

OntarioWineReview Vintages Release Guide

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



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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

The Skinny - a surprising amount of corked bottles during this tasting, upwards of a dozen bottles had this fault.

The Tasting - not sure who's doling out the 90's like water, but some of these 90+'s were far from it. While some of the regular releases are way up there and should have been part of the promotion. This release focuses on 90+ wines (**90+**) and Portugal (**POR**), so let's take a look ...

Argentina ...

La Posta 2009 Pizzella Family Vineyard Malbec (\$15.95 - #166298) - juicy with chocolate notes; some spice and some floral also make an appearance. (** 1/2+) - BB

Trivento 2007 Coleccion Fincas No. 2 Syrah (\$16.95 - #269217) - mint, chocolate, white pepper, blackberry and black cherry. (** 1/2+)

Australia ...

Tait 2009 The Ball Buster Red (\$24.95 - #269472) - at 15.3% alcohol you expect real power here, but it enters the mouth with kid gloves and delivers the goods. (** 1/2+)

Two Hands 2010 Angels' Share Shiraz (\$27.95 - #009480) - peppered-chocolate-black fruit. (****)

Vasse Felix 2010 Chardonnay (\$20.95 - #903617) - a good Aussie Chardonnay, hits all the right notes and keeps some fairly bright acidity in the process. (****) - 90+

Wakefield 2010 Merlot (\$17.95 - #683201) - juicy, juicy, juicy with lots of chocolate appeal ... this is what Merlot means to many. (** 1/2+)

Wynns Coonawarra Estate 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.95 - #084996) - this just rocks - powerful, juicy yet with so much finesse: blackberry and chocolate rule the roost here; drink or hold, it's your choice, but this one is made for the long haul. (**** 1/2)

Canada ...

(British Columbia)

Mission Hill 2009 SLC Syrah (\$37.95 - #068379) - smoky, blackberry with lots of pepper on the tongue, there is a nice balance between the fruit and acidity here. (****)

(Ontario)

Cave Spring 2008 CSV Riesling (\$29.95 - #566026) - 90+

Colaneri Estate 2009 Stellucha Riesling (\$15.95 - #279778)

Lakeview Cellars 2007 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #618793)

Malivoire 2010 Pinot Gris (\$19.95 - #591305)

Chile ...

Gamma 2008 Reserva Privada Cabernet / Merlot (\$16.95 - #269191) - lots of minty goodness that Chile is known for, typical but tasty. (** 1/2+) - BB

Lomas del Valle 2010 Pinot Noir (\$16.95 - #272625) - high alcohol, juicy and quite impressive: strawberry, spice, cinnamon, cherry - the acidity is spot on and so is the bite from the spice. (****)

France ...

(Alsace)

Pierre Sparr Brut Rose Cremant D'Alsace (\$17.95 - #039016) - creamy strawberry and raspberry

notes with good acidity on the finish making this one clean and tasty. (** 1/2+)

(Beaujolais)

Mommessin 2010 Les Griottes Morgon (\$17.95 - #276402) - a Gamay with class: mineral and a tad bitter but with good fruit. (** 1/2) - 90+

(Bordeaux)

Chateau Tire Pe La Cote 2008 (\$25.00 - #137364) - shows some power upfront, nice mid-palate and a robust finish. (** 1/2+)

Chateau Vignot 2010 Blanc (\$13.95 - #108522) - lots of grapefruit notes to be excited about. (** 1/2)

(Burgundy)

Domaine Rebougeon-Mure Pommard 2009 (\$43.95 - #091116) - violets and earthy with fine, firm tannins. (** 1/2+)

Domaine Raphael Sallet 2009 Macon Uchizy (\$15.95 - #130450) - fresh, crisp and minerally good mouthfeel with balancing acidity. (** 1/2)

William Fevre 2010 Sauvignon Blanc Saint-Bris (\$16.95 - #626523) - this one shows grapefruit but also some other interesting flavours, but mainly the whole grapefruit: skins, pith and pulp. (****)

(Midi)

Mas D'Auzieres Sympathie Pour les Stones 2009 (\$19.95 - #277046) - floral, black cherry, plum, chocolate, juicy with fruit sweetness; shows good now and has potential for the future. (****+)

(Rhône)

Delas Freres Saint-Esprit Cotes du Rhone Rose 2011 (\$12.95 - #224964) - hint of cherry-raspberry on the nose with cherry on the palate, cleansing amount of acidity on the finish. (** 1/2)

Germany ...

CH Berres 2008 Urziger Wurzgarten Riesling Kabinett (\$19.95 - #207274) - nice minerality, peach pit though a dense feeling in the mouth. (****) - 90+

Greece ...

Kir-Yianni 2011 Akakies Rose (\$11.95 - #071050) - strawberry throughout, a real vibrant pink colour lures the eyes, this is a tasty little treat. (** 1/2)

Italy ...

(Friuli)

Pighin 2011 Pinot Grigio (\$15.95 - #987545) - there's a sweet note to this one, it bridges the gap between the Italian style and the new world ripe white fruit style, call it lemony-pears. (** 1/2)

(Piedmont)

Marenco Strev 2011 Moscato D'Asti (\$14.95 - #276600) - priced almost right for this province, all the typical signs of Moscato are here. (** 1/2)

(Sicily)

Baglio di Pianetto 2009 Nero D'Avola (\$14.95 - #207423) - sweet blackberry, plum, milk chocolate, supple and sexy with spice and tannins for a backbone. (** 1/2+)

(Tuscany)

Castello di Ama 2007 Chianti Classico (\$33.95 - #039768) - rustic leathery notes yet with fruit and earthy character, a real dichotomy of flavours that plays wonderful havoc in the mouth. (****) - 90+

Vicciomaggio Agostino Petri Chianti Classico Riserva 2008 (\$19.95 - #993360) - supple dark fruit, a wine ready to drink now and over the next 5-7 years. (****) - 90+

New Zealand ...

Astrolabe 2009 Voyage Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #179200) - cigar, cherry, spice, shows finesse on the finish. (****)

Momo 2010 Chardonnay (\$17.95 - #247247) - nice creaminess here, plenty of fruit and acid; vanilla, peach, pear, mac apple, lots to enjoy. (****)

Portugal ...

Azul Portugal Reserva 2007 (\$15.95 - #276238) - sweet blackberry and black tea notes with hint of cigar and spice. (** 1/2) - **POR**

Adega Deu la Deu 2010 Alvarinho Vinho Verde (\$19.95 - #040642) - the sweetness of apple and

some lemon notes, this one shows a depth and finesse with vibrant acidity that pulls in all together (****) - 90+

Cabriz 2008 Reserva (\$15.95 - #021410) - rich of chocolate, dark fruited and spicy. (** 1/2) - POR
Monte Vilar Reserva 2008 (\$15.95 - #276105) - think red berries soaked in cocoa, smoke and spice. (****) - POR

Quinta de Ventozelo 2007 LBV Port (\$18.95 - #274688) - good acid and big fruit, dark and delicious. (****) - POR

Quinta do Infantado 2009 Red (\$21.95 - #095158) - lovely rich dark fruit, blackberry, cassis, plum, smoky chocolate and good length of finish. (****+) - 90+

South Africa ...

Sequillo Cellars 2009 Red (\$29.95 - #277996) - pretty label, interesting wine with some elegance and depth; pepper and spice finish 'er off; not your ordinary South African wine here. (** 1/2+) - 90+

Spain ...

Lealtanza 2005 Reserva (\$19.95 - #276097) - soft and juicy blackberry plus this one has a real backbone to it too, for future drinking. (** 1/2+) - 90+

United States ...

(California)

Belle Glos 2010 Meiomi Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #130138) - still one of my fav Cali-Pinots, juicy black cherry with some elegant spice, a real charmer. (****+)

La Crema 2010 Pinot Noir (\$29.95 - #719435) - juice red berries, oak and spice with hints of strawberry throughout ... also available in 375ml. (****)

Liberty School 2001 Rose (\$16.695 - #276667) - a rose made from Syrah, Mourvedre and Grenache, and it shows the weight of those grapes in the mouth. (** 1/2)

Louis M. Martini 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$29.95 - #232371) - supple, juicy with hints of pepper on the finish, black fruit dominates. (****) - 90+

Ridge 2009 Lytton Springs (\$46.95 - #982413) - very good fruit with some real backbone, tasty and quaffable. (****+) - 90+

(Oregon)

Boedercker Athena Pinot Noir 2008 (\$36.95 - #283986) - loveliness of fruit and spice. (****+) - 90+
(Washington)

Chateau Smith 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.95 - #280107) - cherries and chocolate. (** 1/2+)

If You Can Afford It ... wines that deliver even for their price point

Atlas Peak 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$99.95 - #229856) - depth of fruit and flavour (****)

Kistler 2010 Les Noisetiers Chardonnay (\$74.95 - #251223) - a Cali-Chard lovers Chard (** 1/2+)

Rubicon Estate 2008 Cask Cabernet Sauvignon (\$74.95 - #029553) - real depth of character (****) - 90+

What I'll Be Lining Up For ...

Belle Glos 2010 Meiomi Pinot Noir (\$24.95 - #130138) - USA

Lomas del Valle 2010 Pinot Noir (\$16.95 - #272625) - Chile

Wynns Coonawarra Estate 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.95 - #084996) - Australia

Mas D'Auzieres Sympathie Pour les Stones 2009 (\$19.95 - #277046) - France

Happy Shopping

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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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