

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday October 15, 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

Another three things have caught the eye of the LCBO for this weekend's release. One is Whiskey, which I have to admit I am not expert on. The other two: Argentina (**ARG**) and a Tuscan/Piedmont (**T/P**) split, takes up the rest of the releases features. 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; 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 ...

Catena 2009 Alta Chardonnay (\$39.95 - #0959973) – almost Californian in style with lots of wood and with sweet fruit notes poking through all this rides on the tail of vanilla, caramel and spice. (***)
½) – **ARG**

Catena 2008 Alta Malbec (\$49.95 - #0982355) – stunning Malbec, always loaded with flavour. (****+) – **ARG**

Luigi Bosca 2008 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #0128629) – lovely nose and palate, full of dark fruit, blueberry, chocolate and spice. (***) ½+)

Riglos 2007 Gran Corte (\$37.95 - #0243501) – mocha and chocolate wrapped around deep dark fruit. (****) – **ARG**

Viniterra 2005 Select Malbec (\$21.95 - #0177964) – sweet fruit: cherry along with sweet spices, this really delivers on flavour. (****) – **ARG**

Australia ...

Josef Chromy 2010 Pepik Pinot Noir (\$26.95 - #0162990) – Pinot Noir from Australia is mostly a jammy affair, but the Chromy wines have true cool climate character; lovely strawberry with an earthy quality and just the right amount of spice and acidity on the finish. (****+)

Tait 2007 The Wild Ride Shiraz (\$19.95 - #0243584) – lots of chocolaty flavour with hints of pepper mixed in. (***) ½)

Two Hands 2010 Brave Faces Grenache/Shiraz/Mataro (\$33.95 - #0660035) – lot of big dark fruit with raspberry, cherry and chocolate. (****)

Two Hands 2008 Sophie's Garden Shiraz (\$46.00 - #0062380) – eucalyptus, chocolate and blackberry with a whopping 15.8% alcohol content, even the spice seems big. A little hot on the finish which downgrades the mark by half a point. (****)

Austria ...

Glatzer 2008 Riedencuvee Zweigelt (\$15.95 - #0221051) – laid back style with a goodly amount of fruit and spice. (***) ½)

Canada ...

(Ontario)

Fielding 2010 Pinot Gris (\$21.95 - #0251108)

Peller Estates 2010 Private Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (\$18.95 - #0692631)

Inniskillin 2008 Winemaker's Series Three Vineyards Pinot Noir (\$22.95 - #0175174)

[Le Clos Jordanne 2009 Le Clos Jordanne Vineyard Pinot Noir](#) (\$45.00 - #0033902)
[Reif 2009 The Magician Shiraz/Pinot Noir](#) (\$19.95 - #0246413)
[Southbrook 2007 Whimsy! Cabernet Sauvignon](#) (\$33.95 - #0260281)
[The Foreign Affair 2008 The Conspiracy](#) (\$19.95 - #0149237)

Chile ...

Morande 2010 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (\$12.95 - #0252346) – soft acidity with tropical fruit through the mid-palate and then kicks in with some grapefruit on the finish. (**¹/₂)

France ...

(Alsace)

Pierre Sparr 2009 Reserve Gewurztraminer (\$17.95 - #0747600) – lovely rose petal nose which follows onto the palate, delicate and delicious, just what you want in a G-wine. (****+)

(Beaujolais)

Domaine J. Boulon 2009 Morgan (\$19.95 - #0241166) – black cherry and spice with a hint of raspberry and toast. (**¹/₂+))

(Burgundy)

Michel Picard 2009 Clos Paradis Mercurey 1er Cru (\$28.95 - #0086603) – my favourite region of Burgundy and this is a good representation: spiced-strawberry with good tannins. (**¹/₂+))

(Loire)

Andre & Edmond Figeat 2010 Les Chaumiennes Pouilly-Fume (\$21.95 - #0196659) – vanilla smokiness amongst a citrus backdrop with nice acidity on the finish. (****)

Greece ...

Skouras 2008 Saint George Aghiorghitiko (\$16.95 - #0162321) – good fruit, silky tannins, nice finish, very drinkable. (**¹/₂)

Italy ...

(Piedmont)

Giacomo Fenocchio 2005 Bussia Barolo (\$42.95 - #0232421) – between the fruit and spice and the dried nature of both this wine really delivers. (****) – **T/P**

(Puglia)

Masseria Altemura Sasseo Primitivo 2008 (\$16.95 - #0230573) – nice Zinfandel alternative with plum, ripe black cherry, and raspberry-cherry compote on the finish. (****)

(Sicily)

Case Iridini 2010 Insolia (\$13.95 - #0211839) – citrus aromas with grapefruit pith linger and some lime as it makes its way across the palate. (**¹/₂)

(Tuscany)

Cordella 2009 Rosso di Montalcino (\$19.95 - #0251462) – a light, fruit-driven, easy drinking red. (**¹/₂) – **T/P**

Marchesi de'Frescobaldi 2009 Terre More Dell' Ammiraglia (\$19.95 - #0239889) – hot damn, what a nose and palate this wine really delivers the goods, another winner from Frescobaldi. (****+) – **T/P**

Poggio Verrano Chance 2005 (\$33.95 - #0239707) – at first this one was hard to get into, but then the wine grabs you on the palate with smoky-wood notes, dark fruit, licorice and mocha. (**¹/₂+) – **T/P**

Poliziano 2007 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano (\$25.95 - #0988055) – leathery, chocolate, blackberry, cassis and spice. (**¹/₂) – **T/P**

San Felice Campogiovanni Brunello di Montalcino 2005 (\$44.95 - #0991075) – quite fruity but with a nice dry finish. (**¹/₂) – **T/P**

Volpaia 2008 Chianti Classico (\$21.95 - #0953828) – straddles the line between rustic and fruity, seems to change right before your eyes ... or should I say palate ... drinks well now. (****) – **T/P**

Romania ...

Livia Feteasca Neagra 2009 (\$16.95 - #0244392) – sweet strawberries dominate, nice little wine here. (**¹/₂+))

South Africa ...

Graham Beck 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (\$13.95 - #0948620) – very goosy and grassy with a fresh grass linger. (** ½)

United States ...

(California)

Acacia 2009 Chardonnay (\$27.95 - #0080556) – a woody, vanilla and caramelly treat, pure California here with a hint of oak spice on the finish. (** ½)

Domaine Napa 2008 Chardonnay (\$23.95 - #0244483) – lovely vanilla and peach fruit with a vanilla cream finish. (** ½+)

Liberty School 2008 Zinfandel (\$18.95 - #0041095) – this is pretty much standard issue Zinfandel, but good standard issue Zinfandel, with a nice raspberry finish. (** ½)

Pazzo 2007 Call Me Crazy Proprietary Red (\$31.95 - #0677708) – this is a Sangiovese from California, interesting wine with dark fruit and white pepper. (** ½+)

Peju 2006 Merlot (\$44.95 - #0147322) – a good drinking Merlot with blue and black berries and hints of vanilla. (** ½+)

Ridge 2009 Geyserville (\$42.95 - #0723072) – a wicked blend that's Zinfandel based, far from the ordinary and worth tasting. (****)

(Oregon)

Kings Ridge 2009 Pinot Noir (\$21.95 - #023776) – quite fruit driven with blackberry, strawberry and cassis with touches of earthiness and spiced cinnamon. (****)

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

Korta 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$13.95 - #0236034) - ** ½

Montes 2010 Limited Edition Selection Cabernet Sauvignon/ Carmenere (\$14.95 - #0016071) - ****

SXS 2008 Step Two Shiraz (\$14.95 - #0246645) - ****

Girolamo 2008 Vendemmia Tardiva Primitivo (\$14.95 - #0224667) - ****+

Vinea 2007 Corvina (\$12.95 - #0230649) - ** ½

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

Shafer 2007 One Point Five Cabernet Sauvignon (\$79.95 - #0045476)

Finca Los Nobles 2005 Cabernet/Bouchet (\$63.95 - #0175547) - ARG

Chateau Troplong Mondot 2007 (\$115.00 - #0102715)

Domaine du Vieux Telegraphe 2008 La Crau Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$72.95 - #0951475)

Antinori 2005 Pian delle Vigne Brunello di Montalcino (\$59.95 - #0651141) – T/P

Luce Della Vite Luce 2008 (\$99.95 - #0685263) – T/P

Grape Guy Top 3 ... what I'll be lining up for on October 15, 2011:

Pierre Sparr 2009 Reserve Gewurztraminer (\$17.95 - #0747600) – France

Marchesi de'Frescobaldi 2009 Terre More Dell' Ammiraglia (\$19.95 - #0239889) - Italy

Josef Chromy 2010 Pepik Pinot Noir (\$26.95 - #0162990) – Australia

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.](#)



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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