

MichaelPinkusWineReview's Vintages Release Report

An easy to understand, unpretentious view of this week's Vintages release.



Vintages Release: **Saturday February 21, 2015**

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

Wine colour indicators - **Red**, **White**, etc.

The Foci ... Australia (**AUS**) and Award Winning Local (**AWL**)

The Skinny ... There are some delightfully good Australian wines in this release, a unique wine from Inniskillin plus an Italian and California wine that I recommend you definitely put your hands on, see the What I'll be Lining up for list at the bottom of the report.

Argentina ...

Juana de Sol 2012 Reserva Malbec (\$15.95 - #288381) – black and blue berry with a juicy core and slightly peppery finish. (**½)

Australia ...

Dutschke 2012 80 Block St. Jakobi Vineyard Merlot (\$23.95 - #393744) – spiced-blueberry and blackberry with spicy finish. (**½+) – **AUS**

Heartland 2012 Directors' Cut Shiraz (\$35.95 - #48496) – wow, this wine has got a really rich nose and flavour with a mocha mid, white pepper, blackberry and chocolate on the nose and generous fruit and pepper on the palate; quite opulent. (****) – **AUS**

Henry's Drive 2012 H Syrah (\$24.95 - #402693) – nice fruit and herb mix with some blackberry, dried plum and baking spice. (****) – **AUS**

Kilikanoon 2012 Killerman's Run Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95 - #675223) – blackberry, mocha, cocoa with some herbal character and chocolate on the mid-palate. (**½+) – **AUS**

Penny's Hill 2012 Cracking Black Shiraz (\$22.95 - #396473) – raspberry, blackberry and spice with a little baking cocoa on the finish. (****) – **AUS**

Schild Estate 2012 GMS Grenache/Mourvedre/Shiraz (\$19.95 - #108183) – beautifully blended making for a good mouthfeel with good spice and balanced alcohol along with plum, herbal, and licorice. (****+) – **AUS**

Tait 2012 The Ball Buster Red (\$24.95 - #269472) – mocha, vanilla, plum and cassis. (****) – **AUS**

Austria ...

Schlumberger Brut Sparkling (\$16.95 - #284596) – floral, pear and delicate citrus. (**½)

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

[Chateau des Charmes 2012 Old Vines Riesling](#) (\$16.95 - #277228) - **** (AWL)

[Foreign Affair 2012 Dream](#) (\$29.95 - #364380) - ****

[Inniskillin 2013 Discovery Series Botrytis Affected Viognier](#) (\$39.95/375ml - #405027) - ****+ (AWL)

[Ridge Road 2013 Riesling](#) (\$15.95 - #346858) - **½+

Chile ...

Vina Casablanca 2011 Nimbus Single Vineyard Syrah (\$19.95 - #399386) – raspberry, cherry and blackberry with white pepper and a touch smoky; a wine to happily serve this summer. (****)

France (Bordeaux) ...

Chateau de Panigon 2011 (\$19.95 - #230367) – coffee bean, blackberry and smokiness. (**)

½+)

France (Burgundy) ...

Collin-Bourisset 2012 Coteaux Bourguignons (\$15.95 - #404574) – easy drinking, more fruit than earth, but both are present. (** ½)

Stephanie et Vincent Michelet 2013 Petit Chablis (\$21.95 - #405852) – nice mid-palate with citrus, peach pit and a good whack of mineral. (** ½+)

Veuve Ambal Grande Cuvee Brut Cremant de Bourgogne (\$19.95 - #209619) – crisp and lemon pith, this is a nice little bubble. (** ½)

France (Champagne) ...

Moutard Grande Cuvee Brut Champagne (\$44.95 - #400432) – biting acidity, crisp green apple, hint of nectarine/tangerine, honey and beeswax. (****)

France (Midi) ...

Chateau la Bastide 2012 (\$13.95 - #360487) – blueberry, cherry and subtle spice. (** ½+)

France (Rhône) ...

Chateau Simian 2010 Combe des Avaux Cotes du Rhone (\$17.95 - #400283) – nice fruit mix of dark and red with touches of mocha and vanilla. (** ½+)

Domaine du Grapillon D'or Gigondas 2012 (\$32.95 - #981787) – rich plum and black cherry with a little pepper backing. (****)

Domaine les Grand Bois 2012 Cuvee Maximilien Cotes du Rhone-Villages Cairanne (\$22.95 - #286336) – there's sweet fruit aromas that are truly inviting then comes licorice, blackberry, plum and vanilla. (****)

Domaine Tour Saint-Michel 2012 Cuvee des Deux Soeurs Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$44.95 - #400390) – nicely rounded mouthfeel of dark berries, plum, cherry with a seam of chocolate. (****)

Italy (Friuli) ...

Cormons 2013 Tocai Friulano (\$18.95 - #396945) – grapefruit zest, orange pith and prickly pear. (** ½)

Italy (Piedmont) ...

Giribaldi 2006 Barbaresco (\$32.95 - #101147) – cherry, tobacco, herbs; soft and supple. (** ½+)

Italy (Tuscany) ...

Borgo Scopeto 2010 Chianti Classico (\$18.95 - #23325) – cranberry and red currant with herbal and sweet red berry finish. (****)

Fontodi 2011 Chianti Classico (\$34.95 - #933317) – spice, dried cherry, plum and floral. (** ½+)

Lamole di Lamole 2009 Chianti Classico Riserva (\$37.95 - #231241) – dark berries and spice, along with firm tannins. (** ½+)

Le Mortelle 2011 Botrosecco (\$24.95 - #400846) – inviting nose of vanilla, and black cherry, rich in flavour, plum, black cherry, smooth until the end where some spice swings in. (** ½+)

Rocca di Frassinello 2010 Poggio alla Guardia (\$17.95 - #25718) – sweet cherry and plum with a mid-palate of herbs. (** ½+)

Italy (Veneto) ...

Remo Farina 2012 Montecorna Ripasso Valpolicella Classico Superiore (\$19.95 - #56267) – sweet black cherry, fig, red currant and sweet spice. (** ½+)

Lebanon ...

Cave Kouroum 2012 Petit Noir (\$13.95 - #260141) – smooth, supple and easy drinking. (** ½)

New Zealand ...

CJ Pask 2010 Gimblett Road Cabernet/Merlot/Malbec (\$19.95 - #279869) – subtle herbal note with good red berries and nice flavour of vanilla-oak. (** ½+)

Lawson's 2014 Dry Hills Sauvignon Blanc (\$18.95 - #214460) – typical New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc but it delivers what it's supposed to. (** ½+)

Wither Hills 2013 Rarangi Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (\$21.95 - #288134) – delicate lime / grapefruit pith, gentle with a little floral. (** ½+)

Portugal ...

Fonseca Terra Prima Organic Reserve Port (\$26.95 - #67132) – wonderfully spicy with cherry, blackberry and bittersweet chocolate with screaming acidity on the tongue. (****)

Morgadio da Torre 2013 Alvarinho Vinho Verde (\$17.95 - #960955) – honeysuckle, mineral and peach pit. (** ½+)

Parcelas 2010 (\$14.95 - #397422) – nice plum including plum and blackberry with hint of vanilla. (** ½+)

South Africa ...

Graham Beck 2012 The Game Reserve Shiraz (\$17.95 - #383570) – mocha, blackberry with a subtle vanilla hint. (** ½+)

Spain ...

Prima 2012 (\$19.95 - #80762) – silky blackberry, black cherry and chocolate; a little vanilla creeps in on the backend with spice on the finish. (****)

United States (California) ...

Edna Valley 2011 Paragon Chardonnay (\$19.95 - #984153) – pear and spice on the finish with delicate oaky flavours. (****)

Esser 2012 Chardonnay (\$18.95 - #675017) – sweet finish, praline, pineapple core, and vanilla; quite pleasant. (****)

Hartley-Ostini 2013 Hitching Post Hometown Pinot Noir (\$29.95 - #256644) – easy drinking Pinot Noir with a hint of violet amongst cherry fruit. (** ½+)

J. Lohr 2012 Los Osos Merlot (\$20.95 - #27516) – this is a winning Merlot from Lohr with generous fruit of blueberry, cherry and mocha elements. (****+)

United States (Washington) ...

Hedges 2011 Red Mountain (\$34.95 - #01594) – silky smoothness that keeps cherry, raspberry and strawberry at the forefront with a little vanilla smoke in the background. (** ½+)

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

Lustau Peninsula Solera Reserva Palo Cortado (\$18.95/375ml - #677856) – Spain ... (** ½+)

Two Hands 2012 Samantha's Garden Shiraz (\$67.95 - #67355) – Australia ... (****)

Wieninger Preussen 2012 Gruner Veltliner (\$46.95 - #400812) – Austria ... (****)

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

Clos du Val 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$46.95 - #325779) – California ... (****)

Melville Estate 2012 Pinot Noir (\$52.95 - #405548) – California ... (** ½+)

Stonestreet 2010 Monument Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon (\$52.95 - #285098) – California ... (****)

Volker Eisele 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$68.95 - #53926) – California ... (** ½+)

What I'll Be Lining Up For – February 21, 2014 ...

Borgo Scopeto 2010 Chianti Classico (\$18.95 - #23325) – Italy

J. Lohr 2012 Los Osos Merlot (\$20.95 - #27516) – California

Prima 2012 (\$19.95 - #80762) – Spain

Schild Estate 2012 GMS Grenache/Mourvedre/Shiraz (\$19.95 - #108183) – Australia

Happy Shopping

About MichaelPinkusWineReview: a website devoted to the love, enjoyment and promotion of wines, wineries and lots more wine related issues – visit www.michaelpinkuswinereview.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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"**Linked In**" folks can find Michael at <http://ca.linkedin.com/pub/michael-pinkus/14/704/4b8>

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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