

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday May 24, 2014

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 ... Fresh Crisp Whites (**FCW**) and Rhone Roundup (**RR**)

The Skinny ... The Rhone makes some beautiful wines and there are some in this release; there's a couple from South America worth picking up and a new Henry of Pelham red that will knock your socks off at an unbelievable price.

Argentina ...

Chakana 2011 Maize Reserva Bonarda (\$18.95 - #361212) – dark chocolate, black cherry with a nice juicy core. (** ½+)

Crios de Susana Balbo 2013 Torrontes (\$13.95 - #001834) – fresh, lively and fruity with orange blossom and melon rind. (** ½+) – FCW

Fabre Montmayou 2012 Reserva Malbec (\$15.95 - #261867) – rich and concentrated with violet and black cherry. (** ½+)

Leo 2011 Premium Malbec (\$19.95 - #375121) – roasted coffee, blueberry, plum, cinnamon, black and red cherry, cassis; obviously quite complex and tasty. (****+)

Raza Dolce 2013 Torrontes Sparkling Wine (\$15.95 - #363481) – fake moscato, sweet and fizzy; perfect for those unpretentious days on the patio. (** ½)

Australia ...

De Bortoli 2012 Gulf Station Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - #015511) – for Aussie Pinot Noir this is good stuff, the earthy-strawberry sings and the acidity is balanced. (****)

Canada (British Columbia) ...

Mission Hill 2012 Family Reserve Pinot Gris (\$17.95 - #537076) – a touch of peach mixed with plenty of acidity. (** ½+)

Canada (Ontario) ... *click on wine name for full review*

[Henry of Pelham 2012 Family Tree Red](#) (\$18.95 - #247882) - **** ½

[Inniskillin 2013 Pinot Noir Rosé](#) (\$14.95 - #336461) - *** ½

[Mike Weir 2012 Limited Edition Barrel Fermented Chardonnay](#) (\$24.95 - #367813) - ****+

[Riverview 2011 Fontana Dolce](#) (\$14.95 - #365825) - *** ½

[Sunnybrook Estate 2012 Pear Blossom Wine](#) (\$18.95 - #372359) - ****

Chile ...

Claro Magnolo 2011 Reserve Malbec (\$13.95 - #365932) – hints of pepper with dark fruit, violets and cassis; smooth and silky. (** ½+)

Montes 2010 Alpha Syrah (\$19.95 - #000612) – smoky, white pepper, blueberry, hints of vanilla and a meaty quality; the complexity is lovely. (****+)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau Camp de la Hire (\$16.95 - #365866) – earthy-licorice notes with dark fruit and nice tannins grip. (** ½+)

Chateau Saransot-Dupre 2010 (\$28.95 - #065870) – rich concentrated fruit, dark with cocoa, coffee and spice. (****)

France (Burgundy) ...

Bailly- Lapierre Brut Chardonnay Cremant de Bourgogne (\$24.95 - #369066) – nice and frothy with lemon-lime and breadines with good acidity. (****)

France (Midi) ...

Beauvignac 2013 Picpoul de Pinet (\$13.95 - #350124) – grassy, peach pit and green apple skin; crisp, light and refreshing. (** ½+) - FCW

France (Rhône) ...

Chateau Grand Dignitaire 2012 Cotes du Rhone-Villages Gadagne (\$18.95 - #376475) – such juicy fruit all red and all enjoyable. (** ½+) – RR

Clos Bellane 2010 Cotes du Rhone-Villages Valreas (\$19.95 - #374991) – juicy and drinkable, quite pleasant, nice cherry and pretty strawberry. (****) – RR

Domaine la Guintrandy 2012 Cotes du Rhone (\$15.95 - #374975) – good cherry, plum and raspberry, white pepper, touches of mocha and good balancing acidity. (****) – RR

Domaine Lafond Roc-Epine 2011 Lirac (\$18.95 - #128660) – meaty, cola, dark fruit, anise and chocolate. (****+) – RR

Domaine Martin 2011 Plan de Dieu Cotes du Rhone-Villages (\$19.95 - #370197) – nice fruit, leather and mocha, good spice and a long finish. (****) – RR

Domaine Saint-Pierre 2011 Vacqueyras (\$25.95 - #130013) – nicely spiced, rich plum and dark fruit. (** ½+) – RR

La Font du Vent 2010 Notre Passion Cotes du Rhone-Villages Signargues (\$16.95 - #370221) – silky smooth and easy drinking but the acidity balances it. (** ½+) – RR

France (Southwest) ...

Chateau Bellevue 2013 La Foret Rosé (\$14.95 - #219840) – nice, dry, subtle lemon and strawberry pith. (** ½+)

Chateau Vincens 2011 Prestige (\$17.95 - #272427) – melds the Argentine fruit to the smoky, tannic version of Cahors: nice plum, vanilla and black cherry. (****)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Coltibuono 2011 RS Chianti Classico (\$21.95 - #532002) – starts with a touch of sweet fruit with silky tannins and a floral characteristic also has cinnamon and a nice dry finish. (** ½+)

Luxembourg ...

Bernard-Massard Cuvee de L'Ecusson Brut Rosé (\$21.95 - #369074) – nice elevated acidity with lime zest and pith with hints of tart raspberry; pretty and playful. (****)

New Zealand ...

Stoneleigh 2012 Latitude Sauvignon Blanc (\$21.95 - #324228) – melon, grassy, and grapefruit cocktail, pretty tempting for Sauvignon Blanc fans. (****) - FCW

Portugal ...

Dow's 2008 Late Bottled Vintage Port (\$17.95 - #613927) – silky, sweet and smooth: layers of plum, black cherry and chocolate with good acidity. (** ½+)

Meandro do Vale Meao 2011 (\$24.95 - #244731) – complex and juicy with black cherry, blueberry, plum, smoked chocolate, nice acidity and minerality with a chalky substantive finish; this wine is almost chewy. (****+)

Spain ...

Cosme Palacio 2007 Reserva (\$23.95 - #014662) – dried cherry and strawberry with good acidity. (** ½+)

Monte Pinadillo 2010 Crianza (\$19.95 - #360768) – juicy blackberry and mocha and a nice spice on the finish. (****+)

United States (California) ...

Stonehedge 2012 Reserve Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #311548) – sweet fruit like peaches and apricots along with vanilla and pineapple. (** ½+)

Summers 2010 Calistoga Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (\$34.95 - #279380) – shows nice complexity with blackberry, cassis, mocha and good spice. (****)

United States (Oregon) ...

Alexana 2012 Red Label Pinot Noir (\$29.95 - #372367) – balances some California sweet fruitedness with Oregon earthiness: rich yet refined; nice spice with good acid backbone (** ½+)

Yamhill Valley Vineyards 2011 Pinot Gris (\$17.95 - #366294) – mellow grapefruit pith with mac apple and lemon zest. (** ½+) - FCW

In-Store Discoveries – wines that just appear on the shelves of your local Vintages ...

JC Cellars 2008 Eagle Point Ranch Petite Sirah (\$55.00 - #327551) – California, USA (** ½+)

KEW Vineyards 2011 Blanc de Noir (\$29.95 - #380030) – Ontario, Canada (****)

Raymond 2010 Generations Cabernet Sauvignon (\$130 - #941492) – California, USA (****+)

Raymond 2010 Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon (\$75.00 - #369280) – California, USA (****)

Torres 2010 Perpetual (\$49.95 - #265710) – Spain (****)

If You Can Afford It – wines worth their high price ...

Albert Morot 2011 Beaune Les Teurons 1er Cru (\$59.95 - #902833) – Burgundy, France (****+)

Bosquet des Papes 2011 Cuvee Tradition Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$50.95 - #726687) – Rhone, France (****+) – RR

Chalk Hill 2009 Estate Red (\$79.95 - #330225) – California, USA (** ½+)

E. Guigal 2007 Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$59.95 - #727503) – Rhone, France (****) – RR

Lamiable Brut Grand Cru Champagne (\$53.95 - #374298) – Champagne, France (****+)

Mica 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$121.95 - #210658) – California, USA (** ½+)

What I'll Be Lining Up For – May 24, 2014 ...

Chateau Vincens 2011 Prestige (\$17.95 - #272427) – France

Domaine Lafond Roc-Epine 2011 Lirac (\$18.95 - #128660) – France

Henry of Pelham 2012 Family Tree Red (\$18.95 - #247882) – Canada

Leo 2011 Premium Malbec (\$19.95 - #375121) – Argentina

Montes 2010 Alpha Syrah (\$19.95 - #000612) – Chile

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.



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.](#)



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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