

Ontario VQA Vintage Chart 2004 – 1988

About the 2005 Ontario VQA Vintage Chart :

Winemakers from every commercial grape winery in Ontario were asked to rate their own wines according to two criteria.

1. "How well did specific grape varieties perform in each of the years listed?"
2. "How ready and drinkable are the wines made from those varieties today?"

Ratings on this vintage chart reflect information gathered solely from these wine producers, ie. the "vinsiders". And thanks to the wide range of large and small wineries that returned the survey, it was possible to come up with truly representative averages for each grape variety.

Vintages have been given a numerical rating from 1 to 100. (I'd say anything with a score over 80 is a safe buy.) The arrows indicate the current drinkability of each variety during the next year or two.

As with every vintage chart, I encourage you to view this one as a starting point rather than as the final word. After all, these are only averages. There are always winemakers capable of overcoming the challenges of a lousy harvest by making decent wine but there also are bumbler who turn the best grapes into dreck.

One thing I can absolutely guarantee: If you use of this vintage chart regularly, you will increase your chances of drinking a decent wine to 98.7 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

~ *Konrad Ejbich*

LEGEND

<u>Vintage Quality</u>		<u>Current Drinkability</u>	
0 = worst		↑ = still needs more age	
100 = best		↗ = can be drunk now but will improve	
		→ = at its peak	
		↘ = should be drunk soon	
		↓ = probably over the hill	

Ontario VQA Vintage Chart 2004–1988

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Quick Chart	. 2004 .	. 2003 .	. 2002 .	. 2001 .	. 2000 .	. 1999 .	. 1998 .	. 1997 .	. 1996 .	. 1995 .	. 1994 .	. 1993 .	. 1992 .	. 1991 .	. 1990 .	. 1989 .	. 1988 .
Ontario Reds	78↑	72↑	88↗	83→	76→	87→	90→	77↘	65↓	86↘	75↓	80↘	64↓	88↘	73↓	77↓	63↓
Ontario Whites	82↗	78↗	84→	78→	76↘	77↘	81↘	81↘	71↓	81↘	76↓	75↓	69↓	77↓	77↓	77↓	76↓
Red Varieties	. 2004 .	. 2003 .	. 2002 .	. 2001 .	. 2000 .	. 1999 .	. 1998 .	. 1997 .	. 1996 .	. 1995 .	. 1994 .	. 1993 .	. 1992 .	. 1991 .	. 1990 .	. 1989 .	. 1988 .
Baco Noir	86↑	78↗	87↗	75→	76→	81↘	86→	80↘	73↓	82↘	73↓	79↓	73↓	87↓	78↓	82↓	75↓
Cabernet Franc	73↑	69↑	91↗	84↗	74→	90→	94↗	79↘	58↓	87→	71↓	72↓	53↓	89↘	71↓	81↓	59↓
Cabernet Sauvignon	67↑	68↑	89↗	79↗	69↘	85→	96↗	79↘	51↓	90→	70↓	71↓	53↓	90→	66↓	79↓	59↓
Gamay	77↗	69↗	87→	86→	75→	86→	89→	73↓	62↓	83↓	73↓	71↓	62↓	84↓	79↓	70↓	69↓
Marechal Foch	80↑	77↗	83↗	87→	81→	88→	86↘	81↓	70↓	75↓	75↓	92↘	68↓	82↘	69↓	67↓	50↓
Merlot	74↑	68↑	90↗	87↗	67→	91↗	92↗	81↘	58↓	93→	75↓	83↓	61↓	94↘	75↓	80↓	64↓
Pinot Noir	92↑	83↗	93↗	89↗	83→	86→	87→	75↘	74↓	87↘	79↓	81↓	67↓	86↘	73↓	78↓	65↓
Syrah/Shiraz	75↑	65↗	88↗	80→	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Zweigelt	81↗	68↗	85→	83→	79→	78↘	78↘	72↓	70↓	58↓	85↓	90↓	72↓	90↓	---	---	---
White Varieties	. 2004 .	. 2003 .	. 2002 .	. 2001 .	. 2000 .	. 1999 .	. 1998 .	. 1997 .	. 1996 .	. 1995 .	. 1994 .	. 1993 .	. 1992 .	. 1991 .	. 1990 .	. 1989 .	. 1988 .
Chardonnay	80↑	77↗	83↗	73→	78→	79↘	81↘	82↘	69↓	84↓	81↓	81↓	69↓	79↓	81↓	73↓	75↓
Gewürztraminer	71↑	73↗	83→	80→	70→	73↘	82↘	80↓	74↘	78↓	74↓	76↓	74↓	71↓	76↓	75↓	80↓
Pinot Gris	81↗	63→	79→	76↘	74↓	78↓	75↓	75↓	69↓	78↓	63↓	57↓	75↓	80↓	---	---	---
Riesling (Dry)	82↑	77↗	80↗	73→	79→	75→	75↘	87→	79↘	81↘	77↘	67↓	75↓	74↓	66↓	81↓	83↓
Riesling(LateHarvest)	90↑	87↗	88↗	73→	78→	83→	87→	75↘	72↓	86→	84→	93→	50↓	80↘	83↘	77↓	65↓
Sauvignon Blanc	80↗	80→	80→	82↘	74↓	73↓	86↓	82↓	61↓	64↓	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Viognier	89↗	86→	93→	80↘	80↓	77↓	80↓	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Icewines	. 2004 .	. 2003 .	. 2002 .	. 2001 .	. 2000 .	. 1999 .	. 1998 .	. 1997 .	. 1996 .	. 1995 .	. 1994 .	. 1993 .	. 1992 .	. 1991 .	. 1990 .	. 1989 .	. 1988 .
Cabernet Franc	86↑	75↗	90↗	69→	71→	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Gewurztraminer	92↑	88↗	85↗	72↗	70↗	80↗	81→	71→	89→	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Riesling	93↑	90↑	82↗	81↗	83↗	84↗	91↗	87→	84→	90↗	85→	90→	68↘	81→	83→	90→	73→
Vidal Blanc	88↗	85↗	89↗	83→	86→	79→	89→	67→	76→	73→	79→	78→	73↘	78→	73↘	88→	75↘

Lake Erie North Shore and Pelee Island

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. 2004 . 2003 . 2002 . 2001 . 2000 .

Baco Noir	84↑	78↗	83↗	79→	78→
Cabernet Franc	78↑	68↗	91↗	90↗	76→
Cabernet Sauvignon	69↑	70↗	87↗	88↗	73→
Chardonnay	80↗	75→	80→	76→	78→
Merlot	76↑	70↗	90↗	88→	72→
Pinot Noir	80↑	71↗	94↗	89→	80→
Riesling	79↑	75↗	82↗	76→	78→

Prince Edward County

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. 2004 . 2003 . 2002 . 2001 . 2000 .

Cabernet Franc	68↑	67↗	---	---	---
Cabernet Sauvignon	65↑	63↗	---	---	---
Chardonnay	78↑	81↗	71→	---	---
Gamay	78↗	70→	85→	---	---
Merlot	67↑	67↗	---	---	---
Pinot Noir	90↑	84↗	87→	---	---
Riesling	79↑	74↗	78→	---	---

LEGEND

=	<u>Vintage Quality</u>	=	<u>Current Drinkability</u>	=
=	0 = worst	=	↑ = still needs more age	=
=	100 = best	=	↗ = drink or hold	=
=		=	→ = at its peak now	=
=		=	↘ = drink soon	=
=		=	↓ = over the hill	=