

MichaelPinkusWineReview's Vintages Release Report

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



Vintages Release: **Saturday June 27, 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 ... "Back By Popular Demand" (**BbPD**), Pan-American (**PA**) and Canada Day (**CD**)

The Skinny ... This was another time I had to go during the make-up tasting, the whites always show poorly (as they are way too warm) and the reds have been open for 3 hours so they seem to be smooth and easy, but you have to learn to view the wine where it once was. I think the Spanish offerings were the real standouts in this release.

Argentina ...

Finca Sopenia 2013 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #350090) – blackberry, black cherry and vanilla with a hint of chocolate. (****)

Sur de Los Andes 2010 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (\$18.95 - #404186) – floral, mocha and touches of pepper. (** ½+)

Trapiche 2011 Finca Las Palmas Gran Reserva Malbec (\$16.95 - #186668) – plenty of flavour here with black fruit, pepper, spice and a blueberry skin finish. (****) ... **PA**

Australia ...

Claymore 2013 You'll Never Walk Alone Grenache/Shiraz/Mataro (\$21.95 - #409086) – plenty of dark berry fruit and raspberry notes with hints of floral and spicy finish. (****)

Hewitson 2012 Baby Bush Mourvedre (\$24.95 - #409029) – lots of red berry fruit and it just stays that way from start to finish. (** ½+)

Penley Estate 2012 Hyland Shiraz (\$19.95 - #409078) – mocha, blackberry and pretty spice; quite tasty. (** ½+)

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

[*Featherstone 2013 Sauvignon Blanc*](#) (\$17.95 - #089011) - **** ... (**BbPD**)

[*Queylus 2010 Reserve du Domaine Merlot/Cabernet Franc*](#) (\$39.95 - #406462) - *** ½ ... (**CD**)

Chile ...

Casas del Bosque 2014 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (\$13.95 - #974717) – grapefruit zest and pith with incredibly lively acidity. (** ½+) ... **BbPD**

Chilcas 2012 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95 - #309757) – blackberry, cassis, black cherry, white pepper and spice. (** ½+) ... **PA**

Montes 2012 Alpha Carmenere (\$19.95 - #143230) – blueberry, mocha and spice with something floral hiding in the background. (** ½) ... **PA**

Vina San Pedro 2012 1865 Single Vineyard Syrah (\$19.95 - #404228) – raspberry, cherry, cinnamon and smoke. (** ½+)

France (Alsace) ...

Bestheim 2013 Classic Gewurztraminer (\$18.95 - #656801) – classic is right with its orange peel and spice along with a touch of sweetness. (** ½+)

France (Rhône) ...

Domaine le Clos des Cazaux 2012 La Tour Sarrasine Gigondas (\$28.95 - #279562) – raspberry, black currant with lively smoke and spice and good acidity on the finish. (** ½+)

Italy (Basilicata) ...

Tenuta del Portale 2012 Starsa (\$15.95 - #416164) – leather and spice with anise and dried cherry. (** ½+)

Italy (Puglia) ...

Papale Linea Oro 2012 Primitivo di Manduria (\$20.95 - 261784) – cherry, licorice, chocolate, vanilla plus sweet red and black fruit; a real delight for Zin and BBQ fans. (****+)

New Zealand ...

Villa Maria 2014 Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.95 - #974527) – very floral and fruity with pleasant grapefruit and peach nuances. (** ½+) ... **BbPD**

South Africa ...

Ken Forrester 2014 Old Vine Reserve Chenin Blanc (\$17.95 - #231828) – leesy character with pineapple skin and spicy-mineral. (****)

Spain ...

Borsao Berola 2011 (\$17.00 - #371518) – soft, smooth and silky with lots of dark fruit and chocolate notes; this is a wine that's nicely layered. (****)

Breca 2012 Old Vines Garnacha (\$19.95 - #329086) – sweet cherry and blackberry with vanilla and elements of smoke; this is one silky wine. (****+)

Flor de Vetus Verdejo 2013 (\$15.95 - #320259) – tangy with good spice, peach pit, and well-balanced acidity; better than your average Spanish white. (** ½+)

United States (California) ...

J. Lohr 2013 Los Osos Merlot (\$20.95 - #027516) – juicy blueberry, red cherry, mocha and finishes gentle with the spice; what Cali-Merlot is all about. (****) ... **BbPD**

The Prisoner 2013 (\$49.95 - #104299) – big, dark fruit with lots of silkiness across the tongue with hints of smoke and spice and a long finish. (****) ... **BbPD**

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

Chateau de Chamirey Champs Martin 2011 Mercurey 1er Cru (\$54.95 - #414607) – France ... ****

Dog Point 2012 Section 94 Sauvignon Blanc (\$44.95 - #325977) – New Zealand ... ** ½+

Domini 2008 Veneti Espressioni San Rocco Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (\$74.95 - #416008) – Italy ... ****

Pala 2012 Riserva Cannonau di Sardegna (\$24.95 - #416016) – Italy ... ****

Two Hands 2012 Lily's Garden (\$54.95 - #683086) – Australia ... ****

What I'll Be Lining Up For – June 27, 2015 ...

Borsao Berola 2011 (\$17.00 - #371518) – Spain

Breca 2012 Old Vines Garnacha (\$19.95 - #329086) – Spain

Papale Linea Oro 2012 Primitivo di Manduria (\$20.95 - 261784) – Italy

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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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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