

PINKUS ROSÉ REPORT

**8TH ANNUAL
ROSE REPORT
2026**



by Michael Pinkus

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WHAT'S INSIDE



INTRODUCTION	02
EVOLUTION & LAYOUT	03
CRITERIA & SCORING	04
POLL QUESTIONS	5, 18, 25, 30, 38
SPARKLING WINES	6-13
INSIGHT	14
SPOTLIGHTS	15-17
STILL WINES	19-46
THANK YOU	48-49
ABOUT MICHAEL PINKUS	50



INTRODUCTION

Rosé is serious wine. We find it a fun frolic for the deck, dock, and patio, but for those who take it seriously, it's more than fun. It's the essence of life from June to September. It's summertime in a glass. It's the start of summer. It's what brings people together. It's the smile on faces when you pull out a bottle. It's expectation. It's wow. It's "I didn't expect that"—all rolled into one.

This year, I noticed a trend, a lot more frizzante wines were hitting the market—lighter, more subtle bubbles—a new fresh, frolic into the rosé world. Some failed miserably, while most shone a new light on what it means to be a rosé wine, bringing a new freshness to the category. A winemaker shared with me this insight: "Rosé is the most manipulated of all the wine styles; maybe next to sparkling." It is because of the winemaker's hand that we end up with such wonderful memories and summertime enjoyment.

So thanks to all the winemakers and producers who are taking the risk to give us what we need during these summer months: hope and happiness. Here' hoping that each bottle we open will deliver something new and help add to the ongoing conversation; not stop it in its tracks.

This report is here to help you do the former, not the latter... Enjoy.





THE EVOLUTION OF THE ROSÉ REPORT

In year one, I gathered together the wines I tasted at the LCBO and created the report. Year two, I asked for submissions and waited to taste them all at once; not as fun as you'd think. These days I do things a little different. You'll read about my later in the report. And when I was not tasting with them I would assemble smaller panels of 3-4 people, drag out 5-6 wines and we'd taste. It's great to get other's opinions and taking them into consideration before making the final evaluation.

I have also been asked if price plays any part in my scoring, or in the way I perceive the wines? Let's start here: all wines are tasted "price-blind" (without knowledge of the price), but sometimes a final score can be bumped based on price. There is no "punishment" for a high price; but the occasional value, when presented, makes a difference. There are plenty of examples herein.

This year, as in the past, I use a Good / Better / Best approach, based on criteria explained later. Let me be perfectly clear, each wine in this report has an element of drinkability to it – otherwise it would not be in these pages. I taste close to 300 rosés for this report, not all of the wines I taste make it. The tasting of rosé is not about scientific study and processes; it is about fun and enjoyment; but I do take what I taste seriously. My goal is for you to get the most out of rosé season.



THE LAYOUT



The report this year set up very much the same as last. Which proved to be very popular and much easier to read.

There are two categories: Still and Sparkling. As one is apt to do, I start with Bubbles, then move into the Still wines ... Both are broken down alphabetically by producer.

I decided not to break it down by country. We have enough division in the world already, and too many people are trying to divide the world, and pit us one against the other. Rosé should bring us together around the table, the deck, a fire pit or wherever you share a glass. It's the unifying power of rosé.





CRITERIA & ...

Rosé is meant to be simple, consumed young, quaffed, chugged, gulped and enjoyed within days if not months after bottling. An aged rosé, will be shunned for a newer model. Screwcap has helped lengthen the enjoyability of rosé; but we're talking 2-3 years. Not 10.

It is because of this "simplicity" that I use a Good, Better, Best approach – including a plus symbol for those wines that offer a little extra.

Criteria considered for elevating the wines include:

- Drinkability (one glass or the whole bottle)
- Balance: fruit/acid/sweetness (acidity is the key to a well-balanced rosé)
- Buying Factor: worthy of purchase (would you physically get off the couch and go buy it – and how many?)
- Pride of Service (would you happily serve it to guests / friends / family)
- Appealing Colour (we drink with our eyes first)
- Aromas
- and Taste (which is king)



... SCORING

"Good" is a solid drinking rosé. You'll find enjoyment in its flavours and aromas. These wines are not to be diminished or by-passed. They deliver full summertime enjoyment.

"Better" is just that – a rosé that delivers more, something beyond good. These will make your mouth happier – and reward you from start to finish.

"Best" these are rosés you can't put down. You're afraid to leave the glass unattended. The bottle disappears a little quicker. They have a more-ish factor. These are the one you must try this season.

"Sangria" – I got this idea from a culinary-loving friend, who tasted a rosé and said, "Oh, I could make a great Sangria out of that!" It's a wine that needs a little boost. Maybe it has too much red fruit sweetness, so it needs some citrus/acidity; maybe it's acidity is too punchy and requires some red fruits to tame it. It's not a bad wine, it would just be better if ... Take note of these wines, they'll make a great base for creativity and cocktails.

THE POLLING STATION #1

In my intro, I mentioned I've been at this eight years. Starting out, people asked why I would devote time to such a bland, simple style of wine. I had my reasons, but it was only years later when Daniel Speck of Henry of Pelham winery in Ontario said, "Your name is Pinkus, it only makes sense."

In truth, before that, I had not made the connection; seems I'm a little slow on the draw.

Today, I'm asked if my opinion of rosé has changed over the years. The answer is a resounding yes. Over the years of doing this report, I have tasted well over 2,500 rosé wines; in my lifetime, you could probably double that. From the syrupy White Zinfandel to Provençal's delicacy, and everything in between; and rosés have changed by leaps and bounds.

So, the first question I asked the online community: Have your opinions about rosé wines changed over the years?

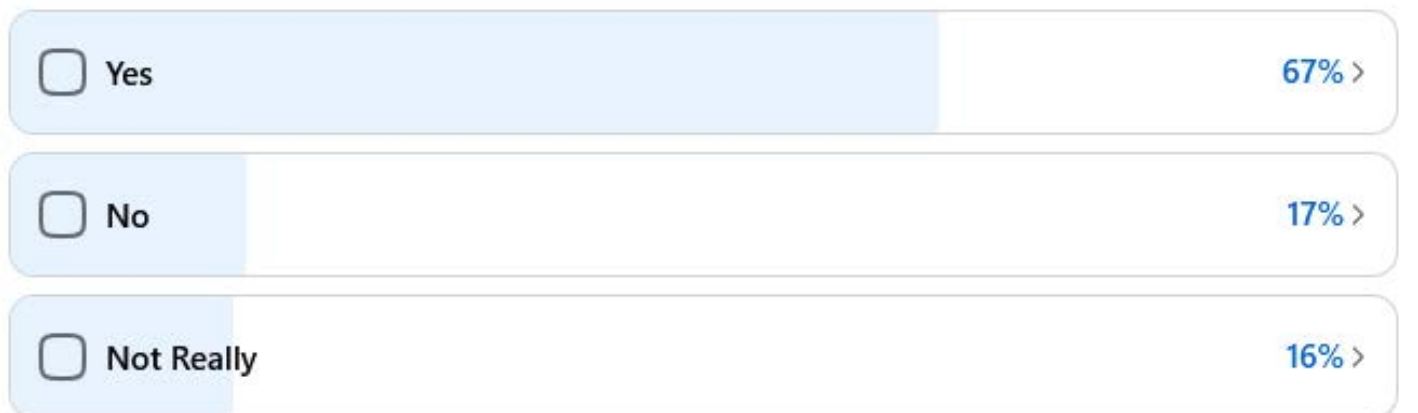
The most popular answer was yes, at 67%. Some claim they've always had a great opinion: "Not really, because I've always had a good opinion about rosé." (Elena)

"Never thought I'd like rosé, to be honest, but a sommelier recommended a rosé for a dinner... I discovered I really liked it." (Susan)

Has the style of rosé changed? Absolutely. Have people's opinions changed? The answer is a definite yes.



Have you opinions about Rose wines changed over the years?



SPARKLING WINE

Adamo Estate 2024 Frizzante Rosé

\$22.95 – Ontario – winery

Subtle and slight fizz seems to be all the rage this year when it comes to rosé wines. This offers loads of strawberry and cherry with a more "normal" bubble than some of the lighter frizzantes tried this year. This delivers on many levels; especially intensity of flavour. **(BETTER+)**



Black Market Wine Co. 2025 Noting to Declare

\$35.00 – British Columbia – winery

This is a Pet-Nat wine from British Columbia and it is rather tasty showing delicate raspberry and orange notes. **(GOOD+)**

Bouvet-Ladubay NV Excellence Rosé – Cremant de Loire

\$24.95 – France – LCBO 959304

Here we have bubbles that deliver on the promise of biscuitiness, but in the form of raspberry-scones; total yum. There is some strawberry essence that slips in too – so this is truly a summer sipper for the patio – especially for those highbrow moments when only traditional method bubbly will do. **(BETTER)**



Cave Spring Cellars NV Rosé Estate Brut

\$39.95 – Ontario – LCBO 50494

It starts with notes of cherry, lime and biscuits; but as you get deeper into the bottle it comes across more like a cherry scone. Quite enjoyable. **(GOOD+)**

CREW – Colchester Ridge 2023 Sparkling Rosé

\$26.95 – Ontario – winery

What do you do when you have too much Cabernet Sauvignon? You think outside the box and create a sparkling. Which is exactly what the folks at CREW did. This nice light bubble is very pretty with notes of peach and raspberry that dance across the tongue. **(BETTER)**

SPARKLING WINE

Dirty Laundry 2025 Let's Get Fizzical Rosé

\$23.99 – British Columbia – winery

Sweet, but fun and easy at the same time. This sparkling does not require a second glass, as it comes across a little heavy by the time you finish the first – but it is a good way to get the party started. **(GOOD)**

Drea's Wines 2025 Cuvee Rosé Brut

\$32.50 – Ontario – Reif Winery

Cherry, strawberry aromas with a palate of raspberry and cherry with a pleasant and sassy finish. Might be Drea's best version to date. **(BETTER)**



Featherstone 2023 Blanc de Noirs

\$44.95 – Ontario – winery

Now a wow kinda rosé sparkler, but a good one in its own right: biscuity notes prevail with a sort of lemon scone effect. **(GOOD+)**

Fielding NV Sparkling Rosé

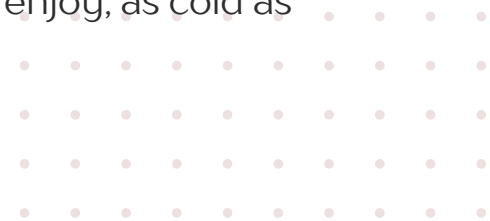
\$31.95 – Ontario – winery

Sometimes you can't judge a wine by its nose. This one smells odd, and if you let that be your guide, you will miss the palate that delivers orange blossom, crenshaw melon and a real punch of acidity and length. **(GOOD)**

Fresh Wines NV Sparkling Rosé

\$18.95 – Ontario – LCBO 341347

The description is in the name "Fresh" and that is exactly what this delivers. Fruity, fresh, good acidity and a pleasant mouthfeel. It's not going to change your life, but it will change the complexion of your afternoon. Open and enjoy, as cold as possible. **(GOOD+)**



SPARKLING WINE

Gusbourne 2019 Rosé Brut

\$107.98 – England – Select Wines

Subtle raspberry, nice citrus, pleasant, good mousse, delicate, really fantastic, nice biscuity sensation. **(BETTER+)**

Henry of Pelham NV Cuvee Catharine Rosé

\$29.95 – Ontario – LCBO 217505

Delicate strawberry, raspberry with sophisticated citrus and complexity. There's a light apple-cranberry note that settles in on the finish. Another beauty from HoP. **(BETTER+)**



Jackson-Triggs 2018 Entourage Grand Reserve – Sparkling Rosé

\$35.41 – Ontario – winery

Nice mousse, comes across as pink-fruited, not red and ripe but pink and just on the cusp. Delicate and subtle notes of bubblegum and strawberry-biscuits. Shows some depth of flavour while showing off a pretty side in the process. The belle of the ball. **(BETTER)**

Joie Farm 2023 Plein de Vie

\$31.30 – British Columbia – winery

Full of life and fruit: strawberry Runt's candies, peppery finish that lands a little short; good colour and fruit intensity. **(GOOD)**

Kacaba 2025 Effervescence

\$34.95 – Ontario – winery

Somebody stop me ... I thought this was a Rosé and four other people saw a slight salmony colour to this wine – if it's not I need to get my eyes checked, as I have seen Rosés of this colour. There is lovely grapefruit and tropical fruit and great acidity; this is a beauty of a patio sipper. **(BETTER)**

Kacaba 2025 Irresistable – Joanne's Blend

\$26.15 – Ontario – winery

There's a pretty lemon-raspberry note with good length on the finish. Crisp, refreshing and easy to drink. **(GOOD+)**

SPARKLING WINE

KEW Vineyards 2019 Rosalie

\$32.95 – Ontario – LCBO 43594

There's a moment on the first sip where you wonder what red fruit this wine might possess – then you realize, it's not red fruit at all; it's apple. This drinks like a pink apple cider. Pour it for those who say they don't like rosé and see their reaction. This is mighty different take on rosé bubbles. **(GOOD)**

Konzelmann NV Cuve Close Rosé

\$24.95 – Ontario – LCBO 46000

Minty-strawberry, the best way to describe this one – it's seemingly weird, but in a welcoming sort of way. **(GOOD)**

Legends Estate NV Misfit Rosé Bubbly

\$18.00 – Ontario – winery

An easy, peachy, raspberry bubbly that seems to have quite a hit of acidity and nice finish. **(GOOD+)**

Lighthall Vineyards 2024 Fence

\$29.75 – Ontario – winery

Fresh, light and easy – raspberry and strawberry take centre stage and the colour is full-on pretty in the glass. **(GOOD+)**



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SPARKLING WINE

London Born Wines NV Sparkling Rosé

\$24.75 - Ontario - winery

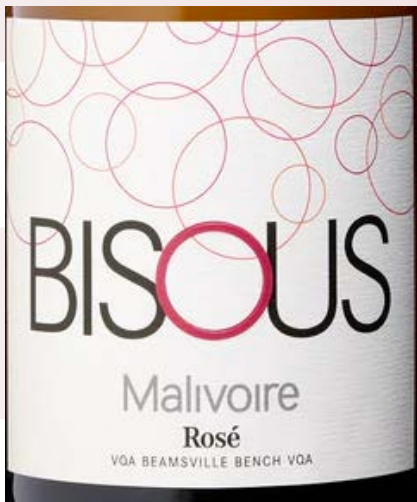
Subtle sweetness across the tongue but delivering on all the things that makes sparkling wines (even those in the Charmat vein) wonderful to sip on. This one is delicate and delicious with the right amount of matching acidity to the fruit.

(GOOD+)

Louis Bouillot NV Perle d'Aurore - Cremant de Bourgogne

\$26.95 - Ontario - LCBO 48793

Raspberry and lemon persist from start to finish where it lingers lovingly on the tongue; there's even a slight floral note that comes along the more you stick with the wine. **(BETTER)**



Malivoire NV Bisous Brut

\$40.00 - Ontario - winery

This is quickly becoming one of the standards for great Ontario sparkling. It's always on point with its delicate palate full of red fruit character, the citrusy notes bring plenty of mouth-cleansing acidity; colour is always beautiful. Not sure I can fault this wine in any way - I could drink the whole bottle myself - I just might. **(BEST)**

Megalomaniac NV Sparkling Personality

\$21.95 - Ontario - winery

Moussy, juicy, raspberry, easy drinking, patio pleaser. **(GOOD)**

Moët & Chandon NV Rosé Imperial Brut

\$99.70 - France - LCBO 482026

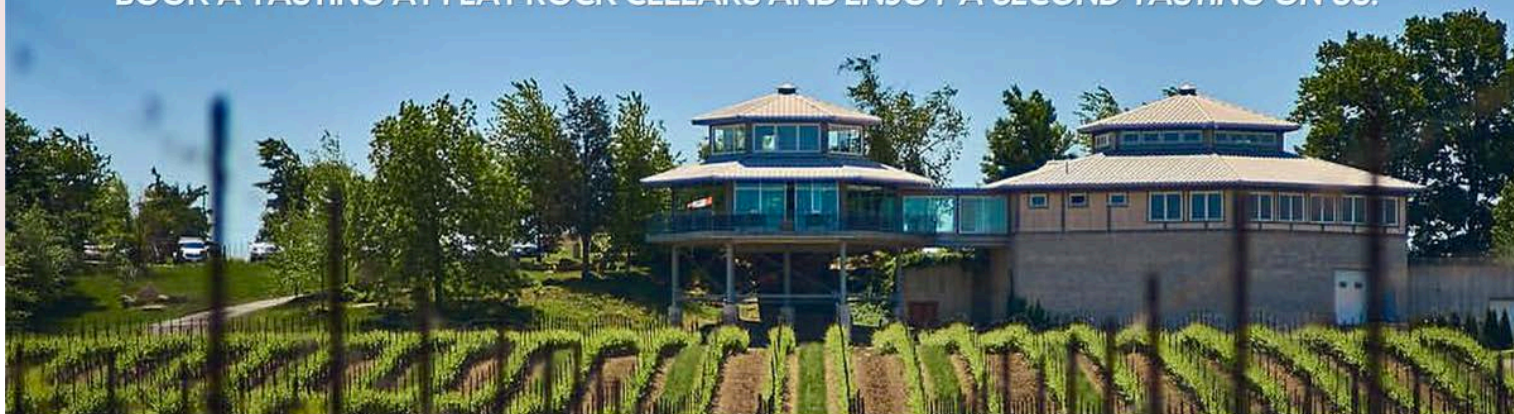
Raspberry and subtle cherry with a Mac apple backing ... Intense, lacking finesse.

(GOOD+)

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SPARKLING WINE

Monte Creek 2024 Living Land Sparkling Rosé

\$24.99 – British Columbia – winery

A real hit of wild strawberry with a gentle bubbly nature. Nice long finish. Easily accessible via screwcap. The finish delivers on a simple lime cordial flavour. **(GOOD+)**

Pelee Island 2024 Lola

\$16.95 – Ontario – LCBO 450981

Not to be confused with their other offering "Lola Light" – and make sure it's the 2024 version. This is light and lively; a Vidal dosaged with 5% Chambourcin: strawberry with some cherry and a little pettiant of bubbles. Surprisingly refreshing with a nice lemony finish ... delicate and quite delicious. This is going to be poured at your next pool party – or it should be. **(BETTER)**

Santa Margherita NV Rosé Brut

\$21.95 – Italy – LCBO 302752

For those that like what Santa M does for Pinot Grigio, you might also like what they have done for rosé bubbles. This is a crisp and easy glass of fizz that shows a nice balance of fruit to acid ratio. A real pretty patio sipper in the Prosecco vein. **(GOOD+)**

SPARKLING WINE

Stoneboat Vineyards NV Reserve Piano Rosé

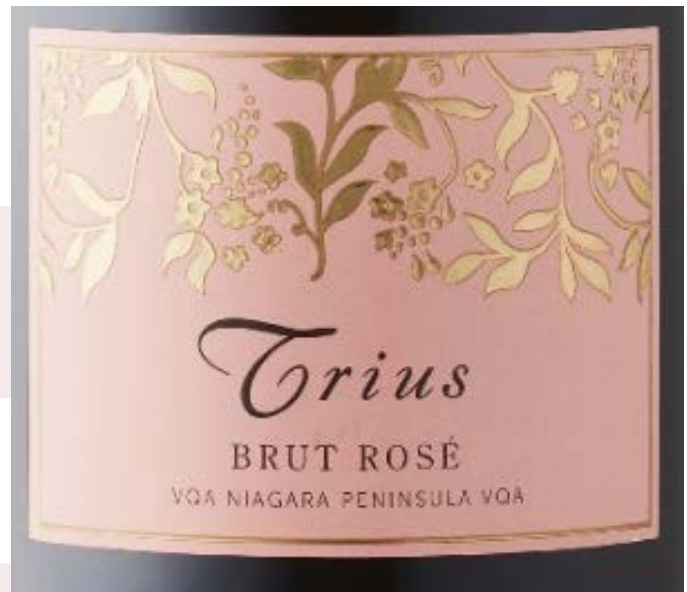
\$28.99 – British Columbia – winery

With a tinge of pink colour in the glass this one just crosses the line into rosé territory. Mousse is quite good and the flavours are well developed. The finish lingers enough to make you want to take another sip. **(BETTER)**

Trius NV Brut Rosé Sparkling

\$29.95 – Ontario – LCBO 17690

What a beautiful bottle of bubbles that brings the fresh, the acidity, the delicate red fruit and it's a delightful sip. This wine seems to keep getting better – or this is just a great version – either way it's one to get. **(BEST)**



Veuve Cliquot NV Rosé

\$103.90 – France – LCBO 19661

Subtle notes of vanilla with good acidity and raspberry notes; this is the best of the Champagne's in this report. **(BETTER)**

Vineland NV Blossom Bubbly

\$19.95 – Ontario – winery

This one has a gentle fizz with notes of floral and orange zest. **(GOOD)**

Volcanic Hills 2025 Bubbly Rose

\$30.09 – British Columbia – winery

Candied strawberry intensity with a bubblegum finish; but if you could add a citrus punch this you might just find some pleasure in this bottle: add lemon, lime and orange and while away the afternoon. **(SANGRIA)**

SPARKLING WINE

Yellow Tail NV Bubbles – Sparkling Rosé

\$16.95 – Australia – LCBO 30836

A much improved bottling. Subtle orange-ade notes on the nose with some Tang-like and raspberry essence on the palate. **(GOOD)**



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A STORY BEHIND THIS YEAR'S REPORT:

SHOWING CLASS

It has been eight years of tasting, trying, and evaluating rosé. Would I say it's been glorious? No. But it does have its upside. Tasting so many of the same style of wines makes one an expert, but not a pleasure seeker. Which is what rosé is supposed to stand for: pleasure, enjoyment, relaxation. Don't get me wrong, I have learned a lot, and I have also derived pleasure from many rosé wines—but in these days leading up to the final product, I find myself evaluating more than enjoying. Now, I am really looking forward to July and August. So I too can sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of the winemakers labours.

250-plus rosés sounds like a lot, but when the sun is shining and the day is warm, nothing makes the day more enjoyable. Grab a glass, pull up a chair, put on a hat (it's hot out there) – it's time for the annual Pinkus Rosé Report.

What Was I Thinking ...

This year I tried something crazy, and now that it's done, I'll share it with you. I created a class devoted to the appreciation of rosé wine. What made me think I could pull off such a thing? I am not sure, but it seemed reasonable at the time. And you know what? It worked. It was received well.

For those that don't know the backstory, I'll fill you in. I have been teaching a general interest wine class at MTU (formerly Ryerson), for a dozen years or more. For two or three semesters a year, I create a course for those interested about tasting and learning about wine. The class is made up of those 55 and older, and is populated by wine enthusiasts thirsty for knowledge, and a glass, or two, in the afternoon on Friday. I have taught on a variety of topics, but this was the first on a single style of wine. Even I was skeptical. How could I fill six weeks with knowledge about rosé? We covered countries, regions, stills and sparklings ... It was a hit. People who thought rosé was just a simple summertime beverage learned about its complexity, variety of color, how different grapes produce different tastes; even in rosé. We tasted and evaluated Lean wines to heavy wines. Food wines to simple sippers. What's for the patio and what's for the table.

I also realized I had created a panel—a group to help me evaluate the wines. It was glorious to get these different perspectives—from love it to hate it and everything in between. There were wines that divided the room and those that coalesced even the fanatics with the naysayers. It was truly a humbling and educational experience. To those who attended and made the course a success, I thank you for your insight, your comments, and lending me your taste buds for an afternoon.

SPOTLIGHT:

MONTEFALCO, ITALY

This year's trip to Montefalco saw less rosé hitting the bottom of my glass ... but it's still great to see in the land of Sagrantino and Rosso, there's still a place for rosé.

Bellafonte 2025 Melagrana - Rosato

(grape: Sagrantino)

Getting raspberry and lemon to play well together might be a feat, but it's done here.

(GOOD+)

Cesarini Sartori 2024 Peperosa - Rosato

(grape: Sagrantino)

Simple with general notes of pure strawberry. **(GOOD)**

Mevante 2025 Umbria Rosato

(grape: Sagrantino)

A refreshing mix of strawberry and raspberry. A real glass of yum. **(BETTER)**



SPOTLIGHT: CAMPANIA, ITALY

Here, in the south of Italy, they take pride in making rosé wines; and why not, it's hot and the perfect time for pink is when it's hot outside (they go together like pasta and sauce). I had two opportunities to taste rosé: during the winery visits and in the tasting room at the presentation of the new wines (Anteprima). I have broken them down below.

Anteprima Tasting - no notes

Borgodangelo 2025 Borgodangelo (GOOD+)

Cantina del Taburno s.a. Beneventano Rosato (GOOD)

I Colli del Sannio 1976 2025 San Pataleo (GOOD+)

Montevetrano 2025 Core Rosa (GOOD)

San Salvatore 1988 2025 Vetere (GOOD)

San Salvatore 1988 s.a. Gioi Blanc de Noir - Metodo Classico (GOOD+)

Tenuta Loffredo 2025 Rosa del Cratere (GOOD)

Vigne Chigi 2025 Rosa Canina (GOOD)

Tasted at Winery

Guerritore 2024 Diecimare

(grape: Aglianico)

Light, fresh and fruity; notes are delicate with lime and strawberry. **(GOOD+)**

Masseria Felicia 2023 Rosalice

(grape: Aglianico)

Made like a white wine with only 14 minutes on skins. Fruity with an interesting colour, lots of wild strawberry, with a little bitterness on the finish. This is more like a food wine than an easy summer sipper. **(GOOD)**

Ocone 2025 1910 Selection - Rosato

(grape: Aglianico)

Nice little bit of rosé magic here: Strawberry, raspberry and lime all meet to throw a party in your mouth. **(GOOD+)**

Ocone NV Alalunga Rosato - Brut (sparkling)

(grape: Aglianico)

Crisp with good acidity and a nice mousse; notes are gently red fruited. **(GOOD+)**

SPOTLIGHT: CAMPANIA, ITALY

Tasted at Winery ... (cont'd)

Tenuta Loffredo 2024 Rosa del Cratere

(grape: Piedirosso)

A little on the oxidative side: mineral, salty, though still refreshing with raspberry and white peach. **(GOOD)**

Tenuta Loffredo 2025 Rosa del Cratere

(grape: Piedirosso)

Nice acidity, good minerality; hints of strawberry with a touch of something sour. This "crunches" like an under-ripe peach. **(GOOD+)**

Terre Stregate 2025 Attimo (meaning: brief moment)

Lovely acidity, fresh, clean, strawberry lime sings in the glass and onto the palate; short skin contact has kept this rosé fresh, fresh, fresh with a touch of rose petal on the nose. Wow! **(BETTER+)**



THE POLLING STATION #2

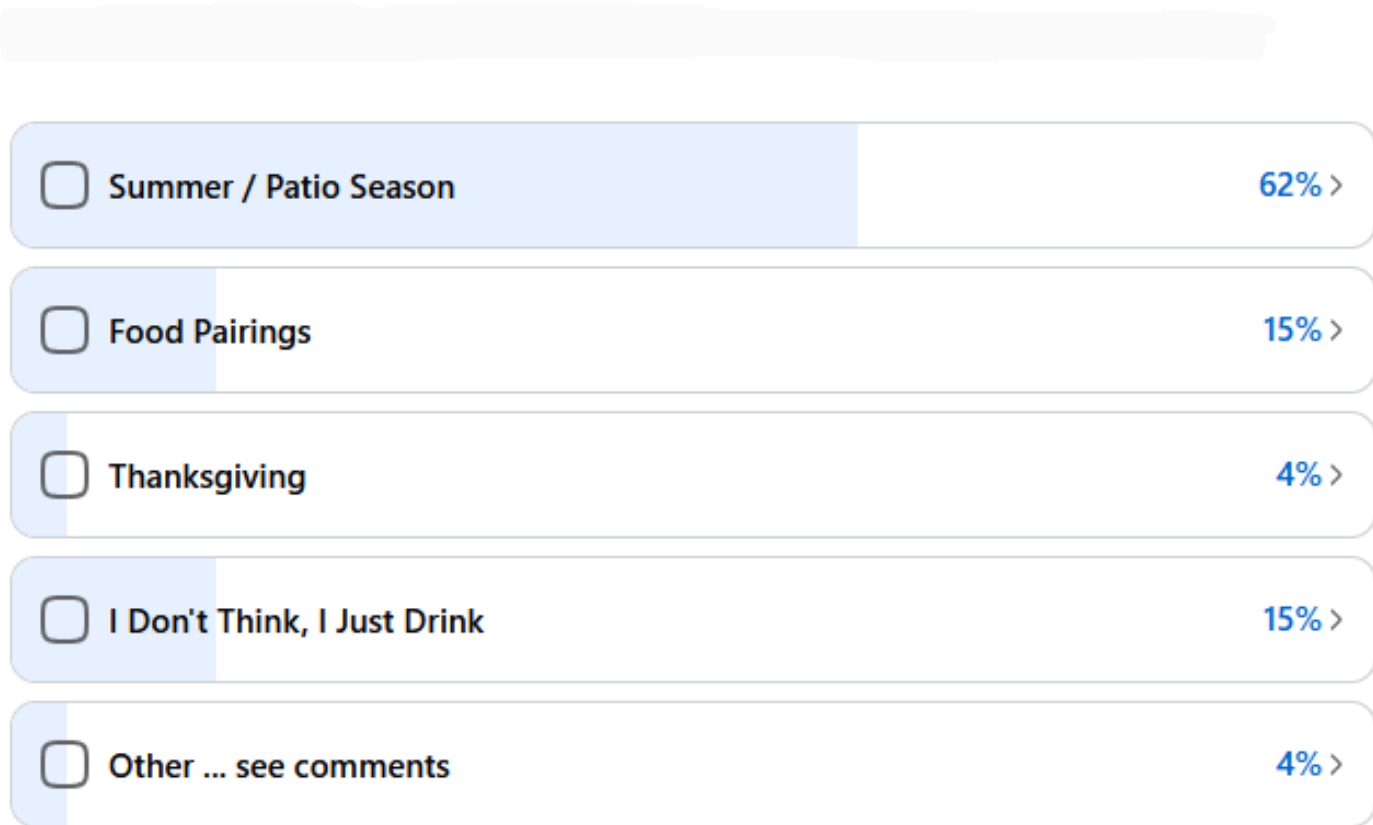
When I think of rosé, I think about summer, fun, refreshment, friends. A day by the pool, in the backyard, grilling something before pulling out that showstopper red. The discussions that flow around pink wines are more laid back, easy, astonishingly honest, but light. Very rarely do things get serious around rosé. We need wines like that. Ones that brighten the day, a mood, and just create a fun mindset. Which is why poll number two's question centered around people's emotional state around rosé:

"When you think of rosé wine, what is the first thing that comes to mind?"

Food pairings and 'I don't think, I just drink' came in second with a respectable 15% each (sorry, Joe). The big winner was summer patio season: 62%. Which, not surprisingly, shows that rosés are for the fun and frolicking of summertime we think they are—even when they try to be serious, we do not always co-operate. Cheers.



When you think of Rosé Wines, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

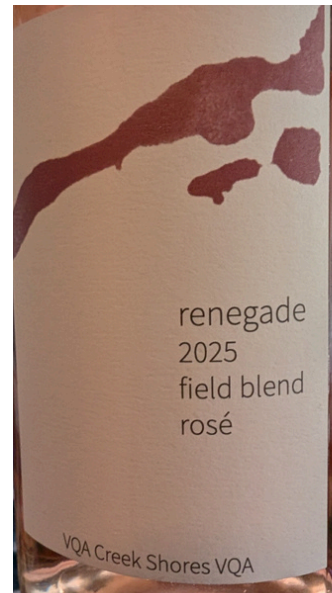


STILL WINES

16 Mile Cellars 2025 Renegade Rosé

\$22.75 – Ontario – winery

A field blend of Pinot and Gamay Noirs. This is the follow-up to their top-rated 2024 version and has even more depth of flavour with hints of tannins that seem to be softened by the touch of sugar that is left behind. Strawberry and cherry notes that seduce the palate sip after sip. **(BEST)**



50th Parallel Estate Winery 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$28.00 – British Columbia – winery

This sits on the very edge of dry; it's pleasant with pure raspberry goodness, with hints of strawberry – what should win you over is the tart finish. **(GOOD+)**

80X Wine Co. 2024 When Pigs Fly Rosé

\$16.27 – Ontario – Licensee Only

There is a basic-ness to this rosé. It's crisp and pleasant but it lacks depth and complexity. There is a citrus aspect and it "grows on you"; but mainly it drinks like a white wine masquerading in rosé clothing. **(GOOD)**

Adega on 45th Estate 2025 Rosé

\$28.74 – British Columbia – winery

A little too tart on this one – so figure out some sweet red fruits to add to this and create a ... **(SANGRIA)**

Apricus 2025 Rosé

\$34.49 – British Columbia – winery

Subtle watermelon-cherry; but this one is drinkable and easily so. **(GOOD+)**

STILL WINES

BASK Reserve NV Simply Rosé

\$15.49 – Ontario – on-line: Wine Rack

Not to be confused with the non-reserve version (take note). This 0% sugar has an artificial strawberry nose while on the palate it has a very raspberry sensation and end dry. A little bitter-cranberry-tartness on the finish makes this one ready for refreshment. For those counting calories and sugar intake you'll be very happy with this one. **(BETTER)**



Benjamin Bridge 2024 Wild Rock Rosé

\$22.95 – Nova Scotia – LCBO 49488

Just barely slips into the territory of rosé in colour; think of squeezing a peach. Which matches with the flavours here: peach and honeydew melon with a touch of orange blossom. Pretty and powerful with its biting acidity and delicate sweetness. **(BETTER)**

Between the Lines NV Rosé

\$24.00 – Ontario – winery

This Cabernet Franc / Riesling blend (what I'd refer to as a blush) is gentle across the palate with good acidity (thank you Riesling). Cran-raspberry with a lemon zest hit. **(GOOD+)**

Between the Lines NV PINK – 6 pack cans

\$39.00 – Ontario – winery

You'll find this one in cans, and it good for boating and bachelorettes if what you are looking for is sweetness. Might I suggest using this as a mixer ... or as was suggested to me: marinade watermelon overnight then serve with feta, cucumbers and mint as a salad. **(SANGRIA)**

Black Widow Winery 2025 Rosé

\$33.90 – British Columbia – winery

Another basic wine that will have its followers: white peach, lime and unripened strawberries. **(GOOD)**

STILL WINES

Byland 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé

\$16.80 – Ontario – winery

Looking for some punchy acidity in your rosé? Byland has just what you're looking for: raspberry, strawberry and watermelon rind offers up those summer flavours. The finish is dry with a balancing tartness and bite from the acidity. **(BETTER)**

Calamus 2025 Rosalee's Rosé

\$21.95 – Ontario – winery

Another in a line of tutti-frutti rosés that deliver a little candied note. This one brings a strawberry-bubblegum note to the table with decent acidity. **(GOOD+)**

Cave Spring Cellars 2025 Rosé Dry

\$17.95 – Ontario – LCBO 295006

This pink has a medium-length finish that makes it drinkable and enjoyable. Watermelon rind dominates the flavour profile while a little orange rind slips in for extra measure. **(GOOD)**

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STILL WINES

Caves d'Esclans 2025 The Beach by Whispering Angel

\$23.95 – France – LCBO 31710

A delicate perfume greets the nose with notes of floral and citrus; palate shows signs of yellow grapefruit, good acidity, along with strawberry pith and watermelon rind.

Refreshing and tasty – this Beach is one you'll want to visit again and again. **(BETTER)**

Caves d'Esclans NV The Pale by Sasha Licine

\$19.95 – France – LCBO 49252

The lighter, easier side of Esclan, colour and taste. Plenty of citrus yet there is a smooth as it crosses over the tongue. The finish is tart citrus pith, it's long and it lingers.

(BETTER)

Caves d'Esclans 2025 Whispering Angel

\$30.95 – France – LCBO 325076

Delicate in both flavour and colour. Notes of pink grapefruit and a soupçon of raspberry that's pleasurable while being dry and easy to drink. **(BETTER+)**



Chain Reaction 2025 Reserve Rosé

\$34.50 – British Columbia – winery

A basic rosé that touches on notes of watermelon and lime; nothing too intense or vivid. Passable. **(GOOD)**

Ciao Bella Winery 2025 Pinot Rosato

\$33.30 – British Columbia – winery

Simple and sippable with a nice citrusy finish that leans on the tart side. **(GOOD)**

Clos du Soleil Winery 2025 Rosé

\$25.90 – British Columbia – winery

So close to the Provencal-style it is scary. A lengthy finish with plenty of citrus and great colour; don't say this about Provence often but in this ones case, it's chuggable.

(BETTER)

STILL WINES

Creekside 2025 Rosé

\$13.95 – Ontario – winery

Plenty of cherry with a delicate citrus backbone. Medium-length finish that leans on the raspberry side of life. Highly quaffable and enjoyable. **(BETTER)**

CREW – Colchester Ridge 2024 Red Sky at Night

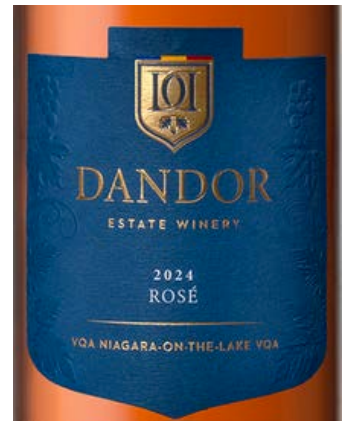
\$17.95 – Ontario – LCBO 44872

A rosé on the darker side; hence why it is at night; made entirely of Merlot. Notes of strawberry and lime upfront with a kick of cherry on the finish. **(GOOD)**

DanDor 2024 Rosé

\$26.00 – Ontario – winery

Pleasant, easy and quaffable. The acidity is subtle, the raspberry is gentle. It's a summertime in a glass kinda wine, so 'em coming and keep 'em filled. **(BETTER)**



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STILL WINES

Deep Roots 2025 Rosé

\$23.90 – British Columbia – winery

A pleasant raspberry note with subtle sweetness makes this a quaffable addition to your rosé–summer season; plus there is some good acidity that balances this beauty off. **(BETTER)**

Dirty Laundry 2025 Hush

\$20.99 – British Columbia – winery

Candied nose and a pleasant palate are the hallmarks of this rosé; it's an easy blend of yummy: floral meets orange peel on the palate of this delicate and delicious beauty. **(BETTER)**

Don't Poke the Bear NV Rosé

\$13.75 – Ontario – Creekside Winery

Gentle, easy and friendly. A tart rosé with a little poke of sweetness. **(GOOD)**



El Goru 2025 Rosado Grenache

\$14.95 – Spain – LCBO 49815

Whether this is pure red licorice or licorice NIBS is debatable, but what isn't up for discussion is how delicious and tasty this wine is. Add in some herbal components, a decent amount of acidity, some length to the finish and plenty of character (like the guy on the outside of the bottle) and you have a complex rosé with lots going on, plenty ofumph and a sipper for the summer for not a lot of dough. **(BETTER+)**

Family Tree 2025 The Merry Widow Rosé

\$16.95 – Ontario – LCBO 24972

From the folks at Henry of Pelham and this is another hit, they are killing it for 2025 rosé. Good acidity, pretty floral notes, hints of raspberry – this one grows on you sip after sip after sip. It's balanced and shows an element of, dare I say, sophistication. **(BETTER)**

THE POLLING STATION #3

With rosé giving off that summertime vibe, the only question that made sense for the next one: why we would choose a rosé over other wines, like a refreshing white, say New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, unoaked Chardonnay or even a Pinot Grigio, which in truth, all have a place around the summertime table.

Subtle red fruit was the number one answer (42%), with the best comment being the insightful: "It's a great way to drink red in a refreshing way." (Debbie)

Well put. But then why do so many "red drinkers" have a problem making the move to rosé in the summer? Something I hear often, and mostly from men, rosé is a ladies drink: "that's for the women, manly-men drink red." I would say to those men, who still hold that opinion, get your head out of your ass and join us on the pink side of life. It's more fun here. But then again, those men are sophisticated enough to read this report; so I'd be preaching to the choir. Amen to that.

Why Drink Rosé Wine Over a White Wine?The rosé discussion continues ... this week I want to know why rosé has the edge over a refreshing white. Feel free to comment below.

- Love the Colour 12% >
- Feels More Like Summer 12% >
- More Refreshing 1% >
- The Subtle Red Fruit 42% >
- Something Else, See Below 12% >
- Added by [Xavier Bordeaux](#)
Overall crowd pleaser. 11% >

STILL WINES

Featherstone 2025 Rosé

\$16.95 – Ontario – LCBO 117861

Tutti-frutti notes that lead into a cherry Kool-Aid note. This is the typical style of Featherstone. It's easy drinking and pleasant. **(GOOD)**

Ferox 2024 Rosé – Silver Lion Series

\$24.80 – Ontario – winery

Is there a slight effervescence here? Some on the panel believed yes. Cran-cherry, raspberry and a little on the sweet fruit side. Short finish; but a little heavy across the palate making it a glass, no more than two rosé; if sipping on its own – with food? Maybe it would "fare" a little better. **(GOOD+)**

Fielding 2025 Rosé

\$17.95 – Ontario – LCBO 53421

The nose comes across as candied and you believe what you are about to get is sweet; but there is a nice cherry core and it finishes drier than you expect. Don't always believe what you smell; taste is king after all. **(GOOD+)**

Flat Rock Cellars 2025 Pink Twisted

\$17.95 – Ontario – LCBO 39974

Heavier version of rosé, wild strawberry with tart grapefruit but a short finish. **(GOOD)**

Forbidden Fruit Winery 2025 Dead End Happy Ending Rosé

\$26.00 – British Columbia – winery

I am sure there is a story behind this wine but as for it being a rosé it hits some of the right notes of raspberry, strawberry and even a hint of cherry. **(GOOD)**

Four Shadows Vineyard 2025 Roze

\$28.75 – British Columbia – winery

Tutti-frutti with notes of cherry Jell-o ... it's a fun wine to taste and even has a little touch of acidity. **(GOOD)**

STILL WINES

Front Road Cellars 2025 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$21.95 – Ontario – winery

This Cabernet Franc rosé is sugary sweet in a Def Leppard Pour Some Sugar On Me kinda way. This would be a great base for a citrusy Sangria because of the cherry dominate flavours it delivers. **(SANGRIA)**

Gehringer Brothers 2025 Rosé

\$19.54 – British Columbia – winery

A fun little frolic down rosé lane: cherry, strawberry kicks in and makes this thoroughly enjoyable. **(BETTER)**

Georgian Hills 2024 Foch Rosé

\$19.95 – Ontario – winery

This intensely coloured Rosé is full of cran-cherry juice; tart across the tongue and has the perception of tannins on the finish. **(GOOD)**

Gerard Bertand 2025 Cote des Roses

\$19.95 – France – LCBO 373985

Bitter tannins, with a rich mouthfeel and long finish. Nice touch of citrus across the palate; but that weight is a detractor from pure enjoyment. **(GOOD)**

Gerard Bertand 2024 Gris Blanc

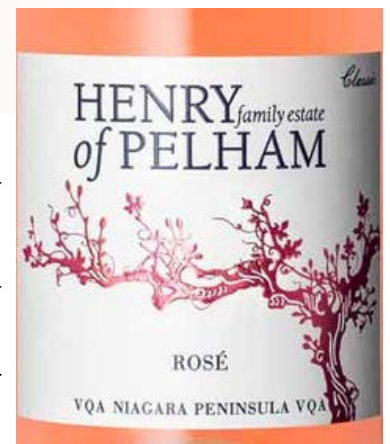
\$16.95 – France – LCBO 14673

Comes across more white than a rosé; maybe they sent the wrong bottle, or the rosé is exceptionally light: crisp and citrus with little rosé characteristics except its modicum of refreshment. **(GOOD+)**

Henry of Pelham 2025 Rosé Estate

\$13.95 – Ontario – LCBO 613471

The first rosé I tasted for the report this year, and it set a might high bar: strawberry, hit of vanilla, along with peach, raspberry, and a tutti-fruity-floral note. It is gulpable and delicious; and it is balanced out with a good acid punch. Bravo. You'll wanna buy this by the 6 pack – it'll be a staple around a body of water or the BBQ. **(BETTER)**



STILL WINES

Henry of Pelham 2025 Three of Hearts

\$19.95 – Ontario – LCBO 552562

Another version of pink wine from the Henry-folks. This Three of Hearts is one of the better ones. After having lost its way the past few years this one hits the right notes: fruity and almost jammy with notes of strawberry and raspberry. Pretty colour.

(BETTER)

Hester Creek 2025 Rosé Pinot Noir

\$27.99 – British Columbia – winery

Buckwheat honey, tutti-fruity, with some notes of hockey card bubble gum; this one is more food oriented. **(GOOD)**

Hester Creek 2025 Rosé Cabernet Franc

\$22.99 – British Columbia – winery

An interesting not of sugar free raspberry Jell-o, sits a little outside the norm; seems almost a gateway to Pinot Noir or Cabernet Franc reds. This rosé is on the heavier side with a cranberry cocktail feel. **(GOOD)**



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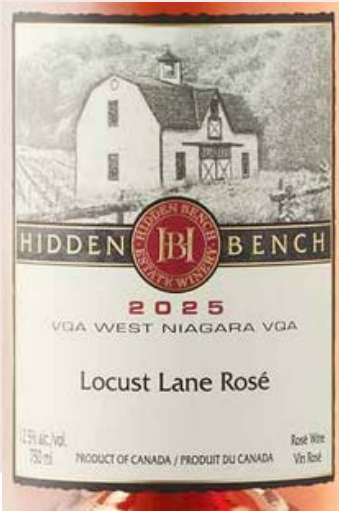
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STILL WINES



Hidden Bench 2025 Locust Lane Rosé

\$26.95 – Ontario – LCBO 68833

This one is perfect for those afternoons when a summer-salad is in order. Loaded with strawberry, but also hints of lemonade that helps balance the whole experience. **(BETTER+)**

Hillside Winery 2025 Rosé

\$27.00 – British Columbia – winery

Cherry, raspberry and bubblegum – balanced with a nice punch of acidity. **(GOOD+)**

Hillside Winery 2025 Below the Road Rosé

\$35.00 – British Columbia – winery

This one smells tuti-frutti but once it is on the palate it changes. That fun little fruitiness bears a whack of acidity which helps it on its way to a lovely finish.

(BETTER)

Huff Estate 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé – Country Road

\$27.00 – Ontario – winery

Watermelon rind and sour raspberry with a tart note and acid kick. Nice length.

(GOOD+)

Huff Estate 2024 Getaway

\$19.95 – Ontario – LCBO 63982

Another simple rosé that will garner fans in the County and beyond. This has a red raspberry note that leans a slight bit earthy (like those berries were dropped on the ground and you scooped them up without dusting them off) – more tart than sweet.

(GOOD)

Inniskillin NV Estate Series Rosé

\$14.69 – Ontario – winery

The trend in non-vintage rosé has found its way to Inniskillin. This is a raspberry-cherry pink wine that is as easy to drink as any non-vintage rosé you'll taste.

(GOOD)

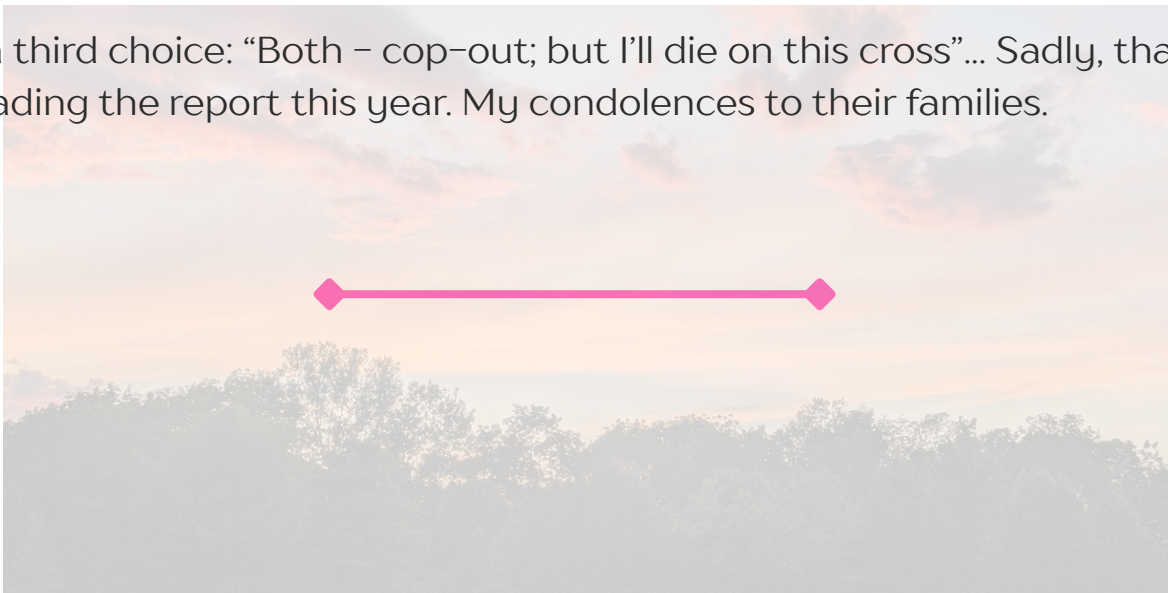
THE POLLING STATION #4

Decided to have a little fun with this one; and why not? It has already been proven rosé is that kind of wine. The question was:

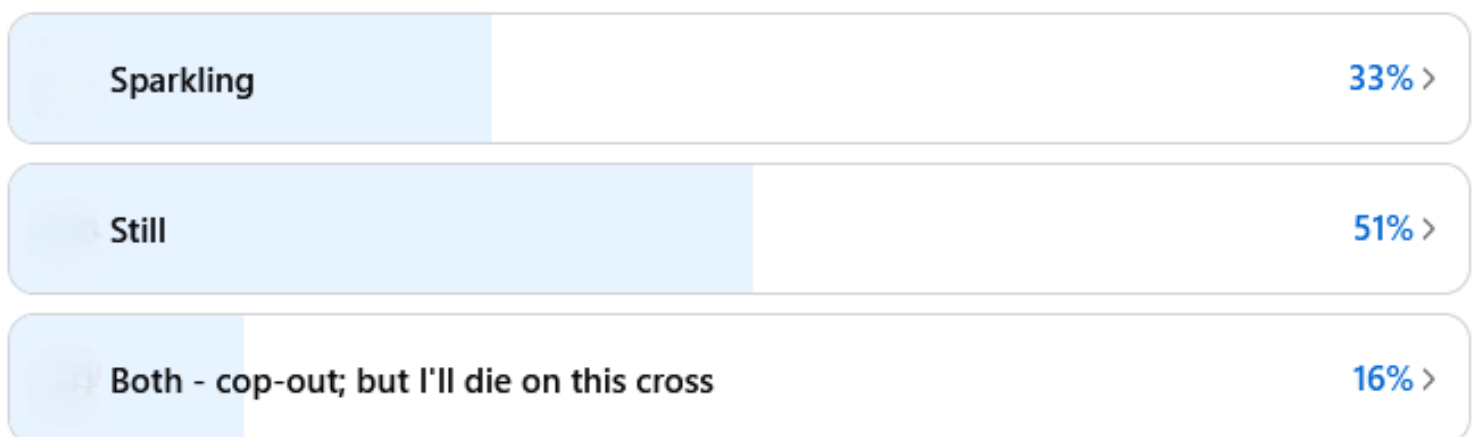
"Gun to your head, do you prefer still or sparkling rosé?"

I know my preference, I lean to the bubbly side—But does everyone else think the same way I do? As it turns out, no—the majority picked still—51%, while sparkling picked up 33%. So where did the other 16% go?

I offered a third choice: “Both - cop-out; but I’ll die on this cross”... Sadly, that is 16% less people reading the report this year. My condolences to their families.



GUN TO YOUR HEAD: DO YOU PREFER STILL OR SPARKLING ROSÉ?



STILL WINES

Inniskillin 2024 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$20.19 – Ontario – winery

Light in both flavour and colour; very pretty nose with flavours that fall into the lemon–lime camp. **(GOOD+)**

Intrigue 2025 Social Rosé

\$23.00 – British Columbia – winery

A basic rosé that shows off raspberry and lemon. Yet the palate delivers on some lovely fruit sweetness – it's quite crushable. **(GOOD+)**

Intrigue 2025 Rotberger

\$28.00 – British Columbia – winery

A lightly coloured rosé that delivers so much flavour; while still being light. Watermelon rind with hints of cherry, a pleasant tartness to acidity ratio and long finish. **(BETTER)**

Invivo 2025 Graham Norton Rosé

\$23.95 – New Zealand – Nicholas Pearce Wines

There is no doubt in anyone's mind this is a Sauvignon Blanc masquerading as a rosé: passionfruit and lychee seem to sit in the middle section. This is a refreshing rosé in colour only – this is for the Sauvignon Blanc fans out there that want some colour in their favourite wine. **(GOOD)**

JoieFarm 2025 Rosé

??? – British Columbia – winery

Lime–soaked–raspberry with a hit of white peach. Refreshing and tasty. **(BETTER)**

Jost Vineyards NV Rosé

\$20.00 – Nova Scotia – winery

Pink grapefruit with subtle hints of watermelon and some sour white cherry to the finish. **(GOOD+)**

STILL WINES

Juice Wine Co. 2025 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$32.00 – Ontario – LCBO 51488

Fresh with good acidity. Raspberry is the key note here; quaffable but with a short finish. **(GOOD+)**

Kacaba 2025 Rebecca Rosé

\$19.15 – Ontario – winery

A fun strawberry kool-aid note with a dry-ish finish ... quaffable and back deck ready. And if you have a sister or friend named Rebecca, even better. **(GOOD+)**

King + Victoria 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé – Hanck Vineyard

\$30.00 – Ontario – winery

A good fruit to acidity ratio here with lemon, red currant and even some rhubarb thrown in for good measure; the finish brings in a mix of watermelon and honeydew. Honey, do bring us another bottle. **(BETTER)**

Kir-Yianni 2025 Xinomavro Rosé – Terres de Sable

\$19.95 – Greece – LCBO 39595

Dry, crisp, lemon zest, which also describes the finish ... this is a great little summer sipper for the patio. And if you're wondering what a Xinomavro is, it's the name of the grape. Something to tell your guests while you're pouring their second glass. **(BETTER+)**



Kismet Estate 2025 Kamal

\$28.84 – British Columbia – winery

Subtle cherry-rhubarb with a tart lime finish. **(GOOD+)**

Kismet Estate 2025 Infinity Rosé

\$28.84 – British Columbia – winery

Simple but tasty with the red fruits dominating: raspberry with watermelon pith on the finish. **(GOOD+)**

STILL WINES

Konzelmann 2025 Cabernet Rosé

\$17.95 – Ontario – LCBO 12841

Cran-cherry sweetness (if there is such a thing), let's call it "bigly fruited" think an Ocean Spray cranberry cocktail blend all finishing with a hit of strawberry. No doubt there is an intensity of summertime flavours here. **(GOOD+)**

Lafage 2025 Miraflores Rosé

\$19.95 – France – LCBO 367375

The bottle is wrapped in a beautifully colour packaging (or you can get the frosted bottle); light, easy and more citrusy than anything else. It will quench that summertime thirst; but it may not scratch your rosé itch as the colour barely hits the threshold for rosé wine (drinks like a white). **(GOOD+)**



Lakeview NV Mindful Rosé

\$13.95 – Ontario – LCBO 25462

This wine has a checked past in the report. The first year I tasted this it was remarkable good – the next not so much. They are back to the top of their game with this batch. It's an 8% alcohol, low sugar wine with lovely notes of floral, raspberry and cherry. This is for those conscious about what they are drinking and for those who have to work the next day. **(BETTER)**

Lakeview 2023 Queen Bee

\$14.95 – Ontario – winery

Here we are at the borderline of enjoyability – this one is old and shows its age but it does have a drinkability factor. Chilled it can be enjoyed, but don't hold this one any longer than necessary. **(GOOD)**

London Born Wines 2024 Camden Gamay Rosé

\$20.75 – Ontario – winery

Some lime kicks around the strawberry notes and the first sip seems a little odd, but sips two, three and four allows this wine to quickly grow on you. **(GOOD+)**

STILL WINES



Lubanzi 2025 Cinsault Rosé

\$18.95 – South Africa – LCBO 49070

Tart watermelon with some notes of white cherry and a long finish – we don't see many South African rosés here, nor do we think of them for the style; but this one shows that even South Africa is making great pinks. Check out the cool stopper, a cross between a cork t-stopper and a sparkling cork. **(BETTER)**

Magnetic Hill Winery 2025 Lodestone Rosé

\$20.00 – New Brunswick – winery

Think raspberry-strawberry lemonade and you have the taste profile of this East Coast rosé. **(GOOD)**

Magnotta Winery 2025 Pinot Rosé – Equus Series

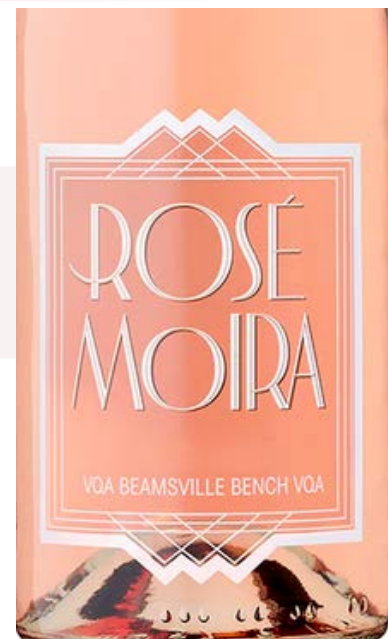
\$10.95 – Ontario – winery

Here we are on the edge of dry. The fruit comes across sweet and all it would need is a touch more acidity to raise it up a notch. Right now it is sitting pretty. **(GOOD)**

Malivoire 2025 Moira Rosé

\$28.00 – Ontario – winery

Another year that Moira hits the mark. Peach, lemon-lime with good acidity. There's also some watermelon and cherry that bursts onto the tongue. The finish is long and develops an orange blossom aftertaste. One of the best Moira in recent memory. **(BEST)**



STILL WINES

Malivoire 2025 Lady Bug Rosé

\$19.95 – Ontario – LCBO 559088

Strawberry and cherry prevail here with a touch of sweetness on the back-palate. The acidity is gentle but present. This seems to be a drier version than in previous iterations; but the punch of red fruits gives it a lift upfront while a note of lemon lingers on the finish. **(GOOD+)**

Malivoire 2025 Vivant Rosé

\$23.95 – Ontario – LCBO 498535

This usually resides at the top of my lists every year – but this year it slips a notch; maybe because I have taste so many great versions of this wine that when it is just above average it slips (shrug). Look, it's still lovely with floral, strawberry and raspberry notes that also combine lemon-lime like acidity. This is a subtle stroke on the palate then a punch on the finish – another good version that will make Vivant-fans very happy. **(BETTER)**

Megalomaniac 2025 Pink Slip

\$20.95 – Ontario – LCBO 85126

This usual easy sipper has gained a little power in its 2025 version: strong mouthfeel, long finish – this is a cocktail-hour sipper with good acidity. **(GOOD+)**



Meldville 2025 Malbec Rosé

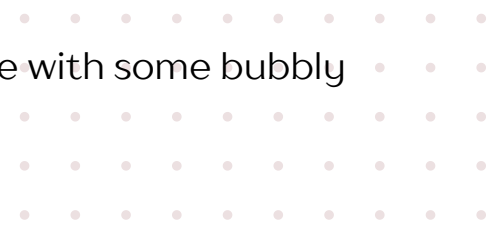
\$20.00 – Ontario – on-line

This is where juicy and tart merge into a seamless project and throws the tongue for a loop; but wait, are those tannins sliding across the tongue? This is a cran-strawberry all the way and can pair with some good smoky chicken or pork chops from the BBQ. **(BETTER)**

Monte Creek 2025 Rosé – Living Land Series

\$24.99 – British Columbia – winery

Candied strawberry runts, Swedish berries, could also be nice with some bubbly water. **(GOOD)**



STILL WINES



Mimi en Provence 2025 Grande Réserve Rosé

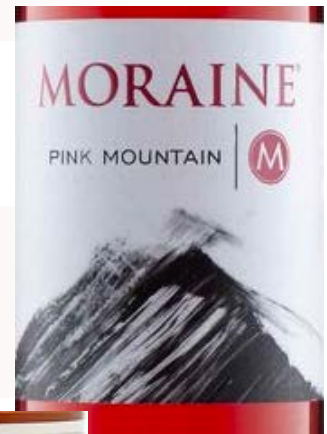
\$21.95 – France – LCBO 452573

The motherland of rosé is just showing off here. Light dusting of pink colour, dry, citrusy with a soupçon of red currant. This just delivers summer-sipping up on a silver platter. **(BEST)**

Moraine 2025 Pink Mountain

\$27.00 – British Columbia – winery

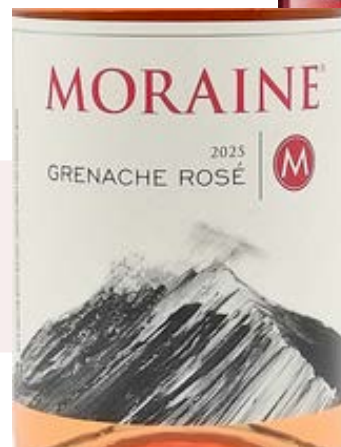
This one is juicy and summer ready with notes of grapefruit cocktail rising to the forefront almost immediately; then there is the strawberry centre. It's quaffable and pure summer in a glass. Yum. **(BETTER+)**



Moraine 2025 Grenache Rosé

\$29.00 – British Columbia – winery

The nose shows off a pretty pink grapefruit nuance and the palate does not relinquish it. This is refreshing and really tasty juice with a lingering finish. Pure patio sipper. **(BETTER)**



Morandin Wines 2025 Rosé

\$36.80 – British Columbia – winery

A rosé on the simple side: floral and cherry ending with a tart feature. **(GOOD)**

STILL WINES

Nk'Mip Cellars 2025 Storytellers Rosé

\$25.99 – British Columbia – winery

Strawberry and cherry with a lime backing. **(GOOD)**



Paglione Estate 2025 Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé

\$19.95 – Ontario – winery

Strawberry-rhubarb notes that come across with nice sweet fruit and balancing acidity – this one is very sippable. **(BETTER)**

Palatine Hills NV Oh Goody!

\$10.95 – Ontario – LCBO 44231

"A slap in the face of fruit." A cherry Kool-Aid effect that is semi-juicy and very satisfying. Its price gives it the plus sign. **(GOOD+)**

Palatine Hills 2025 White Merlot

\$24.95 – Ontario – winery

This is sweet but it has fun doing it and wears it on its sleeve – good for a hot afternoon where sitting in the sun is in order; or, and hear me out: grab some ice, lemons, limes and oranges. Toss them into a bowl and use this as your base for a sweet and sour Sangria. **(SANGRIA)**

Pelee Island 2023 Pink

\$13.95 – Ontario – LCBO 529354

Lacks anything interesting, meaning it's now going to bowl you over with flavour. Funny enough, when chilled well it tastes like ... what you would think the colour pink would taste like. And that makes it something you have to try at least once. **(GOOD)**



THE POLLING STATION #5

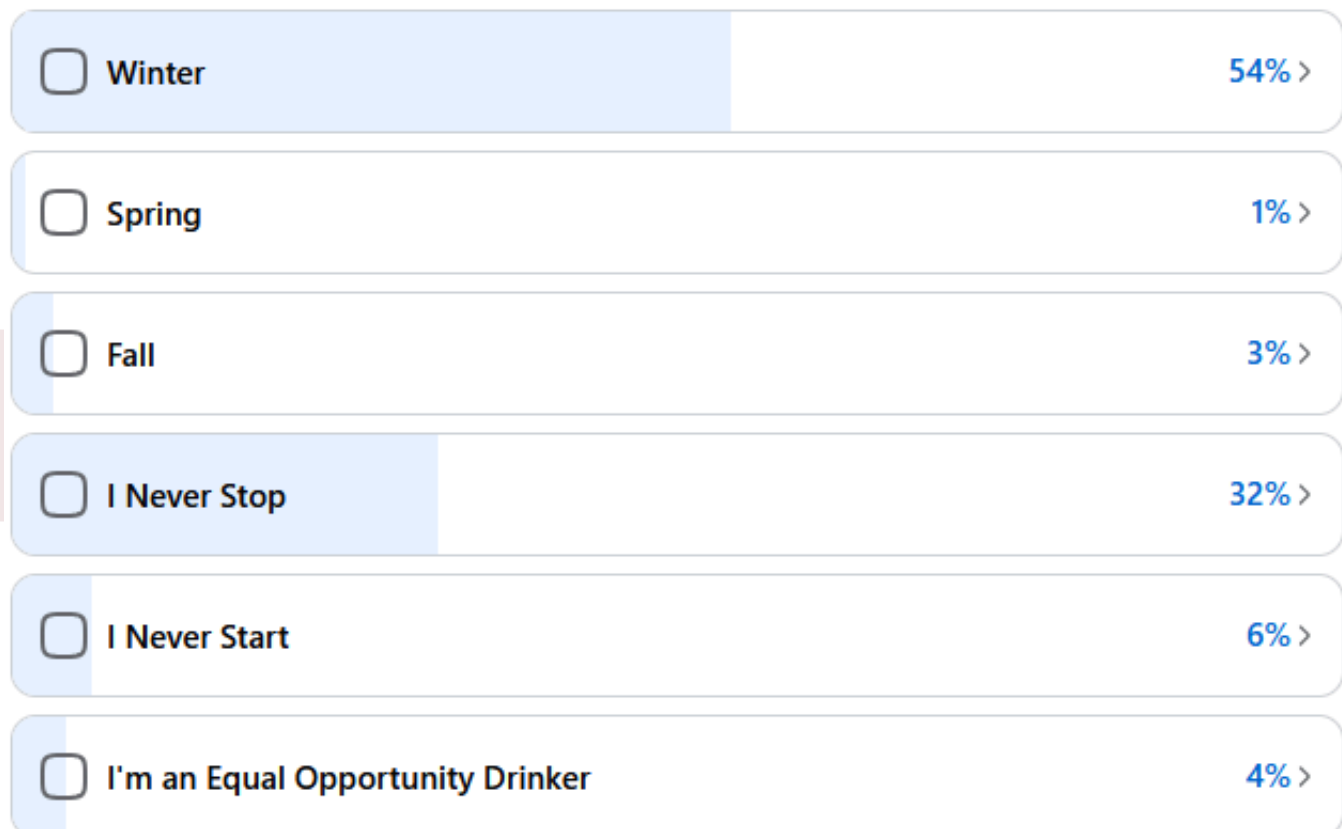
Sometimes you have a theory, say, people don't drink much rosé in the winter; if any. And then you put that theory to the test: "At what time of year do you drink the least amount of rosé?" ... And we wait.

I offered up six options, including three seasons, because we all know we drink rosé in the summer, right? Plus, 'I never start', 'I never stop', and something about being an equal-opportunity drinker.

I never stop garnered the second-most votes at 32%. Although one reader pushed back on that, challenging those who voted in this category to honestly, "...audit their own drinking habits." (André); citing sales of only 20% of the rosé category of his winery's flagship product. 6% claim to never start drinking rosé (WTF). But the overwhelming number went to winter at 54%, which to me makes a ton of sense. Canadians are seasonal drinkers, white/rosé in the summer, red in the winter. While the shoulder seasons of fall and spring see the transition happen.



AT WHAT TIME OF THE YEAR, DO YOU DRINK THE LEAST AMOUNT OF ROSÉ?



STILL WINES



Peller Estates 2025 Reserve Rosé

\$12.95 – Ontario – on-line: The Wine Shop

This patio-friendly rosé is one of the lightest rosés I have seen out of Ontario this year; it barely registers as a pink – good thing it says it on the label. That said, it's delicate, delicious and delivers on the promise of a rosé should be: refreshing. Lemonade and lime dominate, this is one for the citrus crowd. **(BETTER)**



Peller Estates 2025 Private Reserve Rosé

\$19.95 – Ontario – LCBO 28531

Peller has stepped up their rosé game; trying to match the success of their sister winery, Trius. This delivers on floral, cherry, raspberry all with a delicacy across the tongue and a lovely tartness from the acidity – keenly quaffable. **(BETTER)**

Peninsula Ridge 2025 Beal Vineyard Cabernet Rosé

\$15.00 – Ontario – winery

Strawberry-lime and candied cherries; there's an acidity to this wine that masks the sweetness of the fruit. All-in-all it makes for a difficult second glass but a delicious first one. **(GOOD+)**

Pillitteri 2022 Lucia's Rosé

\$22.00 – Ontario – winery

Sweet with notes of orange zest – add some sparkling and some citrus and ... BOOM. **(SANGRIA)**

Pillitteri 2022 Troy Amos Ross Rosé

\$25.00 – Ontario – winery

There's a sweetness factor here with orange-ade and raspberry Fun-Dip (anybody remember that?). **(SANGRIA)**

STILL WINES

Planters Ridge Winery 2025 Rosé

\$21.30 – Nova Scotia – winery

We can see some candied notes at the beginning, say Cherry Jolly Ranchers; the sweetness is fruit driven and ends with a raspberry finish. This one has a fun-factor that can't be denied. **(GOOD+)**

Popcorn 2025 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$17.95 – Ontario – LCBO 48725

Juicy with a medium ranked acidity and a short finish – which means you'll need more sips to keep the flavour going. Look for some raspberry tartness and a blip of cranberry-cherry and raspberry on the finish. **(GOOD+)**

Ravine 2025 Rosé

\$27.00 – Ontario – winery

Super dry version of rosé with a predominant raspberry-strawberry note; plus, hints of lemon-lime and even some tart cherry. **(GOOD+)**



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STILL WINES

Redstone 2025 Rosé

\$18.95 – Ontario – LCBO 650655

Smooth at the start with a slightly spicy-strawberry finish. **(GOOD)**

Redstone 2025 Redstone Vineyard Rosé

\$26.95 – Ontario – winery

Smooth, but with some bite on the finish. Raspberry-strawberry with a fresh, lively mid-palate. The good acidity shows up on the finish with a little grit from tannins.. Which makes it sippable on so many levels. **(BETTER)**

Richibucto River 2025 Camrose

\$16.79 – British Columbia – winery

A vibrant pink colour really grabs the eye. Sour watermelon pith with a sour raspberry and fresh strawberry kick. **(GOOD+)**

Saintly NV The Good Rosé

\$19.00 – Ontario – LCBO 14882

Let's start at the end; this one has a funny little finish; but the start is tart and there is a quaff-ability to it. **(GOOD)**

Sandbanks NV Rosé

\$14.95 – Ontario – LCBO 244616

Throw in some citrus – this one adds the sugar. **(SANGRIA)**

See Ya Later Ranch 2025 Legacy Rosé

\$25.99 – British Columbia – winery

Simple, sippable, easy and refreshing. **(GOOD)**

Skimmerhorn Winery & Vineyard 2025 Rosé

\$26.00 – British Columbia – winery

Lots of summer strawberries, there is a lack of perceptible acidity here, but there is a tartness that helps balance it out in the end. **(GOOD+)**

STILL WINES

Spacedog Wines 2025 Rosé

\$36.00 – British Columbia – winery

Drinkable without too much complication. It has a nice tartness with a short finish. **(GOOD)**

Sprucewood Shores NV Beach Glass

\$16.95 – Ontario – LCBO 23877

If you have ever had a Fun-Dip in your life, and those of a certain age I'm sure you have, this will remind you of the stick – not the powder we dipped it into, but the stick. If you don't know what I'm talking about ask someone who grew up in the 80's. **(GOOD)**

Stag's Hollow 2025 Syrah Rosé

\$25.00 – British Columbia – winery

A lovely note of orange blossom on the nose which gives of quite the perfume; the palate follows in the same vein. **(GOOD)**

Stoneboat Vineyards 2025 Valley Rosé

\$24.99 – British Columbia – winery

More citrus than red-fruited but with a refreshing edge and a long finish. **(GOOD+)**

Stonewall 2023 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$18.00 – Ontario – winery

An orange and raspberry offering with a short-finish. **(GOOD)**

Stonewall 2025 Merlot Rosé – Remington Rosé

\$17.00 – Ontario – winery

For those looking for the step up from the 2023 this does the trick. Tart cherry up front, cran-cherry on the finish. This one is tasty, but could use a little more acidity to balance it all out. Those who relish in deeply coloured rosé will be happy to see this in their glass. **(GOOD+)**

Sunnybrae 2025 Rosé Cuvee

\$22.88 – British Columbia – winery

An easy drinking rosé with notes of cherry and floral. Very pleasant. **(GOOD+)**

STILL WINES

Tarapaca 2024 Gran Reserva 150 Anniversary Rosé

\$16.95 – Chile – LCBO 37403

There's an earthy note here from the Pinot Noir that disappears after a few sips and then gives way to unripened red fruits with an acid punch. **(GOOD)**

Tawse 2025 Rosé – Grower's Blend

\$18.95 – Ontario – LCBO 45075

There is a sweetish finish here with a pleasant strawberry-raspberry middle. This one is enjoyable and tasty. **(GOOD)**

Tawse 2025 Rosé – Quarry Road Vineyard

\$28.95 – Ontario – winery

Pretty floral notes waft into the nose; palate has some raspberry and cran-cherry notes which helps the wine end dry and enjoyably. **(BETTER)**



Tawse 2025 Estate Vineyard Rosé

\$23.95 – Ontario – winery

A fruit forward version with a dry finish. Cherry and raspberry dominate in the red fruit department while a touch of limeade hits the back palate. **(GOOD+)**



The Grange of Prince Edward County 2025 Estate Rosé

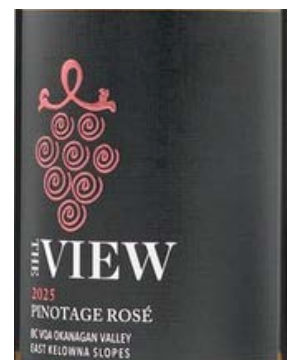
\$25.00 – Ontario – winery

The Grange winery has a new lease on life and this rosé is part and parcel of that change. This is a three vineyard blend that's well-balanced, with notes of red licorice, orange, raspberry, a little banana, and a slight creaminess across the tongue before the acidity kicks in. **(BETTER+)**

The View Winery 2025 The View Pinotage Rosé

\$28.69 – British Columbia – winery

Dry and delightful, this one sings on the palate with its cherry and strawberry notes; plus a real whack of zingy acidity – a refreshing version that shows the potential for Pinotage as a rosé wine. **(BETTER+)**



STILL WINES

Thirty Bench 2025 Winemaker's Blend Rosé

?? - Ontario - winery

Nice hits of citrus, raspberry and sour cherry – the short finish losses me, but then again another sip is in order. **(GOOD)**

Thirty Bench 2025 Small Lot Rosé

\$29.00 - Ontario - winery

There's a moment where you question yourself here, am I really tasting tobacco; it seems half of the panel did, plus a little woody character; it finish with a subtle citrus note. Everyone agrees this is a food rosé char something up on the BBQ and then drink away. **(GOOD)**

Three Dog Winery 2025 Cabernet Franc Rosé

\$23.80 - Ontario - winery

White flowers and raspberries are at the centre of this fresh, easy and summery sipper. **(GOOD+)**

Three Dog Winery 2025 Dog House Rosé

\$16.75 - Ontario - winery

Orange zest, watermelon and raspberry – they are all there, but this one comes off simple and basic. Still tasty though. **(GOOD)**

Three Sisters 2025 Bench Rosé

\$25.30 - British Columbia - winery

A sweet treat with watermelon, raspberry and cherry notes. **(GOOD)**

Time Family of Wines 2025 Chronos Rosé

\$28.99 - British Columbia - winery

Pretty rosé with subtle floral notes, limeade and cherry. The finish shows off some nice lime tartness, from the pith like nuance. And a long finish. **(GOOD+)**



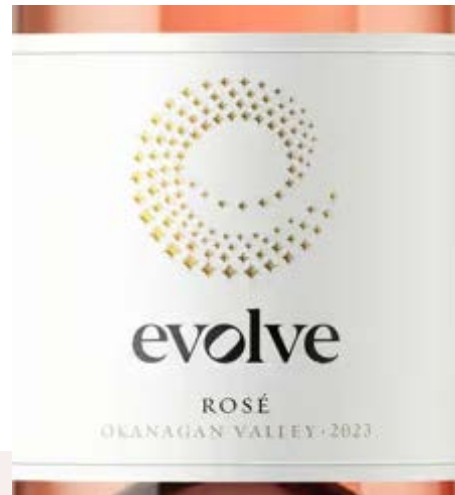
STILL WINES

Time Family of Wines

2025 Evolve Small Lot Rosé

\$26.44 – British Columbia – winery

This is what you drink rosé for: subtle notes of sweetness from the red fruits, acidity backing it up so it doesn't get cloying – some tart lime, strawberry and raspberry notes. This lingers on the palate, but it certainly won't linger in your glass. Say goodbye to at least two bottles in an afternoon. **(BEST)**



Township 7 Vineyards 2025 Provenence Series Rosé

\$33.32 – British Columbia – winery

This shows both a red fruited side and a melon component: raspberry reps the red fruits while watermelon, honeydew and cantaloup make an appearance on the palate. **(GOOD+)**

Trius 2025 Rosé

\$19.95 – Ontario – LCBO 341743

A slightly bitter note rides a wave of lemon and raspberry with good acidity on the finish, elevating this wine a notch. **(GOOD+)**

Vanessa Vineyards 2025 Rosé

\$35.37 – British Columbia – winery

Notes of raspberry and watermelon with a good acid punch. **(GOOD+)**

Vineland NV Spring Petal Rosé

\$17.95 – Ontario – winery

The first of three rosés I tasted from Vineland this year. Highly drinkable with its fresh and fruity nature, there's even some floral essence which follows along with its Petal name. The finish combines raspberry with white flowers. **(GOOD+)**

STILL WINES

Vineland NV Full Bloom Rosé

\$17.95 – Ontario – winery

Strawberry juice from start to finish with hints of cherry on the finish and some tart lime character. Nice and well rounded. **(GOOD+)**

Volcanic Hills 2025 Rosé

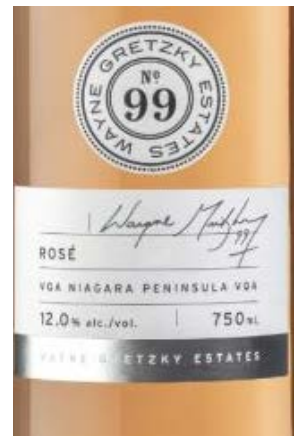
\$25.09 – British Columbia – winery

Strawberry, raspberry with hints of red Jell-o and bubblegum – there is a hint of tannins here making it a hybrid between drinking on the patio or with dinner. **(GOOD+)**

Wayne Gretzky 2025 Rosé

\$17.95 – Ontario – LCBO 14870

In the past this has been a top performer; and they have done it again. Pink grapefruit, juicy and incredibly tasty – a porch-pounder, patio-sipper and chug-a-lug-juice – call it what you will but this one is a multiple purchase for sure. Pick up a case to have on hand for when the party is at your place. **(BETTER+)**



Wending Home 2025 Rosé

\$21.95 – Ontario – winery

Nice and dry rosé that brings the tastes of summer together: raspberry, cherry and watermelon all with a pleasant lemony finish that provides a real punch of acidity. "I could drink a ton of this stuff". **(BETTER+)**



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THANKS TO...

When I initially set out on this project, it was because of the many rosés I tasted through the LCBO, especially leading up to the summer. These days, the LCBO does nothing to help wine writers, such as myself, to evaluate or even taste the products they bring in; and so I thank all the wineries and agents who submit their products year-after-year, and to those who find the report and download it.

To the class I taught in the spring, your insights were invaluable. As a writer, I sit and evaluate these wines; but to get your insight into them was eye-opening. Sometimes opinions differed wildly, but most times we were all on the same page—and that was heartening to me; showing that over these 8 years I have not lost sight of my audience, and I have not become jaded by my subject matter or lulled into some false sense of superiority. You kept me grounded and honest. I thank each and every one of by first name and initial: Cate B, Annabel B, Suzette B, Chris B, Joe B, Linda C, Annette F, Donald M, Jean M, George P, Colleen P, Barbara R, Diane S, Monica S, Patricia S, Michael T, Marilyn T.

This year, as last, I tasted a couple of special regions in Italy: Montefalco in Umbria and around Campania, a special thank you goes to Miriade PR for giving me the opportunity.

To John & Denny, thank you for plowing through the good and the bad, for believing in this project and providing your ideas for future editions. We had some spirited debates, but I feel next year, we'll be creating new insights and opportunities—not just for the report, but for consumers and producers. Year nine is looking even brighter.

To my partner in life, Ofelia. Your love and encouragement for this project is amazing. Although we rarely taste together for this report, you constantly ask how it's going and give me ideas to make it better. Your wisdom, understanding, and foresight is truly invaluable. Ti amo, sempre e per sempre.

Finally, for this reports, between the wines sent in, random tastings, trips to places and the All Canadian Wine Championships. I taste close to 300 rosé wines each year, from around the world; the lion's share are Canadian. Thanks to the generosity of the wineries, both in Ontario and British Columbia for sending me their wines. Thanks to the All Canadian Wine Championships for letting me judge the Rosé category. Plus, the chance to taste the wines from Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy, etc. means I humbly thank the agents who heed the call to send in their wines, and to those who invite me to their country to taste their wines.

This year the rosé posse included: John, Denny, Sheila, Ophelia, Elaine, Ralf, my class (mentioned above), Tanya, Cam, Claudia and all those of the ACWC, and anyone else who tipped a glass of rosé with me from March-to-June 2026. Grazie a tutti.

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