

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday August 4, 2012

I am using a 5-star rating system, which appears at the end of each review; here's the key to the stars:
5 = Outstanding ... 4.5 = Excellent ... 4 = Very Good ... 3.5 = Good ... 3 = Average

Key: Wine colour indicators - Red are red wines, Yellow are whites, etc.

The foci (plural of focus): Germany (**GER**) and Customer Favourites (**CF**)

Highlights: 2 of the Best Buy wines come from Spain and a Chilean Malbec with real elegance and charm

Argentina ...

Pacual Toso Reserve Malbec 2009 (\$19.95 - #183897) - spiced-cherry, vanilla and chocolate and sweet spice. (****)

Australia ...

Bleasdale 2011 Potts' Catch Verdelho (\$15.95 - #280933) - light, refreshing lemon and lime notes with nice acidity. (** 1/2+)

Coriole Vineyards Estate Grown Shiraz 2009 (\$26.95 - #931600) - nice wine with gentle spice and white pepper, fruit is plum and black cherry with nice bite on the finish. (** 1/2+)

Peter Lehmann 2010 Layers Shiraz/Tempranillo/Mourvedre/Grenache (\$17.95 - #138883) - layers of interesting fruit and spice, pepper and smoky red fruit. (** 1/2)

Pirramimma 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.95 - #730374) - rich, juicy, plummy, black cherry; a real full flavoured Cab. (****) - **CS**

Schild Estate 2010 Old Bush Vine GMS Grenache/Mourvedre/Shiraz (\$21.95 - #108183) - starts off slow and builds to an interesting, smooth, supple finish. (** 1/2+)

Thorn-Clarke Pinot Noir/Chardonnay Brut Reserve Sparkling Wine (\$19.95 - #280925) - slightly pinky-salmon colour with strawberry, lemon and biscotti finish; quite decent. (** 1/2+)

Thorn-Clarke 2008 St. Kitts Vineyard Malbec (\$29.95 - #280891) - full-fruited, lots of spiced chocolate and black fruit, vanilla, sweetly alcoholic with big 15.5%. (****)

Wits End 2010 Luna Chardonnay (\$16.95 - #285882) - shows a deft hand with nice full fruit and touch of oak. (****)

Austria ...

Steininger 2010 Gruner Veltliner (\$14.95 - #280842) - pea pod, asparagus and lemonade. (** 1/2)

Canada - (British Columbia) ...

Sandhill 2008 Small Lots One (\$36.95 - #186536) - rich fruit core with lots going on like black cherry and cafe mocha on the finish. (****+)

Canada - (Nova Scotia) ...

Benjamin Bridge 2011 Nova 2011 (\$25.95 - #256289) - aromatic with good acidic bite and some exotic fruit and floral notes; asti-esque. (** 1/2)

Canada - (Ontario) ...

Fielding Estate 2010 Cabernet Franc (\$21.95 - #36194) - *** 1/2

Inniskillin 2010 Winemaker's Series Montague Vineyard Chardonnay (\$18.95 - #586347) - ****

Pillitteri 2010 Antagonist (\$15.95 - #291948) - *** 1/2

Chile ...

Concha y Toro 2009 Serie Riberas Gran Reserva Carmenere (\$16.95 - #274043) - lovely spiced black fruit, hint of leather, plum, black cherry, vanilla and mint. (****+)

Valdivieso 2009 Single Vineyard Old Vines Malbec (\$19.95 - #273987) - minty, cedar with ballsy black fruit, coffee on the mid-palate with elegance and finesse on the finish. (**** 1/2)

France - (Burgundy) ...

Domaine des Malandes 2010 Chablis (\$18.95 - #111658) - mineral, mac apple and floral with some weightiness on the palate, but not too much with a nice pear-mineral finish. (*** 1/2+)

France - (Rhône) ...

Domaine du Grapillon 2010 D'or Gigondas (\$28.95 - #981787) - rich plum and dark cherries, lovely dark fruit with the right amount of spice and a delicious strawberry-cocoa finish. (****+) - **CS**

Germany ...

Königschaffhausen 2011 Trocken Pinot Gris (\$13.95 - #597500) - good if a little sweet with a lengthy pleasant finish. (*** 1/2) - **GER**

Reinhold Haart 2009 Piesporter Goldtropfchen Riesling Kabinett (\$19.95 - #282335) - exotic with fleshy peach. (*** 1/2+) - **GER**

Darting 2011 Durkheimer Nonnengerten Gewurztraminer Kabinett (\$16.95 - #944181) - real nice hint of spice right from the start and it continues to be lovely through to the end. (****) - **GER**

Schloss Reinhartshausen 2009 Hattenheimer Wisselbrunnen Riesling Kabinett (\$17.95 - #114801) - nice hit of acidity with tart lemon and hint of sweet peach and lemon candy. (****+) - **GER**

Greece ...

Lyrarakis 2009 Okto (\$15.95 - #279737) - surprisingly delicious with tart blackberries and hints of spiced chocolate. (*** 1/2+)

Italy - (Piedmont) ...

Dezzani Morelli 2010 Moscato D'Asti (\$14.95 - #187997) - fun and fruit, a perfect summer sipper at only 5% alcohol: pear, peach, pineapple, floral; this one is full of yummy. (*** 1/2+)

Italy - (Puglia) ...

Cantele 2008 Riserva Salice Salentino (\$13.95 - #724328) - lot of spiced-raspberry and oak notes; there's also some black pepper on the finish. (*** 1/2)

Italy - (Tuscany) ...

La Velona 2009 Rosso di Montalcino (\$17.95 - #285429) - white pepper, strawberry which is carried on oak-spice. (*** 1/2)

Italy - (Veneto) ...

Bertani 2008 Villa Arvedi Amarone della Valpolicella (\$38.95 - #13417) - an Amarone to drink now with lovely plum and cherry with a hint of chocolate. (*** 1/2+)

Carpene Malvolti Cuvee Brut Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore (\$14.95 - #727438) - fresh, fruity and enjoyable at a good price. (*** 1/2)

Due Torri 2009 Ripasso Valpolicella Superiore (\$17.95 - #159400) - stylish and supple with good fruit and chocolate notes and a cherry-chocolate finish. (*** 1/2+) - **CS**

Zenato 2011 Pinot Grigio (\$13.95 - #37648) - refreshingly crisp with a lemon pith finish. (*** 1/2)

New Zealand ...

Clos Marguerite 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (\$18.95 - #281014) - really has the 3 G's of Sauv Blanc: grapefruit, grass and gooseberry, heavy on the grass and herbaceousness. (*** 1/2)

Little Beauty 2010 Limited Edition Pinot Noir (\$27.95 - #290346) - nice earthy, cherry with hints of bacon, quite pleasant with a spicy herb to the finish. (*** 1/2+)

Spinyback 2010 Pinot Gris (\$16.95 - #214569) - interesting full flavored wine with mineral intensity, more fruit skin than fresh fruit, mostly apple and pear. (*** 1/2+)

Portugal ...

Quinta de Ventozelo 2008 Touriga Nacional (\$18.95 - #657452) - rich of fruit with lovely hints of sweet spice and vanilla undertones. (*** 1/2+) - **CS**

Spain ...

Escondido 2009 Tempranillo (\$14.95 - #132597) - mineral and blackberry (** 1/2)

Filon 2010 Garnacha (\$14.95 - #280602) - label might look like bathroom wallpaper from the 70's but this is another amazing value from Spain: ripe cherry, plum and sweet spice; exceptional value. (**** 1/2)

Vina Aljibes 2009 Petit Verdot/Cabernet Sauvignon/Tempranillo (\$13.95 - #276212) - rich in plum with violet notes, gentle spice and sweet fruit; lush and plush ... drink now. (****+)

USA - (California) ...

Beaulieu Vineyard 2008 Tapestry Reserve (\$34.95 - #50393) - smooth, serious and intense with lovely fruit. (** 1/2+)

DeLoach 2010 Pinot Noir (\$28.95 - #119024) - fruit driven Cali-Pinot with strawberry and white pepper. (** 1/2+)

Frank Family 2009 Zinfandel (\$33.95 - #278283) - plum, chocolate, cherry and vanilla with sweet oak. (****)

Ironstone 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #537597) - all cherry and strawberry all the time. (** 1/2) - CS

La Crema 2010 Chardonnay (\$28.95 - #962886) - supple with bright lemon zest, tropical, pineapple and vanilla. (****) - CS

McManis Family Vineyards 2011 Viognier (\$18.95 - #658112) - nice Chardonnay alternative that's citrus fruit driven with hints of floral. (** 1/2) - CS

Pedroncelli 2009 Bushnell Vineyard Zinfandel (\$22.95 - #463026) - no razzle-dazzle here just straight forward spiced red fruit and plum with a slight spiced-mocha note on the finish. (****)

What I'll Be Lining Up For - August 4, 2012 ...

Concha y Toro 2009 Serie Riberas Gran Reserva Carmenere (\$16.95 - #274043) - Chile

Valdivieso 2009 Single Vineyard Old Vines Malbec (\$19.95 - #273987) - Chile

Filon 2010 Garnacha (\$14.95 - #280602) - Spain

Happy Shopping

About OntarioWineReview: a website devoted to the love, enjoyment and promotion of Ontario's wines, wineries and lots more wine related issues – visit www.ontariowinereview.com to sign up for the free bi-weekly newsletter and feel free to browse around a little while you're there.



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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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