

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday May 12, 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 time you will find wines from California (**CALI**) and Israel (**ISR**) on the Vintages menu, along with an assortment of Rosés (**ROSE**) ...

Argentina ...

Cuvelier 2006 Los Andes Grand Vin (\$39.95 - #149831) ... smooth with blueberry / blackberry, cigar, black cherry, chocolate; a simple label on a more than simple wine. (****) - *pictured*

Finca Flichman 2009 Expresiones Reserve Malbec/Cabernet Sauvignon (\$15.95 - #507707) ... decently dark fruited: blackberry, blueberry and cocoa. (***) 1/2)

Graffigna 2008 Grand Reserve Malbec (\$16.95 - #162149) ... smooth, ripe black fruit with a hint of spiced plum. (***) 1/2)

Kaiken 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$14.95 - #143248) ... always a good buy; lots of fruit; real easy drinking red. (***) 1/2+) - **Best Buy**



Australia ...

Yalumba Museum Reserve Muscat (\$24.95 - #963488) ... raisin and pecan pie notes, lovely spice with great grip on the finish and spice that screams across the tongue. (****) 1/2)

Heartland 2009 Stickleback Red (\$14.95 - #116574) ... good value wine that's BBQ ready; a fruit bomb party pleaser. (***) 1/2+) - **Best Buy**

Mitolo 2011 Jester Giacomo Sangiovese Rosé (\$18.95 - #278101) ... a roseé with spice and bite, surprising and well-balanced with a fruity finish. (***) 1/2) - **ROSE**

Thorn-Clarke 2008 Shotgun Quartage (\$22.95 - #0024091) ... can't argue with this dark fruited number along with white pepper, bittersweet cocoa; plum and spiced just right on the finish. (****+) - *pictured*

Wallace by Ben Glaetzer 2009 Shiraz/Grenache (\$28.95 - #0047605) ... this bruiser is always a favourite with its berry, tobacco, chocolate, plum and pepper, plus many more surprises. (****) 1/2)

Wolf Blass 2008 Gold Label Shiraz (\$28.95 - #590273) ... well balanced with enough black fruit, pepper and spice. (****+)



Austria ...

Johanneshof Reinisch Pinot Noir (\$16.95 - #278929) ... quite the earthy, strawberry number. (***) 1/2+)

Canada ...

(Ontario)

Angels Gate 2010 Mountainview Chardonnay (\$18.95 - #116384) ... ***) 1/2

Featherstone 2011 Rosé (\$14.95 - #117861) ... ***) 1/2+

Fielding Estate 2011 Rosé (\$15.95 - #0053421) ... ***) 1/2

Megalomaniac 2011 Pink Slip Pinot Noir Rosé (\$17.95 - #0085126) ... ***) 1/2+

Chile ...

Errazuriz 2010 Wild Ferment Chardonnay (\$17.95 - #738393) ... dried white fruit: apple, pear lush on the palate with pineapple and mango with slight lime pith and vanilla notes. (***) 1/2+

Montes Alpha Carmenere 2009 (\$19.95 - #143230) ... burnt blueberries and blackberries with a mint and dark chocolate finish. (***) 1/2)

France ...

(Beaujolais)

Georges DuBoeuf 2010 Domaine Mont Chavy Morgon (\$17.95 - #276477) ... black cherry goodness with a little earthy on the palate with a mineral seam and nice tannins. (****)

(Burgundy)

Domaine Herve Azo Beauroy Chablis 1er Cru 2010 (\$27.95 - #276451) ... beauty nose and delightful palate; delicate and delicious

Louis Bouillot Perle D'Aurore Brut Rosé Cremant de Bourgogne (\$18.95 - #0048793) ... raspberry with crisp hints of lemon. (***) 1/2) - **Best Buy**

(Loire)



Monmousseau 2010 Vouvray (\$14.95 - #271940) ... quite fruit driven with enough mineral to keep it from being just sweet to chalky and lovely. (****+) - *pictured*

Roger & Didier 2010 Raimbault Sancerre (\$22.95 - #0082255) ... light grass nose that follows on the palate with hints of grapefruit pith. (***) 1/2)

(Rhône)

Chateau D'Aqueria Tavel Rosé 2011 (\$18.95 - #319368) ... dry yet approachable, sour cherry and raspberry dominate. (***) 1/2) - **ROSE**

Mas des Bressades 2011 Cuvée Tradition Rosé (\$13.95 - #950576) ... candied strawberry medium dry finish. (***) 1/2) - **ROSE**

Germany ...

Geil Bechtheimer 2011 Rosengarten Riesling Kabinett (\$14.95 - #994764) ... peach / apple with good minerality in the form of talc on the finish. (***) 1/2)

Israel ...

Clos de Gat 2007 Ayalon Valley (\$47.95 - #280339) ... nice finesse and flavour, big on fruit and flavour. (***) 1/2+) - **ISR**

Clos de Gat 2009 Chardonnay (\$47.95 - #280321) ... no doubt about this being Chardonnay; very much in the California style, right down to the price; nicely spiced on a finish that lingers. (***) 1/2+) - **ISR**

Gamla 2011 Moscato KPM (\$15.95 - #280297) ... peach, pineapple, nicely sweet; tasty as hell. (****) - **ISR**

Gamla 2010 Reserve Merlot KPM (\$24.95 - #280289) ... soft, fruity with raspberry notes dominating. (***) 1/2) - **ISR**

Shiloh Shor 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon KP (\$32.95 - #282947) ... enough blackberry and chocolate to make it interesting; nice pepper and spice on the finish. (***) 1/2+) - **ISR**

Italy ...

(Puglia)

Poderi Angelini Primitivo di Manduria 2008 (\$17.95 - #268136) ... if you like your Zinfandel well spiced this is your wine. (***) 1/2)

(Tuscany)

Bellaria Assunto Brunello di Montalcino 2006 (\$36.95 - #206854) ... lots of dried cherry and strawberry; nice smoothness across the palate with good acid and spice. (***) 1/2)

San Fabiano Calcinai Chianti Classico 2008 (\$19.95 - #0023408) ... mixes the sweet with the rustic into a simple pleasure wine; watch for biting tannins on the finish. (***) 1/2)

Carpineto 2011 Rosato (\$12.95 - #699934) ... red berries on the nose; quite a dry palate and food friendly. (***) 1/2) - **ROSE**

(Veneto)

Arduini 2009 Ripasso Valpolicella Classico Superiore (\$18.95 - #267898) ... one of the better Ripasso's that has come out thru Vintages in a while; great summer BBQ wine. (****)

New Zealand ...

Mount Riley 2009 Seventeen Valley Pinot Noir (\$33.95 - #0694703) ... earthy, black cherry, raspberry with a hint of mushroom and fine tannins. (****+) - *pictured*



Portugal ...

Quinta do Infantado Ruby Port (\$15.95 - #979898) ... one of my favourite Ruby's year after year, lots of lovely sweet cherry notes. (****)

Spain ...

Chapillon 2007 Cuvee Remy (\$18.95 - #271114) ... chocolate, black cherry, mineral and herbal on the finish. (** 1/2+)

Heredad de Baroja 2001 Gran Reserva (\$21.95 - #276113) ... keep in mind it's 11 years old and still retains some nice freshness on the palate along with some dried notes and big acidity. (** 1/2+)

Juan Gil 2010 White Label de Cepas Viejas Monastrell (\$12.95 - #0013656) ... fruit driven red with class. (****) - Best Buy

Pinyolet 2010 Garnacha (\$16.95 - #271791) ... good fruit and mocha notes with just a touch of well-meaning spice. (** 1/2)

United States ...

(California)

Arrowood 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$37.95 - #985408) ... juicy with lots of red fruit. (****) - CALI

Gallo Family 2008 Frei Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$38.95 - #555607) ... lovely mouthfeel with a great mocha sensation; this one is bloody good. (**** 1/2) - CALI ... *pictured*



Hartley Ostini 2009 Hitching Post Cork Dancer Pinot Noir (\$34.95 - #179812) ... all red fruit with a little herbal character; cinnamon and strawberry with a nice bite on the finish. (****) - CALI

Kendall-Jackson 2010 Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #369686) ... easy drinking, sippable Chardonnay. (****+) - CALI

McManis Family Vineyards 2010 Syrah (\$18.95 - #658104) ... big hit with its black cherry and plum, a touch of vanilla and smokiness. (** 1/2+)

Mer Soleil 2010 Silver Unoaked Chardonnay (\$29.95 - #220343) ... jug ceramic style bottle; has a nice fruit and leesy finish. (** 1/2) - CALI

Peachy Canyon 2008 Westside Zinfandel (\$25.95 - #930644) ... cherry cola, mocha-chocolate; a good Zin, exactly what it should be. (****) - CALI

Seghesio 2010 Sonoma Zinfandel (\$29.95 - #942151) ... a nice one for Zin fans. (** 1/2+) - CALI

Stags' Leap Winery 2010 Chardonnay (\$34.95 - #655381) - fruit driven white with apple, peach, some baked apple, vanilla and nice mouth-feel, touch of the exotically tropical in here too. (** 1/2+) - CALI

Talbott 2009 Logan Estate Sleepy Hollow Vineyard Chardonnay (\$26.95 - #716290) ... brazenly Chardonnay with lots of barrel spice and vanilla but also with some amazingly rich fruit with real biting acidity. (****+) - CALI

(Oregon)

Stoller SV Estate Pinot Noir 2007 (\$43.95 - #272633) ... sweet black cherry leads the charge; nice acidity and touch of coffee on the peppered finish. (****)

If You Can Afford It ... expensive but worth it

Far Niente Estate 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$144.95 - #539098) ... creamy chocolate with black fruit. (****+) - CALI

Sequoia Grove 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$54.95 - #0060020) ... nicely balanced. (****+) - CALI

Shafer 2008 One Point Five Cabernet Sauvignon (\$84.95 - #0045476) ... dark fruit, nice spice. (****) - CALI

What I'll Be Lining Up For ... M^Ay 12, 2012

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Wallace By Ben Glaetzer 2009 Shiraz/Grenache (\$28.95 - #0047605) - Australia
Gallo Family 2008 Frei Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$38.95 - #555607) - USA

Happy Shopping

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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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