

## OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



### OntarioWineReview: Vintages Release Saturday August 3, 2013

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 French Whites (**FFW**) and a small look at Shiraz / Syrah (**SHSY**)

**The Skinny** ... South African Syrah that's pretty darn good, if you're looking for fruit forward you might want to check out the Bonarda from Argentina, plus a wine that's really great, especially if you have \$105 burning a hole in your pocket.

#### Argentina ...

**Don David 2011 Finca La Maravilla #6 Malbec** (\$16.95 - #322826) – good chocolate and spice with intense blackberry, mocha and licorice. (\*\*\*\*)

**La Posta 2011 Estela Armando Vineyard Bonarda** (\$14.95 - #261586) – sweet and supple fruit with lovely round mouthfeel and a touch of smokiness. (\*\*\*\*)

**Zuccardi 2009 Q Tempranillo** (\$19.95 - #973503) – rich and juicy with spicy blackberry, vanilla and plum. (\*\*\*\*)

#### Australia ...

**Salena Estate 2010 Ink Series Petit Verdot** (\$18.95 - #327445) – intense in both colour and flavour with good acidity and nice pepper notes. (\*\*\*\*)

**St. Hallett 2009 Blackwell Shiraz** (\$34.95 - #535104) – hint of pepper and spice with blackberry, plum and wood smoke. (\*\*\*\*+)

**Swings & Roundabouts 2011 Shiraz** (\$21.95 - #329839) – nice bit of pepper with some great blackberry notes. (\*\* ½+)

#### Canada (Ontario) ... (click wine name for full review)

[Calamus 2011 Unoaked Chardonnay](#) (\$14.95 - #210062) - \*\*\* ½

[Featherstone 2011 Cabernet Franc](#) (\$16.95 - #64618) - \*\*\*\*

[Hinterbrook 2011 Deeply Red Cabernet Merlot](#) (\$15.95 - #346759) - \*\*\* ½+

[Kacabo 2012 Summer Series Rebecca Rosé](#) (\$14.95 - #227025) - \*\*\* ½

[Megalomaniac 2010 BigMouth Merlot](#) (\$24.95 - #67645) - \*\*\* ½

[Peninsula Ridge 2010 Reserve Syrah](#) (\$24.95 - #230896) - \*\*\* ½+ (**SHSY**)

[Tawse 2010 Laundry Vineyard Cabernet Franc](#) (\$31.95 - #130997) - \*\*\*\*

#### Chile ...

**Korta 2010 Reserve Syrah** (\$15.95 - #327577) – smooth and lush, lots of gentle black fruit with elements of smoke and spice. (\*\*\*\*) - SHSY

**Montes 2010 Alpha Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$19.95 - #322586) – chocolate, blackberry and mint; really very smooth. (\*\* ½+)

**Quintay 2011 Pinot Noir Grand Reserve Q** (\$16.95 - #325449) – cherry, cranberry with dark notes of cocoa coated cherry undertones on the finish. (\*\* ½+)

**Ritual 2011 Sauvignon Blanc** (\$19.95 - #328401) – far from a big in your face type of Sauvignon Blanc but it has real charm. (\*\* ½+)

**Santa Carolina 2009 Reserva de Familia Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$17.95 - #684597) – minty black fruit with vanilla and spice all leading to a peppery finish. (\*\* ½+)

**Ventisquero 2010 Grey Single Block Carmenera** (\$19.95 - #325415) – blueberry and black cherry with delicious herbal notes and lovely spice. (\*\*\*\*+)

**France (Alsace) ...**

*Andre Blanck 2012 Altenburg Gewurztraminer* (\$18.95 - #168906) – oily with spicy and ginger notes; it's a really nice Gewurzt but you have to be a fan of the grape, it does have a sweet side though. (\*\*\*\*) – **FFW**

*Rolly Gassmann 2009 Riesling* (\$20.95 - #328898) – there's a Mosel kind of quality to this wine. (\*\* ½+) – **FFW**

**France (Bordeaux) ...**

*Chateau Dalem 2009* (\$33.85 - #191213) – blackberry, cassis, tobacco and wood, should age well as the fruit is starting to emerge. (\*\* ½+)

*Chateau D'Aurillac 2009* (\$23.85 - #189035) – vanilla, blackberry with a spiced-cherry-vanilla finish; nice fight on the finish between acidity and tannins. (\*\*\*\*)

**France (Burgundy) ...**

*Alain Geoffroy 2011 Beauroy Chablis 1er Cru* (\$27.95 - #733501) – shows some floral and mineral with a grapefruit cocktail finish. (\*\*\*\*) – **FFW**

*Chanson Pere & Fils 2010 Beaune Clos du Roi 1er Cru* (\$48.95 - #330001) – spicy dark berries and licorice with touches of salty-coffee on the finish. (\*\* ½+)

*Domaine Chevallier 2010 Chablis* (\$19.95 - #112227) – peach and mineral freshness; there's a big fruit component to this one. (\*\* ½+) – **FFW**

**France (Champagne) ...**

*Hiedsiek & Co Monopole Blue Top Brut Champagne* (\$49.95 - #68288) – lovely biscuit notes with element of sweetness and come mac apple fruit. (\*\* ½) – **FFW**

**France (Loire) ...**

*Jerome Godon 2011 Sancerre* (\$23.95 - #327734) – grapefruit zest and pith with just enough grassiness to scream Sauvignon Blanc to your tastebuds. (\*\* ½+) – **FFW**

*Marc Bredif 2011 Vouvray* (\$19.95 - #685362) – nice sweetness of fruit with lanolin and beeswax backing; this one is always fresh on the palate sip after sip. (\*\*\*\*) – **FFW**

*Michel Delhommeau 2011 Cuvee Harmonie Sur Lie Muscadet Sevre et Maine* (\$13.95 - #164624) – mainly white fruit driven with soft citrus notes backing. (\*\* ½+) – **FFW**

**France (Rhône) ...**

*Vignerons de Caractere Seigneur de Fontimple Vacqueyras 2010* (\$19.95 - #234013) – licorice, black cherry, spice and fresh ground pepper. (\*\* ½+)

*Xavier 2010 Chateauneuf du Pape* (\$39.95 - #244814) – lots of sweet red and black fruit with elegant spice and floral notes. (\*\*\*\*+)

**France (Southwest) ...**

*Lionel Osmin & Cie 2010 Villa la Reserve Malbec* (\$14.95 - #328641) – quite fruity with blackberry and cherry. (\*\* ½)

**Germany ...**

*Darting Durkheimer Nonnengarten Gewurztraminer Kabinett 2012* (\$17.95 - #944181) – rose petal and lychee with gently spiced orange peel. (\*\* ½+)

**Italy (Veneto) ...**

*Trabucchi D'Illasi Terra del Galante Amarone della Valpolicella 2007* (\$41.95 - #248500) – has a sexiness to it; quite port-like with cherry, chocolate and just enough spice to keep it honest. (\*\*\*\*)

**South Africa ...**

*Delheim 2010 Shiraz* (\$17.95 - #959080) – oddly appealing yet typically South Africa, and here in the Syrah it works: peppery, smoky with coffee and tarry notes, shows good elegance. (\*\*\*\*) – **SHSY**

*Ken Forrester 2011 Reserve Chenin Blanc* (\$17.95 - #231282) – interesting intensity here with floral and honeycomb notes with a spiced finish. (\*\* ½+)

*The Grinder 2012 Pinotage* (\$13.95 - #269076) – hello coffee, goodbye wine; this could substitute for your morning cup'o Joe. (\*\* ½)

**Spain ...**

*Bodegas Lan 2007 Reserva* (\$21.95 - #42929) – fresh roasted coffee, red licorice and cherry with a gentle spice and ripe red cherry finish. (\*\*\*\*)

*Ondarra 2006 Reserva* (\$17.95 - #723452) – spiced sweet cherry, blackberry and hints of vanilla.

(\*\*\* ½+)

#### **United States (California) ...**

**Brandlin Estate 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$49.95 - #340513) – lots of delicious red and black fruit with vanilla, plum and chocolate. (\*\*\*\*+)

**Cameron Hughes 2009 Lot 257 Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$24.95 - #329854) – nice silky palate with generous fruit. (\*\* ½+)

**Ghost Pines 2011 Winemaker's Blend Zinfandel** (\$19.95 - #269373) – a jammy Zin for a decent price. (\*\* ½)

**Irony 2011 Chardonnay** (\$19.95 - #27409) – nice fruit and decent oak for not a bad price. (\*\* ½)

**J Lohr 2011 South Ridge Syrah** (\$19.95 - #948240) – smooth sipping with plum and black cherry, look for the raspberry jam finish. (\*\* ½) – **SHSY**

**Macrostie 2009 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay** (\$45.95 - #59733) – big, ballsy and oh so California with all that oak; vanilla, butterscotch, and spice, not my cup of tea of a Chardonnay but there are those that dig the style. (\*\* ½+)

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

**Cade 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$105.00 - #325027) – California, USA - (\*\*\*\* ½)

**Rodney Strong 2009 Symmetry** (\$59.95 - #641142) – California, USA – (\*\*\*\*)

#### **What I'll Be Lining Up For – August 3, 2013 ...**

**Andre Blanck 2012 Altenburg Gewurztraminer** (\$18.95 - #168906) – France

**Delheim 2010 Shiraz** (\$17.95 - #959080) – South Africa

**La Posta 2011 Estela Armando Vineyard Bonarda** (\$14.95 - #261586) – Argentina

**Ventisquero 2010 Grey Single Block Carmenere** (\$19.95 - #325415) – Chile

Happy Shopping

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**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](http://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.



#### **Socially Speaking ...**

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To contact me with feedback, article ideas, comments, concerns or questions – email [michael@ontariowinereview.com](mailto:michael@ontariowinereview.com). I look forward to hearing from you!

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