

## OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



### OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday January 7, 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*

It's the first Vintages release of the year and that means the "value wines" are coming out, many well under the \$15 mark - the board calls them Smart Buys (SM). In years past this has been a real dumping ground for the shite the LCBO can't sell the rest of the year, but it would seem we have some real gems this time out. I will forgo the Best Buy part of the release report because, in theory, all the wines in this release are a "Best Buy". So let's get right to it ...

#### Argentina ...

*Trivento 2009 Amado Sur Malbec/Bonarda/Syrah* (\$15.00 - #0037036) - smooth, supple, full of red cherry with lots of juiciness, sweet spice, vanilla, raspberry and a delicious finish. (\*\*\*\*)

*Urban Uco 2010 Malbec/Tempranillo* (\$13.95 - #0166397) - interesting blend, it's the tempranilla that gives the wine its interesting character. (\*\* 1/2) – **SM**

#### Australia ...

*Chapel Hill 2008 Bush Vine Grenache* (\$24.95 - #0262105) - plum and mocha driven wine with a little spiciness on the back palate, great finish and length. (\*\*\*\*+)

*Jip Jip Rocks 2009 Shiraz* (\$16.95 - #0673897) - full on Shiraz with lots of pepper and blackberry notes. (\*\* 1/2+) – **SM**

#### Canada ...

(Ontario) - visit [OntarioWineReview.com](http://OntarioWineReview.com) for full review

[Calamus 2009 Cosmic White](#) (\$14.95 - #0255893) – **SM**

[Coyote's Run 2009 Pinot Noir](#) (\$19.95 - #0053090) – **SM**

[Hinterbrook 2010 Riesling](#) (\$17.95 - #0270512)

[Rosewood 2009 Merlot](#) (\$21.95 - #0211896)

#### Chile ...

*Koyle 2008 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon* (\$15.95 - #0256073) - this is a Chilean Cab with all the proper earmarks: juicy, minty and black fruited. (\*\* 1/2+) – **SM**

*Loma Larga 2009 Chardonnay* (\$15.95 - #0257048) - butter, tropical fruit and vanilla, there's no doubt as to this being Chardonnay. (\*\* 1/2+)

*Montes 2009 Limited Selection Pinot Noir* (\$14.95 - #0037937) - dark fruited, a touch leathery with some exotic spices. (\*\* 1/2)

#### France ...

(Alsace)

*Domaine Saint Remy 2009 Reserve Pinot Gris* (\$18.95 - #0016410) - sweet and dry clash in the glass and on the palate: bosc pear, melon rind, this one is really tasty. (\*\*\*\*+)

*Jean Geiler Letzenberg 2009 Lieu Dit Gewurztraminer* (\$17.95 - #0259713) - this is what Alsace means to me, fab floral, slightly soapy that sings with exotic spice in the mouth, yet there is a slight dryness that is left behind. (\*\*\*\*+)

(Beaujolais)

*Domaine du Roche Guillon 2010 Fleurie* (\$17.95 - #0269514) - lovely cherry and spice, there's

also some grip here and it goes a long way to the enjoyment of this wine ... also for chilling. (\*\*\*\*)  
(Bordeaux)

**Chateau de Lamarque 2006** (\$29.95 - #0194159) - mix of the rustic and new world here with tannins and acidity blending with dark fruit: dense and delicious. (\*\*\*\*)

**Chateau Faizeau 2008** (\$24.00 - #0136887) - blueberry, smoke and spice along with gripping tannins. (\*\*\*\*)

(Burgundy)

**Cave de Lugny 2008 Brut Cremant de Bourgogne** (\$19.95 - #0183764) - bread crust and lemonade aromas fill the nose a you'll find the same on the palate with a light touch of sweetness. (\*\*\*\*)

**Domaine du Chardonnay 2009 Chablis** (\$19.95 - #0183574) - crisp and well made, floral and mineral notes ... very nice. (\*\* 1/2) - SM

**Jaffelin 2009 Bourgogne Passe Tout Grains** (\$14.95 - #0216648) - made with Pinot and Gamay, these two light grapes marry well for a light, spice and mineral concoction with sour fruit character. (\*\* 1/2)

(Loire)

**Domaines Bonnard 2009 Sancerre** (\$21.95 - #0140525) - lovely citrus nose with a white grapefruit palate; crisp and lively. (\*\*\*\*)

(Midi)

**Hecht & Bannier 2009 Syrah/Grenache/Carignan** (\$15.95 - #0251587) - anise, leather, black cherry and cocoa nib. (\*\*\*\*)

(Rhône)

**La Ferme du Mont Premiere Cote Cotes du Rhone 2009** (\$16.95 - #0251645) - loads of fruit and loads of flavour. (\*\*\*\*)

**Perrin & Fils 2009 Les Sinards Chateauneuf du Pape** (\$19.95 / 375ml - #0005975) - hefty with raspberry, strawberry liqueur. black currant and a raspberry cocoa finish; real ballsy. (\*\*\*\*+)

**Perrin & Fils 2009 Peyre Blanche Cairanne Cotes du Rhone Villages** (\$17.95 - #0650960) - black cherry, raspberry, sweet spice; a smooth, supple and succulent sipper. (\*\*\*\*+)

## Germany ...

**Anselmann 2009 Huxelrebe Auslese** (\$17.95 - #0681445) - lovely sweetness, interestingly exotic. (\*\* 1/2+)

## Italy ...

(Piedmont)

**Bava Cocconato 2010 Moscato D'asti** (\$14.95 - #0712547) - I love asti any time of year so have a few on hand with its pineapple, lemon and hint of orange this is a delicious sipper - but don't hold forever, it's suppose to be drunk young and fruity. (\*\* 1/2+)

(Puglia)

**Rivera 2005 Cappellaccio Riserva Aglianico** (\$18.95 - #0984120) - well balanced with a sweet herbal note. (\*\* 1/2) - SM

(Sicily)

**Giordano Eventus Nero D'Avola 2008** (\$16.95 - #0231662) - good structure, blackberry, chocolate, hefty tannins and lingering finish. (\*\* 1/2+)

(Tuscany)

**Fattoria La Ripa 2007 Chianti Classico Riserva** (\$24.95 - #0984401) - strong, dark and spicy. (\*\* 1/2+)

**Vicchiomaggio Ripa delle Mandorle** (\$15.00 - #0677930) - I'd call this "rippa stuff" but wrong country for that label, as it is it's full of delicious cherry, vanilla and a little cocoa ... really tasty. (\*\*\*\*+) - SM

(Veneto)

**Corte 2006 Grande Ripasso Valpolicella Classico Superiore** (\$17.95 - #0059246) - plum, coffee, cocoa, cassis, blackberry all with a nice finish. (\*\*\*\*)

## New Zealand ...

**Hunter's 2009 Pinot Noir** (\$21.95 - #0586115) - earthy, sour cherry and good spice. (\*\* 1/2+)

**Kim Crawford 2010 Unoaked Chardonnay** (\$17.95 - #0991950) - peachy and appley with hints of

vanilla, but overpowering. (\*\* 1/2)

### Portugal ...

**Jose Maria da Fonseca & Van Zeller 2003 Vintage Port** (\$19.95 - #0638924) - the price will make you look again, the smell will make you sniff again and the taste ... well you get the picture; this is a delicious value. (\*\*\*\*) – **SM**

### Spain ...

**Sabor Real 2008** (\$15.95 - #0172932) - juicy blackberry, creamy dark chocolate, supple tannins, one to lie down till BBQ season ... or enjoy now with something hearty. (\*\*\*\*+)

### United States ...

(California)

**Beringer 2009 Founders' Estate Pinot Noir** (\$19.95 - #0256628) - juicy black cherry, vanilla, cinnamon, clove, smoky tobacco with a nice finish. (\*\*\*\*)

**Brutocao 2007 Hopland Ranches Estate Zinfandel** (\$22.95 - #0259325) - this is finesse on the Zinfandel front: plum, chocolate, vanilla cola with spice and balancing acidity; a well made Zinfandel. (\*\*\*\*+)

**Diamond Ridge 2007 Merlot** (\$19.95 - #0913905) - a juicy black-fruited number with a melted dark chocolate finish with hints of anise seed. (\*\*\*\*)

**Murphy Goode 2009 The Fume Sauvignon Blanc** (\$18.95 - #0721092) - there's no truth is advertising here, no smoky or "fume" notes, but there is lots of pleasant tropical fruit. (\*\* 1/2)

**Raymond 2007 Reserve Selection Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$35.95 - #0715979) - very juicy, very delicious; cherry, herbs and chocolate ... very tasty and lovely to sniff. (\*\*\*\*+)

**Vina Robles 2008 Huerhuero Red 4** (\$17.95 - #0261628) - this is a cross of meaty and juicy with vanilla, spice and mocha; dark berries, and nice peppery finish. BBQ ready but also a good cold weather blend to warm the soul. (\*\*\*\* 1/2) - **SM**

(Washington)

**Charles & Charles 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah** (\$14.95 - #0258178) - playful label for a playful wine, nicely smooth and enjoyable; great value. (\*\* 1/2+) - **SM**

**Fall Line 2007 Artz Vineyard Red** (\$36.95 - #0237735) - good to see more of these juicy, well made Washington offerings at Vintages. (\*\*\*\*)

### Grape Guy Top 3 ... what I'll be lining up for on January 7, 2012:

**Jose Maria da Fonseca & Van Zeller 2003 Vintage Port** (\$19.95 - #0638924) - Portugal

**Vina Robles 2008 Huerhuero Red 4** (\$17.95 - #0261628) - United States

**Perrin & Fils 2009 Peyre Blanche Cairanne Cotes du Rhone Villages** (\$17.95 - #0650960) - France

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.



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[michael@ontariowinereview.com](mailto:michael@ontariowinereview.com). I look forward to hearing from you!

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