

Wineries of Ontario - June 2009
Niagara-on-the-lake, Queenston, St. Catharine's, Jordan, Vineland, Beamsville

Reif Estates (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.reifwinery.com



Very knowledgeable staff. Good pours. Tasting fee waived with purchase. Winery also has a "wine sensory garden"			
2008 Riesling	Off-dry, pale color	OK	\$12
2008 Kerner	Alcohol/volume 12% Off-dry Cross between Trollinger and Riesling, Unique to Ontario.	VG	\$15
2007 Cabernet – Merlot Blend	12.5% Drink young, will not age. Light on tannins	No	\$14
2007 Baco Shiraz	12.5% Drink young, will not age. Berry flavors (blackberry), Low tannins, Dark color.	OK	\$13
2006 Cab Sav Reserve	12.5% Will age 7-8 years. Cherry aroma and taste.	OK	\$25
2006 Merlot Reserve	Peppery. 13%	VG	\$25
2002 First Growth Merlot	14% 14 -18 year old vines. Delicious	E *	\$50
2001 First Growth Merlot	14% 14 -18 year old vines. Nice but not as good as the 2002.	VG	\$50
2006 Vidal Icewine	10.5% Excellent	E *	\$47 375ml
2006 Vidal Select Late Harvest	12.5% Very good	VG *	\$20 375ml

Marynissen Estates (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.marynissen.com



Very knowledgeable staff. Good pours. Tasting fee waived with purchase.			
2007 Chardonnay "Unoaked"	Alcohol/volume 12.5% Fruity, Refreshing. (note: 2007 was a great year in all of the Niagara region)	E	\$15
2006 Riesling	Petrol on the nose. Good before and with food	VG *	\$10
2007 Sauvignon Blanc	No citrus aroma. Peach and apricot	VG	\$20
2006 Cabernet Franc Rose	Salmon color. Fruit forward. No herbal notes	OK	\$14
2006 Syrah	Smooth. (a lot of rain in 2006)	OK	\$17
2007 Malbec Syrah	Malbec(75%)/Syrah(25%). Unfiltered. Very tannic	OK	\$24
2004 Cab Sav	Dry.	OK	\$29
2007 "Bottoms Up"	Made from the lees of all the other reds. Very interesting flavors	VG *	\$30

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Frog Pond Farm (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.frogpondfarm.ca



We wanted to like this vineyard since it is the only certified organic winery in Ontario. Unfortunately the best thing about it was the name ☹			
2007 Riesling	Alcohol/volume 12%	NO	\$18
2007 Riesling Icewine	Good but tastes like a late harvest – not that concentrated	VG	\$32 200ml
2006 Cab Franc	13% spices	OK	\$16
2007 Cab Franc	13%	G	\$17
2007 Cab Sav – Merlot	13% Cab Sav (60%)/Merlot(40%). Spicy and icky	NO	\$24

Lailey Vineyard (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.laileyvineyard.com



Nice tasting room. Good staff. Tasting fee waived. Even got window cleaning tips!			
2006 Zweigelt	Alcohol/volume 11.5% .Dark purple color. Excellent (D) – Nice (C)	VG	\$14
2006 Pinot Noir Niagara River	12% Smokey favor; wood spice.	G	\$25
2006 Vidal Late Harvest	11% pear and pineapple.	VG	\$20 375ml
2005 Vidal Icewine	11% Aged in oak. Roasted fruits	VG	\$28 200 ml
2007 Riesling Icewine	Less viscosity then others. Less aromatic Try will blue cheese and salty hard cheese	E *	\$35 200 ml

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Vineland Estates Winery (Vineland)

www.vineland.com



Good Restaurant with seating overlooking the vineyard – apparently popular with the helicopter crowd. (see review later).			
2002 Semi-Dry Riesling	Alcohol/volume 11% .Good but tastes drier than “off dry”. Petrol on the aroma and tasted	OK	?
2007 Dry Riesling	9.5%	VG	\$14
2007 Semi-Dry Riesling	9.5% Very dry tastes very similar to the Dry Riesling. Very pale color.	OK	\$14
2007 St Urban Riesling	9.0% Oldest vines in Ontario	VG	\$20
2007 Elevation Riesling	8.0% Sweet, still some mineraliaty	VG *	\$25
2006 Chenin Blanc	10% Crisp, light, acidic finish	OK	\$15
2007 Pinot Gris	12%	NO	\$17
2007 Cab – Merlot	12.5%	NO	\$15
2007 Elevation Cabernet	13%	G	\$25
2002 Vidal Icewine	10.5% good but over priced	VG	\$42 375ml

Tawse Winery (Vineland)

www.tawsewinery.ca



Excellent staff – knowledgeable and fun. Biodynamic (but not certified). Waived tasting fee			
2008 <i>Sketches of Niagara</i> Riesling	Semi sweet	VG	\$18
2008 <i>Miske Vineyard</i> Riesling		G	\$22
2008 Chardonnay Musqué	Muscat clone of Chardonnay	OK *	\$22
2008 <i>Sketches of Niagara</i> Unoaked Chard	Good minerality	G	\$18
2007 <i>Tawes</i> Pinot Noir	OK Cherry Finish	OK	\$32
2007 <i>Growers Blend</i> Pinto Noir	Better than the Tawes Pinot Noir but still not good	OK	\$21
2007 <i>Laundry Vineyard</i> Cab Franc		VG *	\$29
2007 <i>David's Block Estate</i> Merlot	Tight – needs some bottle time. Lots of tannin. “A big wine”	G	\$20
2004 <i>Robin's Block Estate</i> Chardonnay	Good Honey flavor	VG	\$42
2006 <i>Robin's Block Estate</i> Chardonnay		G	\$42
2007 Cab Sav Icewine		VG *	\$35 200ml

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Malivoire Winery (Beamsville)

www.malivoire.com



Good staff – knowledgeable and fun. Sustainably farmed Estate. 6 bottle wine carry bag with purchase over \$60 but did not waive the tasting fee.			
2008 Melon	Melon de Bourgogne is the grape used in the Muscadet. Very pale color. (we got the last 2 bottles left!)	G *	\$10 375ml
2006 Unoaked Chard		NO	\$12
2008 Pinot Gris		OK	\$19
2008 Gewürztraminer	Good floral but too light on the taste	G	\$25
2006 Oaked Char	Blend of Oaked and Unoaked	OK	\$20
2006 Moira Chardonnay	This is their signature wine (Tête de Cuvée). Fully oaked but in larger barrels so it is not too oaky -- well integrated	VG	\$37
2007 Ladybug Rose	Blend of Cab Franc, Pinot Noir and Gamey. Drier than the 2008	VG	\$12
2008 Ladybug Rose		VG *	\$12
2008 Chardonnay Musqué	9% Muscat clone of Chardonnay. Sweet.	VG *	\$20
2006 Pinot Noir		NO	\$25
2006 Gamay		NO	\$17
2007 Gamay	Tart	NO	\$18
2007 Cab Franc Icewine	Very good but over priced	VG	\$40 200ml

Dinner at the Stone Road Grille

www.stoneroadgrille.com

2007 Fielding Riesling	Sweet,	VG	\$16 (\$30)
2007 Fielding Red Conception	Blend of Pinot Noir, Cab Sav, Cab Franc, Merlot, Syrah, Aglianico, Sangiovese, Chardonnay	VG	\$19 (\$38)

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Inniskillin Winery (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.inniskillin.com



Perhaps one of the most famous wineries in the area. Known for it's icewines. Charged a \$25 tasting fee – but was still a bargain since many of the icewines were \$6 - \$12 each.			
2006 Vidal Icewine	Excellent. Honey and apricot	E	\$55 375ml
2006 Riesling Icewine	Very good but not as good as the Lailey and costs twice as much	VG	\$70 375ml
2006 Oak Aged Vidal Icewine	Oak aging seems to make it less sweet and apparently a lot more expensive!	OK	\$90 375ml
2007 Sparkling Vidal Icewine	Sparkling doesn't seem to add anything. It is interesting but I not worth it	VG	\$70 375ml
2006 Oak Aged Riesling Icewine	Smells and tastes like scotch and the most expensive of the lot	NO	\$100 375ml
1997 Cabernet Franc Icewine	Nice acidity with cab franc character	VG	Afraid to ask

Hillerbrand Winery (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.hillebrand.com



NV <i>Trius</i> Brut	Alcohol/volume 12.5% Méthode Classique' sparkling wine. Chardonnay (70%), Pinot Noir (30%). Yeasty	G	\$25
2007 <i>Trius</i> Red	13.5% A blend of Cabernet Franc (44%), Cabernet Sauvignon (32%) and Merlot (24%). Lots of Cab Franc flavor – awful!	NO	\$14
2007 Riesling Icewine	11.0% Some petrol	OK	\$60 375ml
2007 Cab Franc Icewine	11.5% Actually tastes like cab franc	G	\$80 375ml

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Konzelmann Winery (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.konzelmann.ca



Good staff, knowledgeable. Did not waive testing fee with purchases. Vinturi essential wine aerator demo (http://vinturi.com/)			
2007 Riesling <i>Grand Classic</i>	Alcohol/volume 13% Dry. Not much taste but OK	G	\$22
2007 Riesling <i>Traminer</i>	13%	OK	\$25
2007 <i>White Moose</i> Riesling	12.5% Made from all Riesling	NO	\$13
2007 Riesling <i>Reserve</i>	12% No taste	NO	\$15
2007 Pinot Blanc	Crisp, dry	VG *	\$11
2007 Red Moose	12.5% Made from Zweigelt cherry flavors	G	\$15
2007 Shiraz	13% awful	NO	\$13
2007 Baco Noir (0) dry	Tasted 2 glasses – one aerated, one not. Harsh without aeration, much better with.	VG	\$11
2007 Baco Noir (2) less dry	Sweeter than the (0) but smooth.	VG	\$11
2006 Shiraz Icewine	10.5% spicy	VG *	\$40 200ml
2007 Cab Sav Icewine	10.5% sweet but undistinguished	G	\$40 200ml
Icewine table blend	Combo of the two wines above recommended by the staff but it wasn't good.		

Peller Estates (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.peller.com



2008 Riesling Estate	Sold out early of the 2007 so this is the 2008 released early. Peachy	VG *	\$16
2008 Pinot Gris		VG	\$17
2004 <i>Private Reserve</i> Cab Franc	13% some oak. Green Pepper Notes	VG	\$24
2004 <i>Signature Series</i> Cab Franc	13% 18 months in oak. Richer, smoother. "juicy"	VG	\$35
NV Ice Cuvee Rose	11.5% traditional 'methode' sparkling wine made with Chardonnay (55%) and Pinot Noir (35%) Cabernet Franc (10%) aged in stainless steel. After 12 to 14 months on lees the wine is degorged, a 'dosage' of Cabernet Franc Icewine and Vidal Icewine is added (115 ml)	G	\$35

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Strewn Winery (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.strewnwinery.com



Two tasting sections. One for "regular" one for "Terroir series" We tasted the Terroir series.			
2006 Gewürztraminer	Alcohol/volume 13% Floral bouquet. Fruit on the palette		\$16
2005 Riesling	11.7% icky	NO	\$17
2006 Chardonnay	13.1% very oaky on smell and taste		\$20
2005 Cab Franc	13% smells dust (it was the glass) v smooth	VG	\$23
2006 Merlot	12.7% Spicy and tannic		\$21
2006 Cabernet	12.1% tannic and herbal		\$15
2006 Strewn Three Blend	12.8% Cab Sav (48%), Merlot (44%) Cab Franc (4%)		\$26

Stratus Winery (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.stratuswines.com



Very nice facility award winning "green" design. Good staff (an alarming number of whom were pregnant). Well structured tasting including home made smoke meats. Did NOT waive fee with purchase.			
2007 Riesling	Alcohol/volume 11.5%	VG *	\$35
2006 Stratus White	13.5% Blend of Chardonnay, Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Vioginer.	VG *	\$44
2006 Stratus Red	12.5% Blend of Cab Sav, Cab Franc, Merlot, Petite Verdot, Malbec, Gamay, Syrah		\$44
2007 Riesling Icewine	11% This is the best of the Riesling Icewines (but Lialely is the best overall value)	VG	\$40 200ml
2007 Icewine Red	11% Blend of red wines. Like strawberry Rhubarb in a glass:		\$40 200ml

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Chateau des Charmes (Niagara-on-the-lake)

www.chateaudescharmes.com/



Very large facility – weddings on site. Do not waive the tasting fee with purchase but we accidentally waived it ourselves ☺ In 1982, Château des Charmes' founder Paul-Michel Bosc, noticed a single Gamay Noir vine that exhibited some interesting and unique characteristics. Most noticeably, the vine shoots grew in an upright ("droit") position. Propagation of this single vine began immediately and culminated almost two decades later in the granting of international Plant Breeder's Rights to Château des Charmes. "Canada's first vinifera" was born.			
2006 Vioginer	Alcohol/volume 13.5% Crisp and you can taste the alcohol	VG *	\$26
2007 Aligoté	Very minerally Aligoté is a burgundian varietal that they were first to plant in North America	NO	\$14
2006 Riesling Estate	Lots of petrol	VG	\$17
2007 Riesling Estate	Little taste	OK	\$13
2007 Sauvignon Gris	Only vineyard in Niagara that makes this	NO	
2007 Gamay Droit	(see description above)	VG *	\$17
2006 Gamay Noir	Fruity, light, like Beaujolais	VG	\$13
2006 Savagnin Icewine	Toffee Flavor. Savagnin is an obscure grape from the alpine Jura region of France		\$70 375ml
2007 Vidal Icewine Estate	Tangerine	VG	\$50 375ml

Dinner at DeLucas Restaurant

<http://ru-ru.facebook.com/pages/DE-LUCAS-RESTAURANT/70709948183>

2007 Megalomaniac Narcissist Riesling, Edro's Vineyard	Alcohol/volume 10.5% www.megalomaniacwine.com	VG *	\$18 (\$45)
2007 Lailey Pinot Noir	See Lailey above	VG	\$25 (\$50)

Dinner at Treadwell Restaurant

www.treadwellcuisine.com

2007 Daniel Lenko Vidal <i>Special late Harvest</i>	www.daniellenko.com		\$13
2008 Peninsula Ridge Wismer Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc	www.peninsularidge.com		\$15
2006 Hidden Bench Chardonnay Estate	www.hiddenbench.com		\$30
2007 Coyotes Run Pinot Noir <i>Red Paw Vineyard</i>	www.coyotesrunwinery.com		\$24
2006 Creekside Shiraz <i>Broken Press</i>	www.creeksidewine.com		\$40
2006 Megalomaniac Narcissist	www.megalomaniacwine.com		\$18

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