

LCBO VINTAGES

AUSTRALIA

All Saints Estate Rutherglen Muscat

(382127) \$20.95 per 375 mL

"Toffee, raisin, rancio, and raisin cake. Complex, mouth-filling, luscious orange marmalade, honey and raisin flavours. And then there finish which goes on and on with echoes of honey, raisins and toffee. A classic Aussie sticky." 4****. Decanter Wine Awards 2013

FRANCE

Poulet & Fils, Crémant de Die NV

(392555) \$17.95

A sparkling wine from the Northern Rhône, something rarely seen in Ontario. *"This is very pretty and caressing, with fine length. An elegant and flavourful wine for the price."* **88 pts**, 3*** Value, J. Szabo MS, WineAlign. *"I like the wine and I like the label with its psychedelic hen"* **88 pts**, B. Crosariol, The Globe and Mail, Feb. 7, 2015.

2011 Vignobles Balma de Vénitia, Cuvée St. Roch, Vacqueyras

(400382) \$24.95

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas and Vacqueyras make great, food-friendly winter-warmer wines. They are also great matches come grilling and barbecue time. As the least known of the three, Vacqueyras also comes with a lower price-tag. *"Imagine plums stewed in bitter chocolate with a topcoat of melted licorice and tarry asphalt.... Here's real gem for serious warmth....Meveilleux"* **91 pts**, B. Crosariol, The Globe and Mail, Jan 31, 2015

2011 V. Prunier, St. Aubin 1er Cru Chatenière

(390567) \$48.95

Saint-Aubin is a Burgundy insider's source for value. Its premier cru vineyards like Chatenière are tucked in a little valley just behind Puligny-Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet. Vincent Prunier is one of Saint Aubin's best growers. *"Fat palate full of pineapple and peach flavours nicely firmed by a dusty oyster-shell minerality."*

2012 V. Prunier, St. Aubin 1er Cru Les Combes

(390559) \$39.95

Starting with 2 hectares in 1988, Vincent now farms 13 hectares in Saint Aubin, Auxez Duresses, Saint Romain, Meursault, Chassagne and Puligny Montrachet. Considering the appellations, most of his wines are white, but he does make some excellent red burgundy too-like this one. "Redcurrant and strawberry fruit. Dense and juicy in the mouth, with good spicy/peppery lift to the dark berry fruit on the finish. " A real under the radar value.

2010 Domaine Vincent Prunier Volnay 1er Cru Mitans

(356949) \$47.25

"Silky-textured cherry and raspberry liqueur flavours. Linear, mineral, elegant and lifted. Burgundy as a ballerina, supple and sublime." Outstanding value for a Volnay Premier Cru. Anyone with \$50.00 and a corkscrew won't be disappointed.

2011 Domaine Bella Vista, Côtes du Roussillon Rouge

(383398) \$15.95

Just north of the Spanish border, Bella Vista has been producing wines since the 14th century. The wines have been in bio-conversion since 2010. Their Rouge is a blend of 60% Syrah, 30% Grenache and 10% Mourvèdre. "Notes of tar, mineral salts, rosemary and black olive add pungent accents to the blackberry fruit core on an expansive and tannin-laced palate."

ITALY

2009 Fratelli Barba, I Vasari Old Vines

(289991) \$19.95

Fratelli Barba's 2009 I Vasari Old Vines is a Gambero Rosso 3 glass winning cru from this highly regarded 70 hectare estate on the Abbruzzo's Adriatic coast. "one of the most dependable Montepulciano producers around" **92 pts**, S. Tanzer, International Wine Cellar.

2011 Caparzo Rosso di Montalcino

(333575) \$19.95

Richer than Chianti, creamier than Montepulciano, alive with a saline streak of minerality and game-changing acidity. Caparzo's Rosso di Montalcino, so much more than Brunello's little brother. "I love this wine's balance, focus and energy, and its bright saline bite. Great Stuff." **90 pts**, S. Tanzer's International Wine Cellar.

PORTUGAL

C Da Silva, 1995 Colheita Port

(69930) \$32.95

Colheita ports are wood-aged tawny port from a single harvest. *“plenty of interesting, nutty, spicy, highly evolved aromatics. On the palate it’s sweet, full, generous; very round and mouth filling with excellent length.” 91 pts, John Szabo MS, WineAlign*

SPAIN

2011 Alceno 12 Meses Monastrell

(398925) \$14.95

Spain’s Jumilla region has a history of volume production and low pricing. Now some growers, like Bodegas Alceno are delivering quality too. **90 pts** Wine Advocate, *“rounded mid-palate of berries gets strong support from a woody-spicy quality.” 89 pts, B. Crosariol, The Globe and Mail, Jan 24, 2015*

2009 Bodgas Campina, Sabor Real Vinas Centenarias

(244772) \$15.95

One hundred-year-old vines deliver the rich cassis and red cherry fruit core, made more complex by some violet floral notes, wood smoke, espresso, spicy accents and scorched earth notes. Great lingering length. A robust match for your next steak or roast. The 2009 is a worthy successor to previously-listed 2007. *“there is a great deal to appreciate here with an abundance of concentrated fruit and a sultry, feminine character.” 89 pts, Sara D’Amato, WineAlign*

CALIFORNIA

2009 Sodaro Felicity Cabernet Sauvignon

(272641) \$71.95

“shows the future of the new Coombsville region, which was officially approved as an appellation in 2011...powerful wine with penetrating blackberry, currant and mocha flavours.” 92 pts, Wine Enthusiast
“This is expensive, but also impressive, with a density and tannic structure suggesting cellaring.” 90 pts, David Lawrason, WineAlign

COMING SOON

JUNE 27TH

ITALY

2013 Botter Gran Passione Veneto Rosso IGT

(410704) est \$15.85)

“Like a baby Amarone with its huge bing cherry, blackberry, and spiced plum fruit, plus a note of licorice and scorched earth. 60% Merlot/40%Corvina.”

JULY 11TH

AUSTRALIA

2012 Bremerton Coulthard Cabernet Sauvignon

(410761) est \$21.95)

“Commences with cassis, but the finish has a real burst of fine cabernet tannins that add lift and zest to a very good wine.” **93 pts**, J. Halliday Australian Wine Companion.

Cabernet Sauvignon was one of the first varietals planted in Langhorn Creek and Lucy and Rebeca Willson were the first sisters in Australia to manage and run a winery.

JULY 25TH

ITALY

2008 Caparzo Brunello di Montalcino

(579094) est \$44.95)

“Caparzo’s 2008 Brunello di Montalcino is impressive. It boasts serious depth, nuance and complexity. Smoke, licorice, spices, black cherries and plums all develop in the glass, supported by firm, beautifully integrated tannins.” **92+ pts**, Wine Advocate

AUGUST 8TH

ITALY

2012 Fratelli Barba Vignafranca

(203984) est \$18.95)

“Plush tannins frame ripe boysenberry coulis, mocha and graphite notes in this stylish red. Juicy acidity and spice and smoke accents drive the finish.” **90 pts**, Wine Spectator

14 months finishing in small oak barrels makes for a very polished Montepulciano d’Abruzzo.

AUGUST 15^H

AUSTRALIA

2011 J & J Vineyards Rivers Lane Reserve Shiraz

(445726) est \$34.95

Sourced from J & J Vineyards' Australian certified organic fruit on Rivers Lane in McLaren Vale. "more intensity and power, with licquorice, pepper/spice and bitter chocolate wrapped around the heart of cool black fruits, has excellent line and length." TOP CELLARING SELECTIONS **95 pts**, J. Halliday Australian Wine Companion.

SEPTEMBER 5TH

2012 Alceno Premium 50 Barricas Syrah

(398933) est. \$13.95

Serious Syrah/Serious Value from Jumilla. The star of Vintages' January 24th retail release returns.

92 pts Wine Advocate, "vanilla-stroked aromas and rich plum and smoked-meat flavours" **90 + pts**, G. Stimmell, *The Toronto Star*, Jan 24, 2015

SEPTEMBER 19TH

FRANCE

2012 Domaine E & J Durand, Cornas Empreintes

(90829) est \$46.85

Empreintes is made from 20 to 30 year old Syrah vines on the steep terraces of the south-facing Chaillot slope. 30% of the vines are on clay/limestone and 70% on granite. Durand wines combine purity with complexity; power with finesse. "a powerful, glossy Cornas with such a meaty, rich savor that the wine tastes a little like roast duck." **93 pts**, YEAR'S BEST RHONE, *Wine & Spirits Magazine*.

OCTOBER 1st Vintages Classics On-Line

AUSTRALIA

2010 Standish Wine Company, Andelmonde Shiraz

(421438) est \$139.75

Ex-Torbrek winemaker, Dan Standish's own wine, sourced from a single vineyard of old vine Shiraz in the Greenock district of the Barossa Valley. "This medium to full-bodied single vineyard Shiraz shows great balance between a vibrant acid line and medium-firm, very fine tannins before finishing with long, layered flavors. It is a very classy wine. Drink it from 2015 to 2025+." **97+ pts**, L. Perrotti-Brown MW, ERobertParker.com

OCTOBER 1st Vintages Spain Event

2012 Alcenno Seleccion Crianza

(433334) est. \$19.75

A blend of 75% Monastrel, 10% Syrah and 10% Tempranillo from the estate's oldest vines. "Aromas of leather, tobacco, berry fruit and spice, lead to a palate full of plum and cherry flavours. Exotic and concentrated, with hints of licorice. Pretty, big and rich." This is the sort of wine that is bringing a resurgent Jumilla out of the past.

2010 Alcenno Monastrell Dulce

(433342) est. \$34.75 per 375 mL

"A sweet wine of strong personality. The velvety dense palate is long with flavors of dry figs and raisins which still manage to keep the character of Monastrell. The wine is lifted by a mineral note, ending very sweet." **91 pts**, L. Gutierrez, Wine Advocate,

OCTOBER 3rd

FRANCE

2014 Seguinot-Bordet Chablis

(289371) est \$22.75

"Bright and fresh green apple, pear and lemon curd scents and flavours unfold to a hint of sea-salt and oyster-shell on the finish." The family motto is 'Chablis with heart and soul.' Jean-François Bordet's 2014 Chablis delivers. Argh, it's an R month, bring on the oysters.

ITALY

2013 Donnachiara Fiano di Avellino

(372482) est \$17.95

A one hundred and fifty year tradition of winemaking passed on from mother to daughter delivers at Donnachiara. "The aromas of peppermint and apricots amaze me here. It's full-bodied with bright acidity and a long finish. Dense, rich white with real palate presence." **93 pts**, JamesSuckling.com
For my money, the wine has some basil, pine nuts and honey notes too that allow it to stand up to Pesto. Not an easy food to wine match.

OCTOBER 31st

ITALY

2011 Borgo Scopeto Borgonero

(421396) est \$19.95

A super-value, super-tuscan blend of 40% Sangiovese, with 20% each of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, and Merlot. *"A chewy and rich wine with blueberry and chocolate, hints of walnuts. Full body, soft tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Better in 2016."* **91 pts**, *Wine Spectator*

92 pts, JamesSuckling.com , **90 pts**, *Wine Enthusiast* . Should suit your taste to a T, 'I pity the fool that misses this one.'

NOVEMBER 14TH

ITALY

2011 Fratelli Barba I Vasari Old Vines Montepulciano

(289991) est \$19.95

Single vineyard Montepulciano from Abruzzo's Colline Teramane area- one of the best sources for the Montepulciano grape. Delivers a true feel for the terroir and taste of Italy. *"Elegant and sanguine, this layers supple tannins and accents of graphite and spice with notes of plum sauce, fennel seed, dried blueberry and espresso, followed by a plush finish. Drink now through 2024."* **91 pts**, *Wine Spectator*

NOVEMBER 28TH

ITALY

2013 Donnachiara Greco di Tufo

(428391) est \$17.95

Greco di Tufo, as the name suggests, is an ancient varietal pre-dating the rise of Rome, with a mineral-driven edge that reflects the volcanic soils it thrives on. Even if James Suckling seems to have missed that mineral vein in the following tasting note. *"This is very perfumed with lots of dried-mango and papaya character. It's full-bodied with plenty of rich fruit and a fresh, clean finish. Dried-lemon aftertaste."* **91 pts**, JamesSuckling.com

JANUARY 9TH

ITALY

2013 Donnachiara Irpina Coda di Volpe

(434241) est \$16.85

Greco di Tufo and Fiano di Avellino- even Falanghina may be better-known, but Campania has another white ace-in-the-hole card as well - Coda di Volpe. When everything else seems to have been seen, read, and drunk, it's time to discover Donnachiara's Coda di Volpe. *"A white with lots of dried-apple, mango and green-pineapple character. Full-bodied, fresh and flavorful. So much going on here. Long and intense. Gorgeous wine. Excellent for the appellation."* **92 pts**, JamesSuckling.com

JANUARY 23rd

FRANCE

2013 Domaine Jean-Pierre Sève Pouilly-Fuissé 'Terroir'

(681056) est \$28.95

Jean-Pierre Sève owns 18.5 acres of vines on the slopes below the dramatic Solutré rock. His Pouilly-Fuissé Terroir is a textbook marriage of the fatness of Pouilly fruit with the Solutré minerality from the marine fossil- rich limestone grown beneath the rock. *"White peach, apricot and baked apple fruit with a seasoning of subtle oak spice wrapped around a core of crushed oyster shell minerality."*

FEBRUARY 6TH

ITALY

2010 Caparzo Brunello di Montalcino

(579094) est \$44.95

2010 is the fortieth anniversary at Brunello vintage at Caparzo and the wine gods are smiling. *"Fabulous deal here. Drink or hold on release."* **95 pts**, JamesSuckling.com; **92 pts**, M. Larner, *Wine Advocate*; **93 pts**, A. Galloni, *Vinousmedia.com*; *"Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Orange skin, iron and hints of sweet spice. Lively, succulent, round cherry palate with hints of dried fruit. Lovely mid-palate weight and with chewy tannins on the finish. Ready now and for mid-term ageing."* **17/20 W.** Speller, *JancisRobinson.com*