

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday November 12, 2011

*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*

Today's release will be focusing on Premium Products (**PREM**), which basically translate into "not cheap" and Ports and Sweeties (**SWEET**), and there are some real lovelies in this batch. So without further ado we'll get right to them. As introduced a few releases ago I have made a few changes to the report: the addition of an "If You Can Afford It" section for expensive wines that are worth their price (this is where you'll find most of those "Premium" products); I have removed the "red" and "white" labels in favour of just using colour to indicate type; and the Best Buy bargain section will just have ratings, no notes, if you're a bargain hunter you'll love these wines.

Argentina ...

Vina Cobos 2010 Felino Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #0119099) – juicy and fruity without being over the top buttery, there is some nice spice on the finish. (**¹/₂+))

Maipé 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #0246116) – crème de cassis, chocolate, espresso and much more, good delivery and acidity. (****)

Australia ...

Cat Amongst the Pigeons 2009 Nine Lives Shiraz (\$17.95 - #0093138) – red licorice and big cherry notes. (**¹/₂+))

Mollydooker 2008 The Boxer Shiraz (\$34.95 - #0246595) – sweet blackberry, plum, chocolate, cherry with layers of fruit and big alcohol, 16%. (**** ¹/₂))

Stalking Horse 2008 Shiraz (\$17.95 - #0251215) – cute label with a more than cutesy wine under it; this wine shows finesse and refinement full of fruit but with a mineral seam. (**** ¹/₂))

Austria ...

Lenz Moser 2008 Prestige Trockenbeerenauslese (\$19.95 / 375ml - #0729657) – the perfect dessert wine with apricot, honeyed pear notes and so much more; stunningly delicious. (**** ¹/₂+)) – **SWEET**

Canada ...

(British Columbia)

Burrowing Owl 2008 Syrah (\$41.95 - #073072) – good mouthfeel, smoked meat, white pepper and plum. (****)

Mission Hill 2008 Quatrain (\$41.95 - #0218636) – nice balance of fruit and spice with a dry tannic finish; should evolve over the next 3-4 years. (****) - **PREM**

(Ontario)

Jackson Triggs 2009 Niagara Estate Gold Series Merlot (\$21.95 - #0255901)

Chile ...

Montes 2009 Alpha Syrah (\$19.95 - #0000612) – minty-fruity and tasty, look for plum and white pepper on the finish. (****+)

Vina Chocalan 2008 Syrah Reserva (\$14.95 - #0038513) – minty dark fruit, pepper and spice with hints of chocolate and vanilla on the finish. (**¹/₂+))

France ...

(Bordeaux)

Chateau Beau-Site 2004 (\$37.95 - #0967844) – cedar, plum, spice, licorice with lots of grip. (**
1/2+) - **PREM**

Chateau Seguin 2008 (\$47.95 - #0245837) – nice black fruit, cassis, dark cocoa, woody and
smoky; good ageability. (**
1/2)

La Gravette de Certan (\$49.00 - #0187278) – woody, smoky with backbone of wild sour
raspberry/strawberry with grittiness. (**
1/2+)

(Burgundy)

Rene Bouvier 2008 La Justice Gevrey-Chambertin (\$44.95 - #0241075) – nice black cherry and
blackberry, sour cherry and tart cranberry. (**
1/2+)

Roche de Bellene 2008 Volnay les Pitures 1er Cru (\$44.95 - #0241083) – subtle spice, sour fruit
and good acidity. (****) - **PREM**

(Rhone)

Chusclan 2009 Les Genets Cotes du Rhone-Villages (\$19.95 - #0245399) – black cherry, vanilla
and plum. (**
1/2+)

E. Guigal 2007 Gigondas (\$29.95 - #0331900) – dark sour fruit on the front end, smoother and
juicier in the middle with a lovely mix of each with silky tannins on the finish. (****)

Italy ...

(Campania)

Ponte Grecco di Tufo 2009 (\$17.95 - #0250936) – light and lemony with a lemon pith finish that's
a touch bitter, very nice with good acidity. (**
1/2)

(Tuscany)

Capanna 2006 Brunello di Montalcino (\$47.95 - #0651588) – spice, herbs, sour cherry and a nice
lengthy finish. (****) – **PREM**

Castello di Querceto 2007 Chianti Classico Riserva (\$27.95 - #0650754) – plum, blackberry,
cassis, licorice, spice, oak and smoke. (**
1/2+)

Rocca delle Macie 2006 Chianti Classico Riserva (\$21.95 - #0930966) – nice hint of spice, nice
bite rustic yet modern at the same time. (**
1/2)

Tenuta San Guido 2009 Guidalberto (\$49.95 - #0072439) – has a softness of fruit and
smoothness of palate, delightfully good. (****)

(Veneto)

Villa Girardi Bure Alto Ripasso Valpolicella Classico Superiore 2009 (\$17.95 - #0161844) – nice
fruit, easy drinking, dark plum with semi-sweet chocolate. (****)

New Zealand ...

Spy Valley 2010 Gewurztraminer (\$19.95 - #0032870) – lots of spicy, rose petal notes with a
lychee sweet palate. (****)

Thornbury 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.95 - #0734798) – guava and gooseberry, grapefruit
cocktail and grassy finish; quite intense. (**
1/2+)

Wither Hills 2010 Wairau Valley Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.95 - #0919514) – a little more toned down
with tropical, lemon, lime and green apple; a fresh grassy finish. (****)

Framingham 2009 Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #0699322) – very nice fruit with a tart sweet fruit mix, nice
dry-sour cherry-oak finish. (****+)

Portugal ...

Quinta do Noval Black Port (\$24.95 - #0235689) – black cherry and spice with quite a lot of bite.
(**
1/2) – **SWEET**

Sivipa 2008 Moscatel de Setubal (\$15.95 - #0246652) – not to be passed up, especially for the
price, it's a kick of spice and acid that really makes this sweetie amazing. (****
1/2) – **SWEET**

Quinta de Cabriz 2008 Selecccionada Colheita (\$14.95 - #0247973) – sweetness of plum, cherry,
raspberry and spice. (****)

South Africa ...

Durbanville Hills 2010 Rhinofields Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.95 - #0173864) – pretty Sauvignon Blanc
with lots of lovely grapefruit and a puckering finish with great length. (**
1/2+)

Vinum 2009 Africa Chenin Blanc (\$14.95 - #0739995) – mineral, peach pit, apple core and lime.

(*** ½)

Spain ...

Osborne Pedro Ximenez 1827 Sweet Sherry (\$17.95 - #0047944) – thick, sweet and delicious; pecan pie or raisin pie filling. (****+) – **SWEET**

Duque de Medina 2000 Gran Reserva (\$18.95 - #0148494) – nicely aged, keeps fruit yet with dried character, spice and pepper all for under \$20; good value. (****)

United States ...

(California)

Patz & Hall 2009 Chardonnay (\$38.95 - #0200808) – sweet butterscotch note that seems to linger in the mouth. (***)

Rutherford Ranch 2009 Chardonnay (\$18.95 - #0136382) – sweet fruit, pear / apple and vanilla, soft and supple; drink now. (****)

Belle Glos 2009 Meiomi Pinot Noir (\$26.95 - #0130138) – this is Pinot for non-Pinot fans; this one has fruit up the ying-yang with chocolate notes, but there also seems to be a dry mineral-ish seam with vanilla and spice backing. (****)

(Oregon)

Willamette Valley Vineyards 2009 Pinot Gris (\$18.95 - #0940528) – pleasant, white fruit driven, pear, mac apple with hints of lemon on the finish. (***)

Best Buys (wine that over delivers for its price) ...

Henry's Drive 2008 Pillar Box Red (\$14.95 - #0685941)

Delas Freres Saint-Esprit Cotes du Rhone 2009 (\$15.95 - #0729962)

Agriverde Riseis Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2008 (\$14.95 - #0134478)

Sampietrana Vigna delle Monache Riserva Salice Salentino 2006 (\$15.95 - #0247908)

Bodegas de los Rios Prieto Prios Maximus Roble 2009 (\$14.95 - #0103432)

If You Can Afford It (they're pricey but worth it) ...

Moet & Chandon 2002 Brut Grand Vintage Champagne (\$81.95 - #0069773) – **PREM**

Beringer 2008 Sbragia Limited Release Chardonnay (\$54.95 - #0079178) – **PREM**

Bouchard Pere & Fils 2008 Beaune Clos Landry 1er Cru (\$51.95 - #0124651) – **PREM**

Jonata 2007 Todos Red (\$59.95 - #0218941) – **PREM**

L'Aventure 2009 Optimus Estate (\$57.95 - #0683409) – **PREM**

Rubicon Estate 2007 Cask Cabernet Sauvignon (\$74.95 - #0029553) – **PREM**

D'Arenberg 2008 The Dead Arm Shiraz (\$54.95 - #0981183) – **PREM**

Two Hands 2008 Zippy's Block Single Vineyard Shiraz (\$59.00 - #0089516) – **PREM**

Chateau Malescot St. Exupery 2008 (\$64.00 - #0136630) – **PREM**

Ornellaia 2009 Le Serre Nuove dell'Ornellaia (\$59.95 - #0606194) – **PREM**

Tenuta Sette Ponti 2008 Oreno (\$74.95 - #0735597) – **PREM**

Masi 2005 Serego Alghieri Vaio Armaron Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (\$69.95 - #0462812)

Grape Guy Top 3 ... what I'll be lining up for on November 12, 2011:

Lenz Moser 2008 Prestige Trockenbeerenauslese (\$19.95 / 375ml - #0729657) – Austria

Sivipa 2008 Moscatel de Setubal (\$15.95 - #0246652) – Portugal

Stalking Horse 2008 Shiraz (\$17.95 - #0251215) – Australia

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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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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