

Australia

98 d'Arenberg Dead Arm Shiraz 2001, McLaren Vale (981183, \$42.50 approx., ON)

Tasted with owner Chester Osborne at this year's Vinexpo. My comment to him was that this is the best Dead Arm ever produced-his responded by smiling and saying "I believe so." Full bodied and massively concentrated, the wine is crammed full of plum, blackberry, licorice vanilla, black cherry and spice. Incredible length with substantial tannins that will take it 25 years. (ES)

91 d'Arenberg The Galvo Garge 2001 (907584, \$25.55 approx., ON)

The Osborne's version of a Bordelaise "Garage Wine". Even though the wine is predominately Cab Sauv based, the Merlot component dominates at this time. Plums, dark cherries, chocolate, vanilla, licorice and mint are present. Fine grained tannins and fresh acid give the wine solid structure and ageability-10 years. (ES)

92 d'Arenberg The Ironstone Pressings 2001, McLaren Vale (974816, \$42.65 approx., ON)

D'Arenberg's take on a Chateauneuf du Pape. An opaque purple colour with aromas of kirsch, plums, vanilla and spice. It is somewhat chunky with 14.5% alcohol but has loads of fruit on the palate with hoards of tannin to go along with it. Drink over the next 15 years. (ES)

90 d'Arenberg Footbolt Shiraz 2001, McLaren Vale (984021, \$18.95 approx., ON)

A mid weight Shiraz with a plump mid palate and flavors of plums, cherries, vanilla, licorice. Nice length and already enjoyable. (ES)

Canada

91 Chateau des Charmes Chardonnay St Davids Bench 2000, Niagara (430991, \$19.95, ON)

This wine stands somewhere between the new world with all the oak, and the old world with all the earthy, mineral qualities. Add tropical fruit tones, peaches and cream corn, honey and pear puree, and you have a very complex wine. Full bodied with excellent length. Winner of the gold medal at the Ontario Wine Awards. (ES)

90 Henry of Pelham Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2002, Niagara (268342, \$18.95, ON)

HOP continues to be one of Ontario's most elegant Chardonnay. The 02 offering is medium plus bodied with aromas of caramel, figs, butter, pear puree and hazelnuts. The palate is fine with lots of citrusy, mineral flavors and a crisp finish. Drink until 2007. (ES)

90 Peninsula Ridge Equinox 2002, Niagara (winery, \$39.95, ON)

This is the first vintage where PR has added 20% Viognier to Equinox's traditional blend of Sauv Blanc and Chardonnay. Although the Viognier portion is small, it is what dominates on the nose as witnessed by the peach, apricot, white flowers and spice, which work along side the green apple, citrus and mineral aromas. Dry with a crisp finish. It will be interesting to see how this wine develops. As a side note, PR is now producing a limited quantity of Viognier, which I scored 88 and is only available through the winery. (ES) *****

88 Peninsula Ridge Inox 2002, Niagara (winery, \$24.95, ON)

Jean Pierre Colas' Inox continues to be PR and Canada's answer to Chablis. Lots of citrus, mineral, smoky/ flinty, green apple and pear aromas. Very elegant, with a crisp mouthfeel and a clean finish.

88 Kacaba Vineyard Riesling 2002, Niagara (winery, \$18, ON)

A beauty of a Riesling from this relatively new winery in Vineland. Very Rheingau like, with peach, flowers, citrus and petrol on the nose. Very good length and a tangy green apple finish. Drinking now but can go 5 plus years. (ES)

87 Malivoire Chardonnay Estate 2002, Niagara (573147, \$22, ON)

This Chard offers up aromas of white flowers, honey, banana and minerals. Medium bodied and classy with notes of caramel on the palate and a citrus finish. Time for oysters on the half shell.

Drink over the next 2 to 3 years. (ES)

86 Vineland Estates Riesling Semi Dry 2002, Niagara (232033, \$9.95, ON)

Fruitier than the 00 and 01. Citrus, flowers, peach are on the nose while the palate serves up gooseberry and green apple. There is some sweetness which is balanced nicely by Vineland's classic acidity (ES)

85 Reif Pinot Grigio 2002, Niagara (winery, \$14.95, ON)

A pretty Grigio with aromas of flowers, peach and citrus. The wine is dry with banana, citrus and nutty flavors with good lemony acidity. (ES)

90 Lakeview Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2001, Niagara (winery, \$24.95, ON)

As in the usual style of Lakeview, this is a big, take no prisoners style of red. Full bodied with chocolate, cassis, black cherries, raspberries and some vegetal tones from drought stress. Rich and ripe on the palate with spice and vanilla flavors. Good structure with somewhat dry tannins. Can age 5 to 7 years. (ES)

90 Lakeview Cellars Baco Noir Reserve 2001, Niagara (winery, \$19.95, ON)

A refined Baco (if I may use that term for the grape) which is oak driven with aromas of licorice, chocolate, spice, vanilla, raspberry and leather. The "Baco" acidity kicks in on the palate and the wine finishes long with some heat at the end. (ES)

88 Cave Springs Gamay Reserve 2002, Niagara (289082, \$17.95, ON)

Always a great Gamay. Medium ruby colour and a little bit closed at this time with cherry, spice and animal scents showing right now. Ripe core of fruit chimes in with strawberry fruit and black pepper adding dimension. Good persistency. (ES)

87 Malivoire Pinot Noir Estate 2002, Niagara (winery, \$26, ON)

All the grapes from the premium Moira vineyard bottling have been included in this wine, which in turn has kicked the quality up a notch. Aromatic with earthy, floral, red and black fruits, vanilla and smoke on the nose. Very good length with soft tannins and an easy finish. (ES)

87 Hillebrand Trius Grand Red 2000, Niagara (981050, \$52, ON)

One of Ontario's finest reds from the difficult 2000 vintage. Medium to full bodied with chocolate, cassis starting on the nose and leading into the mouth. Somewhat thick textured with good ripeness and fresh acid at the end. Drink over the next 3 years. (ES)

88 Vineland Estates Cabernet Sauvignon 2002, Niagara (winery, \$18.95, ON)

Very chocolatey with plums, black fruits, vanilla, vegetal tones and animal notes. Medium plus bodied with a ripe core of fruit, namely blackcurrant and black cherries, firmish tannins and very good length. From late 2004 to 2009.

87 Peninsula Ridge Merlot 2002, Niagara (592261, \$19.95, ON)

A purple/ruby colour wine with a bouquet of raspberry, black cherry, chocolate and red flowers. Medium body with vanilla/minty notes coming through in the mouth. Already accessible, but solid tannins will allow the wine to age gracefully, if you so choose.

86 Vineland Estates Cabernet Franc 2002, Niagara (winery, \$12.95, ON)

At this price this is a definite purchase by the case! Ruby colour with a nose of chocolate, bell pepper, dark cherries and black fruits. Medium bodied with admirable length and enough tannins to take it a few years. (ES)

85 Malivoire Gamay Estate 2002, Niagara (winery, \$16, ON)

Crack open a jar of mixed berry jam and you essentially have the nose of this wine. Light bodied

with a tangy personality a good length. (ES)