



Written by Jancis Robinson & Richard Hemming 27 Jul 2015

Canada shows off in London

Long-serving members will know that this site has been charting the progress of Canadian wines ever since its humble beginnings in 2000. In fact, I would not be surprised to learn that our coverage is greater than that of any other non-Canadian wine publication (click on the Canada tag at the top to see what's on offer). This is out of sheer curiosity and not just because the first professional wine tasting I ever attended, in early 1976, was of Ontario wines in Canada House in London.

I reminded Hugh Johnson that we had first met there 39 years before when we both attended the latest showing of Canadian (not just Ontario) wines in Canada House last May before trooping across Trafalgar Square to have lunch together at the Garrick Club (one of London's famous private members clubs which has just, shamefully in my view, voted against opening its membership to women).

Canada tends to organise a generic tasting of its wines in London every few years. I have to confess that the last one two years ago (see [Canadian wine comes to London](http://www.jancisrobinson.com/articles/canadian-wine-comes-to-london) (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/articles/canadian-wine-comes-to-london>)) made more of an impression on me than this one. Last time there seemed to have been a real step up in quality – especially of the Chardonnays – from the previous time I had surveyed Canadian wine. This time the improvement curve seemed less steep.

But this time Richard and I split the tasting so that I tasted only Ontario wines and he tasted the British Columbia wines shown in London, to which I have added tasting notes on a couple of white 2013s from fellow Master of Wine Rhys Pender's fledgling Little Farm operation.

Among the Ontario wines, the 2013 whites seemed more interestingly tense and intense than the 2012s in general, and I found a few of the Chardonnays had that slightly formulaic pineapple-chunk quality that I more readily associate with the 1980s and early 1990s than with this century. Norman Hardie (whose wines are imported into the UK by the Wine Society) was an outstanding producer for me while Queylus 2012 Pinots seemed particularly promising. Clearly the young Prince Edward County plantings are beginning to come into their own.

I was quite surprised by how relatively old some of the wines shown were. Presumably, as is the wont of most of these generic showings, this collection of producers and wines was self-selecting (those prepared to invest the time and money in a trip to London) whereas the wines at the last

showing were tested beforehand by an independent panel as representing the best of Canadian wine.

Richard was particularly impressed, as I was when I tasted a hand-picked selection of [Canada's best?](http://www.jancisrobinson.com/articles/canadas-best) (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/articles/canadas-best>) at home in London at the beginning of 2013, by the wines of Church & State and Meyer Family among the BC offerings. He was also enthusiastic about the Okanagan wines of Painted Rock, La Stella and Le Vieux Pin – especially their red Bordeaux blends and a couple of Syrahs. BC wines tend to be much more dramatic and emphatic than their Ontario counterparts.

The 62 tasting notes below are arranged by province and colour, and then alphabetically by producer (sur)name.

ONTARIO WHITE

- **Bachelder, Saunders Chardonnay 2012 Beamsville Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570646>)

Sharp acidity on the nose. Then surprisingly soft on the palate with a hint of naturalness. Attractive whole though it seems fully ready now.

12.5%

Drink 2014-2017

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570646>)

- **Bachelder, Mineralité Chardonnay 2012 Niagara Peninsula**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570647>)

Fun label and very friendly indeed. Good lightly struck match nose and not that concentrated but well balanced.

12.5%

Drink 2013-2015

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570647>)

- **Charles Baker, Stratus Riesling 2012 Vinemount Ridge**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570695>)

Fine and tight and grapefruity. A little astringent. Very chewy with obvious residual sugar.

11%

Drink 2015-2020

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570695>)

- **Norman Hardie, County Unfiltered Chardonnay 2013 Prince Edward County** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570662>)

100% MLF. Very low sulphur. Malo on the nose but very fresh, citrus wine that's delicate and well balanced. Very lively. Racy. Not (yet?) that subtle but there's a nice delicate touch.

12.2%

Drink 2015-2018

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570662>)

- **Norman Hardie, Cuvée L Chardonnay 2012 Ontario**
(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570661>)

Blend of Prince Edward County with 70% from Niagara. After blending it goes into old neutral oak for an additional six months.

Pale gold. One of his richer wines and just a little heavier and more savoury than the 2013 Niagara. A tad stolid.

12.4%

Drink 2015-2017

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570661>)

- **Norman Hardie, Unfiltered Chardonnay 2013 Niagara Peninsula**
(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570660>)

They lease the land and direct the viticulture. Cool, racy, lively and mouth filling. Really nice and fresh. Just the job. Vibrant. The 2012 of this is at the Wine Society.

12.7%

Drink 2015-2018

17 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570660>)

- **Hidden Bench, Estate Riesling 2013 Beamsville Bench**
(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570657>)

RS 13.7 g/l. Cool and fresh nose with firm chewy Riesling fruit and good balance. Just off dry.

11%

Drink 2015-2018

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570657>)

- **Hidden Bench, Felseck Vineyard Chardonnay 2012 Beamsville Bench** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570658>)

Very warm vintage. Rather simple peachy aromas. Bit of a trip down memory lane with a hint of pineapple chunks such as I have not tasted for a decade or two. Pleasant, sweetish wine.

13%

Drink 2014-2016

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570658>)

- **Peller, Riesling Ice Wine 2012 Niagara Peninsula** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570681>)

Rich, sweet and with Riesling freshness on the nose. Ready and easy to like. Sweetness trumps acid.

10.5%

Drink 2015-2017

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570681>)

- **Peller, Vidal Ice Wine 2013 Niagara Peninsula** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570682>)

Tarte Tatin juice and an ache in teeth immediately! Well made though it seems more like a confectionery product than a wine really. Nice though.

11%

Drink 2015-2017

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570682>)

- **Pillitteri Chardonnay 2012 Niagara-on-the-Lake** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570686>)

Pale straw. A little full blown and low in acid. A bit astringent and old fashioned. But not disastrous. The 2011 is available in the UK.

13%

Drink 2016-2017

15 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570686>)

- **Pillitteri Riesling/Gewurztraminer 2013 Niagara-on-the-Lake**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570684>)

RS 18 g/l but tastes a little more – perhaps because of the 60% Gewurz. Easy and recognisably bi-varietal. Easy but not stunning.

12%

Drink 2015-2016

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570684>)

- **Rennie, Christine Chardonnay 2012 Beamsville Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570689>)

Full and opulent with some sweetness. Not that distinctive – a hint of tropical fruit and a bit retro but fun enough.

14%

Drink 2015-2017

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570689>)

- **Southbrook, Poetica Chardonnay 2011 Four Mile Creek**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570693>)

Canada's first Demeter certified vineyard. All estate-grown grapes.

Pale greenish gold. Cool nose with a hint of wet wool (Chablis?) but quite sweet on the palate. Getting very slightly long in the tooth.

13.6%

Drink 2014-2016

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570693>)

- **Stratus 2012 Niagara-on-the-Lake**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570696>)

Winemaker is Bordeaux-trained French. 43% Chardonnay plus Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon.

Quite rich and fat – much more like a fat Bordeaux Blanc than a Burgundy. Fine and flattering. Off dry but lots of fun and reward. The 2008 is currently on sale in their store!

14.1%

Drink 2014-2017

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570696>)

- **Tawse, Carly's Block Riesling 2012 Twenty Mile Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570699>)

35-year-old vines and really fine and refreshing. Lime juice. Not too astringent. Good balance so you hardly notice the residual sugar. Good Kabinett impression.

9.5%

Drink 2015-2020

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570699>)

- **Tawse, Estate Chardonnay 2011 Niagara Peninsula**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570700>)

Blend of four vineyards. Creamy texture with a strong lime streak. Very refreshing but a bit tight.

13%

Drink 2016-2019

16+ (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570700>)

- **Tawse, Quarry Road Vineyard Chardonnay 2011 Vinemount Ridge** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570701>)

Limestone vineyard. Very pale. Fresh, earthy and interesting. Only 5% new wood. Ambient yeast. Aged on the lees. Exciting and racy. But a tad astringent.

13%

Drink 2013-2017

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570701>)

- **Westcott, Estate Chardonnay 2012 Vinemount Ridge**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570706>)

Debut harvest. Own the vineyard near Le Clos Jordanne. Planted in 2007. Bachelder consulted. Smoky nose. Hint of pineapple chunks. Fresh.

12.6%

Drink 2015-2017

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570706>)

- **Westcott, Reserve Chardonnay 2013 Vinemount Ridge**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570707>)

Picked four weeks later than in 2012. Intense and tight and really fine and inspiring even if still a work in progress.

12.6%

Drink 2015-2018

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570707>)

ONTARIO RED

- **Bachelder, Lowrey Vineyard Pinot Noir 2012 St David's Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570649>)

Pale ruby to rust colour. Light violets on the nose with sweet start and then sufficient acidity but pretty frail. Needs drinking, I'd say.

13.5%

Drink 2014-2016

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570649>)

- **Bachelder, Parfum Pinot Noir 2013 Niagara Peninsula**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570648>)

Pale ruby colour. Very light nose. A little diffuse with a hint of rusty nail on the end. Not much fruit concentration though clean enough. Bit too sweet?

13%

Drink 2015-2016

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570648>)

- **Norman Hardie, County Unfiltered Pinot Noir 2013 Prince Edward County** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570665>)

Great to have so much aroma for such a low alcohol! Bravo! Edgy, lively, hint of tamarind but pure naked Pinot too. Very low SO2. Great stuff! Fragile but fresh and lovely.

10.9%

Drink 2015-2016

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570665>)

- **Norman Hardie, Cuvée L Pinot Noir 2012 Ontario**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570666>)

Blend. A little smudgy on the nose with fine tannins. Reticent though with some real

structure and interest here.

11.8%

Drink 2016-2020

16+ (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570666>)

- **Norman Hardie Pinot Noir 2013 Niagara Peninsula**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570664>)

Some mushrooms and violets on the nose. Fresh and transparent. Perhaps slightly less distinctive than the County 2013 but still very refined.

11.9%

Drink 2015-2018

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570664>)

- **Hidden Bench, Estate Pinot Noir 2012 Beamsville Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570659>)

Mid crimson. Blend of their three vineyards. Quite distinctive, lightly funky nose. Still quite young and gangly with the oak a little prominent.

13.5%

Drink 2016-2019

15.5+ (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570659>)

- **Pillitteri Cabernet Franc 2010 Niagara-on-the-Lake**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570687>)

Slightly simple sweet New Worldy Cab Franc. Correct without being stunning.

13.5%

Drink 2014-2017

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570687>)

- **Pillitteri, Exclamation Reserve Cabernet Franc 2012 Niagara-on-the-Lake** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570688>)

Denser and more savoury than the 2010 regular bottling. Just a little angular on the end. Hint of rusty nails but certainly fully ripe.

13.5%

Drink 2016-2020

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570688>)

- **Queylus, Grand Reserve Merlot/Cabernet Franc 2012 Niagara Peninsula** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570654>)

Mid to dark crimson. Well integrated. Sweet and round with tannins very much in the background. Bit of spice and pretty expensive! Well made for relatively early drinking.

13.5%

Drink 2015-2019

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570654>)

- **Queylus, Grand Reserve Pinot Noir 2011 Niagara Peninsula** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570653>)

Pale ruby. Very light nose. Chewy and relatively light. Much more angular than the 2012s. Seems overpriced. A hint of alcohol on the end.

13.5%

Drink 2015-2017

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570653>)

- **Queylus, Reserve Pinot Noir 2012 Niagara Peninsula** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570651>)

2012s are more Oregon style because they are more fruity, I'm told. Mid ruby. Edgy, vegy with more lift than the Tradition bottling. Racy and sleek. Firm oak tannins on the finish.

13.5%

Drink 2015-2019

16.5+ (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570651>)

- **Queylus, Tradition Pinot Noir 2012 Niagara Peninsula** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570650>)

Pale rusty colour. Sweet and rather heady nose with a light imprint of oak. Good concentration. Excellent balance – slightly sweeter than average but very nicely done. Real interest here.

13.5%

Drink 2015-2017

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570650>)

- **Rennie, G Assemblage 2012 Beamsville Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570692>)

Appassimento - dried for 100 days. Bordeaux blend.

Dark crimson. Quite rich and sweet. A bit less refreshing than the Scarpata – more of a demanding dry port.

16%

Drink 2016-2020

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570692>)

- **Rennie, Paradox Pinot Noir 2012 Beamsville Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570690>)

Pale ruby. Correct and well balanced. Light for the vintage with a little greenness but lively. Good freshness and race. But not much richness.

13.5%

Drink 2016-2020

16- (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570690>)

- **Rennie, Scarpata 2012 Beamsville Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570691>)

Pioneered ripasso with a special drying chamber inspired by Masi. Merlot. With the skins from the G Assemblage.

Tangy, toasty, attractively fluid with a dry appetising finish. Drying end but not painful. Fun. His first non-commercial vintage was 2009.

15%

Drink 2015-2022

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570691>)

- **Southbrook, Poetica 2012 Four Mile Creek**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570694>)

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon, plus Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. A bit scrawny but clean enough. Not quite enough undertow.

13.1%

Drink 2014-2016

15 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570694>)

- **Stratus 2010 Niagara-on-the-Lake**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570697>)

42% Cabernet Sauvignon plus three other Bordeaux varieties.

Lightly inky and sweet start. Not quite the core and earthiness of a great Bordeaux blend. A little awkward for now.

14.5%

Drink 2016-2020

15.5+ (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570697>)

- **Stratus Cabernet Franc 2012 Niagara-on-the-Lake**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570698>)

Very true fresh fully ripe Cabernet Franc with lovely varietal expression and much riper than most Loire examples! Bravo! Exciting.

13.6%

Drink 2015-2020

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570698>)

- **Tawse, Cherry Avenue Pinot Noir 2010 Twenty Mile Bench**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570702>)

16 months in barrel. 25% new.

Pale ruby. Very light and tentative. I wonder whether it wasn't more impressive a year or two ago?

13%

Drink 2013-2017

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570702>)

- **Tawse, Meritage 2010 Niagara Peninsula**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570704>)

46% Merlot and 39% Cabernet Franc. Blend of different vineyards.

Sweet, fullblown and round with some texture. Chewy end. Not there yet.

13.5%

Drink 2016-2021

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570704>)

- **Tawse, Van Bers Vineyard Cabernet Franc 2010 Creek Shores**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570703>)

The only vineyard not owned by Tawse, who own 180 acres certified Biodynamic.

Dark crimson. Very pure Cabernet Franc nose. A little angular on the palate. Some slightly simple sweetness.

13.5%

Drink 2016-2020

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570703>)

- **Westcott, Estate Pinot Noir 2012 Vinemount Ridge**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570709>)

Dark blackish for a Pinot. Picked first week of September. Sweet and a bit soupy. A bit tired already.

13.5%

Drink 2014-2015

15 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570709>)

- **Westcott, Reserve Pinot Noir 2012 Vinemount Ridge**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570710>)

Barrel selection. Very dark. Some refinement and complexity on the nose. Big sweet wine rather than a typical Pinot.

13.5%

Drink 2015-2018

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570710>)

BRITISH COLUMBIA WHITE

- **Burrowing Owl Chardonnay 2013 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570771>)

Toasty, pithy, apple and peach. Dry, powdery texture with orange peel on the finish. (RH)

14%

Drink 2015-2017

16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570771>)

- **Church & State, Gravelbourg Vineyard Chardonnay 2013 Okanagan Valley** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570772>)

White pepper and sweet spice. Dry, textured, punchy acid. Good, lengthy, serious. (RH)

13.4%

Drink 2014-2018

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570772>)

- **Little Farm, Mulberry Tree Vineyard Riesling 2013 Similkameen Valley** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/567824>)

Made by Rhys Pender MW and Alishan Driediger from their own organic vineyard, now five years old. Six different clones and notably high acidity, although the grapes were not picked in these semi-desert conditions until 20 September.

Bone dry with passion fruit flavours. I wonder whether it could take just a little residual sugar? It's certainly well intentioned but a tad austere at the moment. Not too astringent though. Very clean.

12.5%

Drink 2015-2018

CA\$30 RRP 16 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/567824>)

- **Little Farm, Mulberry Tree Vineyard Chardonnay 2013 Similkameen Valley** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/567825>)

Just 68 cases of this wine made - I feel bad about accounting for just one bottle... Warm vintage with the fruit picked from 11 September. Slow fermentation in used barrels and weekly lees stirring.

Low key nose (no one could accuse it of being too oaky!) with, like the Riesling, notable acidity. It's very clean and there is good, confident fruit weight but I don't find a heck of a lot of flavour. Presumably this is a vine-age thing as the first vintage was 2011. I wonder whether slightly later picking might have resulted in a wine with a little more personality? It certainly has admirably sleek texture. Perhaps it just needs a bit more time?

13.5%

Drink 2016-2019

CA\$30 RRP 15.5+ (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/567825>)

- **Meyer Family, McLean Creek Road Vineyard Chardonnay 2013 Okanagan Valley** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570769>)

Sophisticated oak but also a reductive sulphurous note. Creamy and leesy nose, toffee finish - seems almost off-dry in character. (RH)

13.5%

Drink 2015-2017

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570769>)

- **Mission Hill, Perpetua Chardonnay 2012 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570770>)

Ripe, juicy and reliant on confected fruit. Bitter, sour aftertaste. (RH)

13.5%

Drink 2013-2014

14.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570770>)

- **Painted Rock, Estate Chardonnay 2013 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570773>)

Gorgeous fruit - fresh apple, lemon and also melon and grapefruit. Convincing - layered, impressive, chewy and mineral. (RH)

14.5%

Drink 2015-2020

17 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570773>)

- **Red Rooster Chardonnay 2013 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570774>)

Youthful, vibrant but some dilution on the palate, and little persistence. Functional. (RH)

13.6%

Drink 2015-2016

15.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570774>)

BRITISH COLUMBIA RED

- **Meyer Family, McLean Creek Road Vineyard Pinot Noir 2013 Okanagan Valley** (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570763>)

Aged in 33% new oak for 10 months.

Toasty, malty nose - good use of oak, just rounding off the ample fruit. Vivid acidity. Long, tasty. (RH)

13.5%

Drink 2015-2025

17 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570763>)

- **Meyer Family Pinot Noir 2013 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570764>)

10 months in used oak.

Soft, subtle, fragrant and with a little bitterness. More Otago than Burgundy. (RH)

13.5%

Drink 2015-2018

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570764>)

- **Meyer Family, Reimer Vineyard Pinot Noir 2013 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570765>)

Pure and simple red fruit, fine tannic fuzz, smooth but less distinct than their McLean Creek Road. (RH)

13.5%

Drink 2015-2025

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570765>)

- **Painted Rock Merlot 2012 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570766>)

Dense, modern, sleek, finely hewn tannin. Serious and savoury on the finish, with a firm bitterness. (RH)

14.8%

Drink 2014-2020

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570766>)

- **Painted Rock, Red Icon 2012 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570768>)

31% Malbec, 28% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc and 15% Petit Verdot.

Fragrant violet and blackcurrant juice with loads of furry tannin. Bitter liquorice and fennel flavour - even a bit of Marmite. Solid, impressive. (RH)

14.9%

Drink 2017-2027

17 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570768>)

- **Painted Rock Syrah 2012 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570767>)

Reductive at first. Then pure and succulent on the palate - really expressive and intense. Very creditable. (RH)

14.8%

Drink 2014-2024

17 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570767>)

- **La Stella, Fortissimo 2012 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570759>)

Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese.

Spice, fruit cake, chewy but pliable. Sensitive but modern oak and a long, savoury finish. The acid is especially bright - is that the Sangiovese talking? (RH)

14.9%

Drink 2015-2018

17 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570759>)

- **La Stella, Maestoso Solo Merlot 2011 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570758>)

Gorgeous, succulent and chewy. Opulent fruit with superb purity and attractive earthy development. Impressive, clearly carefully selected fruit. (RH)

14.4%

Drink 2015-2025

17.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570758>)

- **Le Vieux Pin, Cuvée Classique Syrah 2010 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570761>)

Peppery, black cherry with meat and bacon aroma from maturity. Not as voluminous as the Violette bottling, but beautiful all the same. (RH)

13.5%

Drink 2012-2016

16.5 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570761>)

- **Le Vieux Pin, Cuvée Violette Syrah 2013 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570760>)

Bright and peppery, smooth black fruit. Crackles with energy - a triumph of Syrah. Fragrant, precise, flavoursome. (RH)

14.2%

Drink 2015-2025

17 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570760>)

- **Le Vieux Pin, Equinoxe Syrah 2010 Okanagan Valley**

(<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570762>)

Dense, concentrated, vivid. Robust structure with loads of fragrant, peppery spice. Clearly a premium wine, though it is not objectively better than their Violette. (RH)

13.5%

Drink 2016-2026

17 (<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tastings/view/570762>)