



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Ontario Wine Awards - 2018 Results
Thursday, June 7, 2018*

VQA Wines Shine in Ontario's Oldest Competition

Thursday, June 7, 2018 - Niagara-on-the-Lake – The 24th Annual Ontario Wine Awards Competition proved just how vital and confident the province's wine industry is in a mouth-watering display of products entered in all categories - from sparklers, rosés, dry, off-dry, aromatic and sweet whites to light to full-bodied reds and appassimento-style red wines. 'Ontario's newest small wineries showed very well, competing against the established producers,' said OWA's founder, Tony Aspler. 'The arrival of new, young, highly-trained winemakers augurs well for the future of the industry on local and international levels.'

The awards ceremony was held at Niagara College and their Benchmark Restaurant, hosted by the Mayor of St. Catharines, Walter Sendzik.

This year, there were 468 wine submissions from 72 wineries. The Ontario Wine Awards recognize VQA varietal quality in 25 different categories and acknowledge winners at Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal levels. There are also awards of distinction honouring the Winemaker of the Year, White Wine of the Year, Red Wine of the Year, Wine Journalism Award, and Best Label Design. In order to acknowledge both red and white varietals, there are two **'Wine of the Year'** awards, sponsored by Allen's. The **'Red Wine of the Year'** was awarded to The Farm 2015 Pinot Noir Mason Vineyard, and the **'White Wine of the Year'** was awarded to 13th Street 2012 Premier Cuvée. The Quench Magazine **'Winemaker of the Year'** award went to Norman Hardie, Norman Hardie Winery and Vineyard. This award recognizes the winemaker's consistent quality production across his portfolio, successes as demonstrated by additional wine awards, and his overall contribution to the wine industry. Sarah Parniak received this year's VQA Wines of Ontario **'Wine Journalism Award'**, which recognized her article in Toronto Life – **'There's never been a better time (seriously) to drink wine in Ontario. Here's why.'** To view her article: <https://torontolife.com/food/wine-and-beer/twenty-reasons-why-its-a-great-time-to-drink-wine-inontario-niagara-prince-edward-county/>

Tony Aspler and the iYellow Wine Club would like to announce a third year partnership that brings to life the Ontario Wine Awards, the best of VQA wines and Ontario Wine Week. Join us in celebrating **WINETARIO** on June 21st, 2018 at Arta Gallery in Toronto's Distillery Historic District. More information can be found at www.iyellowwineclub.com.

The Ontario Wine Awards expresses a sincere 'thank you' to everyone's contribution and support for making the afternoon a huge success. We look forward to you joining us next year for the 25th anniversary of the Ontario Wine Awards.

2018 Ontario Wine Awards Sponsors

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For further information, please visit us online at www.ontariowineawards.ca

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ONTARIO WINE AWARDS 2018 – BACKGROUNDER

Judging of the Wines

Each entry is assessed blind by panels of accredited wine judges from the wine writing and teaching community. The criteria for judging the entries not only involve having an appreciation for wine, but also include a knowledge and expertise of wines from the Ontario region. Included amongst the winning categories; White Wine of the Year, Red Wine of the Year, Winemaker of the Year and the Wine Journalism Award, which recognizes the best published piece on the Ontario wine industry.

How does the judging occur?

The 24th Annual Ontario Wine Awards wine judging, with the exception of Icewines, was held in one day on Saturday, May 5th at George Brown College Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts and was not open to the public.

Icewine & Sweet Wine Judging took place on May 6th at IWEG and was not open to the public.

History

Tony Aspler, one of Canada's most acclaimed wine writers, and Order of Canada Recipient, founded the Ontario Wine Awards in 1995. His vision was to catapult Ontario VQA wines into the most successful, most revered wines available to domestic and foreign markets by recognizing and promoting the top Ontario wineries for the quality product they produce. "Our mission is to provide recognition for outstanding Ontario wines and to the men and women who are dedicated to producing a superior product," explains Tony Aspler. "These awards enhance the profile of Ontario wines in the world market, opening doors to new opportunities for Ontario wineries."

2018 Ontario Wine Awards – Final Results

Quench Magazine Winemaker of the Year Award

Norman Hardie, Norman Hardie Winery and Vineyard

Allen's Red Wine of the Year Award

The Farm 2015 Pinot Noir, Mason Vineyard

Allen's White Wine of the Year Award

13th Street 2012 Premier Cuvée

VQA Wines of Ontario Wine Journalism Award

Sarah Parniak

ASL Print FX Best Label Design Award

Gold: Cooper's Hawk Vineyards 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay

Silver: The Hare Wine Co. 2015 Frontier Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: Trius 2017 Rosé

Cogeco Sparkling Wine Award ~ Traditional Method

Gold: 13th Street 2012 Premier Cuvée

Gold: Megalomaniac NV Bubblehead

Silver: Angels Gate 2012 Archangel Chardonnay Sparkling

Silver: Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate 2014 Grand Reserve Entourage Sparkling Brut

Bronze: Redstone 2015 Sparkling Rosé

Bronze: Kew Vineyards Estate 2013 Blanc de Noirs

Niagara Airbus Sparkling Wine Award ~ Cuve Close

Gold: Casa-Dea Estates 2016 Dea's Rosé

Silver: Pelee Island 2014 Secco

Bronze: Colio Estate Wines NV Lily Sparkling

Fine Wine Reserve Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Between The Lines 2016 Riesling

Silver: PondView Estate 2016 Riesling

Bronze: Ravine Vineyard 2017 Small Batch Riesling

Benchmark Restaurant Semi-Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Rockway Vineyards 2015 Small Lot Riesling

Gold: Trius 2016 Showcase Riesling Ghost Creek Vineyard

Silver: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2016 Balance Semi-Dry Riesling

Bronze: Two Sisters Vineyards 2016 Riesling

Dry White Varietal Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Redstone 2016 Redfoot Vineyard Viognier

Silver: Kew Vineyards Estate 2016 Marsanne

Bronze: Wayne Gretzky Estates 2016 Estate Series White

George Brown College Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts Gewurztraminer Award

Gold: Konzelmann Estate 2016 Gewürztraminer Late Harvest

Silver: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2016 Gewurztraminer

Bronze: Vieni Estates 2016 Gewurztraminer

VIA Rail Canada Pinot Blanc/Pinot Gris Award

Gold: London Born 2016 South Kensington Pinot Blanc

Silver: Konzelmann Estate 2016 Pinot Grigio

Bronze: Legends Estates 2016 Barrel Fermented Pinot Gris

680 NEWS Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2016 Iconoclast Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

Silver: Ravine Vineyard 2016 Sand & Gravel Sauvignon Blanc

Bronze: Peller Estates 2016 AP Signature Series Sauvignon

Cheese Boutique Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Under \$20

Gold: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2016 Winemaker's Blend Chardonnay

Silver: Flat Rock Cellars 2016 Chardonnay

Bronze: Flat Rock Cellars 2016 Good Karma Chardonnay

IWEG Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Over \$20

Gold: Leaning Post Wines 2016 Chardonnay Clone 96

Gold: Tawse 2013 Quarry Road Chardonnay

Silver: Exultet Estates 2016 Chardonnay

Bronze: Château des Charmes 2015 Chardonnay, St. David's Bench Vineyard

Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara College Unoaked Chardonnay Award

Gold: Two Sisters Vineyards 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay

Silver: Leaning Post Wines 2016 Chardonnay - The Fifty

Bronze: 13th Street 2016 June's Vineyard Chardonnay

Niagara Airbus Rosé/Blanc de Noir Award

Gold: The Foreign Affair 2017 AmaroRosé

Silver: Creekside Estate 2017 Rosé

Bronze: Malivoire 2017 Ladybug

680 NEWS Gamay Award

Gold: Malivoire 2016 Courtney Gamay

Silver: Malivoire 2017 Small Lot Gamay

Bronze: Malivoire 2017 Gamay

Vin First Inc. Pinot Noir Award

Gold: The Farm 2015 Pinot Noir, Mason Vineyard

Gold: Kew Vineyards Estate 2014 Pinot Noir

Silver: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2015 Balance Pinot Noir

Silver: Domain Queylus 2013 Pinot Noir La Grande Réserve

Bronze: No Bronze Awarded

Grapes for Humanity Red Hybrid Award

Gold: Sandbanks 2017 Sleeping Giant

Silver: Vieni Estates 2014 Briganti Reserve

Bronze: Sandbanks 2016 Baco Noir Reserve

Cabernet Sauvignon Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Creekside Estate 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon

Silver: The Lakeview Wine Co. 2015 Lakeview Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estates 2015 Grand Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2015 Small Lot Cabernet Sauvignon

iYellow Wine Club Cabernet Franc Award

Gold: Tawse 2015 David's Block Cabernet Franc

Silver: Megalomaniac 2015 Bespoke Cabernet Franc

Bronze: Peller Estates 2015 Private Reserve Cabernet Franc

The Printing House (TPH) Merlot Award

Gold: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2016 Montague Vineyard Merlot

Silver: The Lakeview Wine Co. 2015 Lakeview Cellars Merlot

Bronze: Peller Estates 2014 AP Signature Series Merlot

Quench Magazine Syrah/Shiraz Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2015 Broken Press Syrah Reserve

Silver: Creekside Estate 2015 Iconoclast Syrah

Bronze: Creekside Estate 2016 Syrah

Fine Wine Reserve Meritage and Cabernet/Merlot Blends Award

Gold: The Foreign Affair 2015 Dream

Gold: The Foreign Affair 2015 Temptress

Silver: Reif Estate 2015 Meritage

Bronze: PondView Estate 2013 Bella Terra Meritage

Vintage Assessments Late Harvest Award

Gold: Hernder Estate Wines 2012 Late Harvest Riesling

Silver: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2016 Special Select Late Harvest Vidal

Bronze: Lundy Manor Wine Cellars 2016 Vidal Select

Wine Writers' Circle of Canada Vidal Icewine Award

(in memory of Karl Kaiser)

Gold: Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate 2015 Vidal Icewine Reserve

Silver: Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate 2015 Grand Reserve Vidal Icewine

Silver: Nomad at Hinterbrook 2014 Oak-Aged Vidal Icewine

Bronze: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2016 Sparkling Vidal Icewine

LCBO Vinifera White Icewine Award

Gold: Magnotta 2016 Riesling Icewine

Gold: Nomad at Hinterbrook 2015 Riesling Icewine

Silver: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2017 Riesling Icewine

Bronze: Tawse 2013 Chardonnay Icewine

LCBO Vinifera Red Icewine Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2016 Cabernet Icewine

Gold: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2016 Cabernet Franc Icewine

Silver: Riverview Cellars Estate 2017 Cabernet Franc Icewine

Bronze: Ferox by Fabian Reis 2016 Dornfelder Icewine - Single Barrel

George Brown College Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts Appassimento Red Award

Gold: Magnotta 2013 G. Marquis Epic - The Silver Line

Silver: Reif Estate 2015 The Magician Shiraz Pinot

Bronze: The Foreign Affair 2015 Cabernet Franc

Quench Magazine Blended Red Award

Gold: Two Sisters Vineyards 2013 Stone Eagle Special Selection

Silver: Two Sisters Vineyards 2013 Eleventh Post

Bronze: Adamo Estate 2015 Petit Verdot