1/2+)

Maetierra Dominum Quatro Pagos (\$19.95 - #246660) - great nose which lures you in with black cherry, plum and cocoa; the palate is dark fruit driven and follows the nose. (****+)

United States ...

(California)

Dry Creek Vineyard 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.95 - #642207) - nice fruit, some complexity found mainly on the palate. (** 1/2) - CABS

Duckhorn 2009 Decoy Cabernet Sauvignon (\$32.95 - #186171) - juicy fruit and easy to drink. (** 1/2+) - CABS

Francis Coppola 2008 Diamond Collection Blue Label Merlot (\$12.95 - #250001) - sweet and fruity, a real quaffer. (** 1/2)

Landmark 2008 Damaris Reserve Chardonnay (\$45.95 - #356519) - quite a woody Chardonnay, but it does have nicely resolved fruit amongst all that vanilla and caramel in the mouth. (** 1/2+)

MacMurray Ranch 2009 Chardonnay (\$21.95 - #262063) - this is one surprisingly good Chardonnay, there is some seriously sweet fruit on the palate, which is in juxtapositions with the rich vanilla-caramel you find on the nose. (****)

Ravenswood 2009 Old Vine Zinfandel (\$19.95 - #942599) - full of vanilla-cola, plum, cherry, chocolate and balancing acidity; here's one for ribs around the BBQ this summer ... surprisingly not too heavy considering the 14.5% alcohol. (****+)

(Oregon)

A to Z 2009 Pinot Gris (\$19.95 - #258145) - light, refreshing and easy to drink. (** 1/2)

If You Can Afford It ...

Beaulieu Vineyard 2007 Georges de Latour Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$89.95 -

#80218) - **** 1/2+ ... **CABS**

Caymus 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$69.95 - #222877) - ****+ ... **CABS**

Dunn Vineyards 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$87.95 - #193854) - **** ... **CABS**

Hall 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$59.95 - #273391) - **** ... **CABS**

Robert Mondavi 2007 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$139.95 - #670463) - **** 1/2+ ... **CABS**

Warre's 1983 Vintage Port (\$89.95 - #161877) - ****+ ... Portugal

Grape Guy Top 5 ... what I'll be lining up for on February 4, 2012:

Don Nieto Senetiner Don Nicanor Malbec 2008 (\$17.95 - #178657) - Argentina

Tapestry BG & V Shiraz 2009 (\$17.95 - #247155) - Australia

Maycas del Limari 2007 Especial Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - 256701) – Chile

Dr Loosen 2010 Blue Slate Riesling Kabinett (\$19.95 - #160846) – Germany

Codorniu Seleccion Raventos Brut Cava (\$14.95 - #521773) - Spain

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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