



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Ontario Wine Awards 2013 Results
Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Another Golden Year For Ontario

An annual tradition celebrating excellence in Ontario viniculture

Friday, May 10, 2013 - Niagara-on-the-Lake – Since 1995, the Ontario Wine Awards (OWA) have been celebrating the Ontario VQA Wine industry, and accrediting some of the finest and most respected wines Ontario has to offer. As the Ontario Wine Industry continues to flourish throughout the Province’s appellations, so does the quality of wines being produced. As host this year, the OWA had the privilege of presenting to its audience one of Canada’s most prominent celebrity chefs, Christine Cushing.

The evening began with a sparkling wine reception allowing the who’s who of the wine world to mix and mingle with each other and gala VIPs. After the guests settled into their seats, Christine welcomed the audience with her lively enthusiasm. Special guest this year was Kim Craiton, MPP for Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, who got up to say a few words to the audience. During the awards ceremony, a delicious five-course meal was served by Queen’s Landing Executive Chef Marc Lyons, inspired by and created with locally produced, grown and raised Ontario foods, with each course paired alongside an Ontario Wine Awards Gold Medal Winning Wine.

This year, with an outstanding 496 wine submissions from 78 wineries, Tony Aspler, Founder of the Ontario Wine Awards and Order of Canada Recipient, announced, “The entries to the Ontario Wine Awards definitely reflect the trends in consumer tastes. Sparkling wine grew exponentially and blended reds with Bordeaux varieties keeps surging ahead. All in all the quality of the wines submitted this year speaks to the health of the Ontario wine industry.”

The Ontario Wine Awards recognize VQA varietal quality in 26 different categories such as Dry Riesling and Cabernet Franc, and acknowledge winners in Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal levels. There are also distinctive awards given out 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 Vintage Hotels. The **‘Red Wine of the Year’** was awarded to Pillitteri Estates 2010 Exclamation Cabernet Franc Reserve, and the **‘White Wine of the Year’** was awarded to Exultet Estates 2011 Chardonnay “the Blessed”.

The Vintage Hotels **‘Winemaker of the Year’** award, went to the deserving Marelize Beyers, Hidden Bench Vineyards and Winery. This award recognizes the winemaker’s consistent quality production across her portfolio, successes as demonstrated by additional wine awards, and her overall contribution to the wine industry.

Steven Elphick received this year’s Tidings **‘Wine Journalism Award’**, which recognized his work on the Spectacular Wineries of Ontario book published in 2012.

The Ontario Wine Awards expresses a sincere ‘thank you’ to everyone’s contribution and support for making the evening a huge success.

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2013 Ontario Wine Awards / sip & Savour Ontario Sponsors

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sip & Savour Ontario, in Support of Houselink – June 19, 2013

An evening dedicated to Ontario's Finest VQA Wines and Regional Cuisine

In the traditions of all great culinary regions, there are strong ties between regional wine and cuisine. This year, we will once again be showcasing this great tradition here in Ontario. The public will be able to experience and celebrate Ontario wine and food firsthand at sip & Savour Ontario on June 19th at Toronto's Fermenting Cellar in The Distillery Historic District from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm. Local chefs will be bringing the best and freshest foods Ontario has to offer. A portion of ticket sales, along with all silent auction proceeds and individual donations, will go directly to Houselink – www.houselink.on.ca. For more information and tickets, please visit www.sipandsavourontario.ca.

Ontario Wine Week – June 16th to 22nd, 2013

Officially declared by the provincial government in June 2005, every third week in June has been proclaimed Ontario Wine Week. This act helps to solidify the recognition of wines produced in Ontario and further insures the continued success of the Ontario Wine Awards and surrounding events such as sip & Savour Ontario.

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

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ONTARIO WINE AWARDS 2013 – 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 Journalism Award, which recognizes the best article/book published in 2012 on the Ontario wine industry.

How does the judging occur?

The 19th Annual Ontario Wine Awards wine judging, with the exception of Icewines, was held over two consecutive Saturdays – April 13th and April 20th, 2013 at Crush Wine Bar and was not open to the public.

Icewine Judging took place on April 21st at the Fine Wine Reserve Wine Storage and was not open to the public.

Wine Tastings

Since its inception, the awards have grown in both size and stature. sip & Savour Ontario is planning a fundraiser in support of Houselink that will showcase more than 25 award-winning Ontario wineries, and regionally prepared food by local chefs. The event is to take place at Toronto's Fermenting Cellar in The Distillery Historic District. To find out more, visit www.sipandsavourontario.ca

History

Tony Aspler, one of Canada's most acclaimed wine writers, 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."

2013 Ontario Wine Awards – Final Results

Vintage Hotels Winemaker of the Year Award

Marlize Beyers, Hidden Bench Vineyards and Winery

Vintage Hotels Red Wine of the Year Award

Pillitteri Estates 2010 Exclamation Cabernet Franc Reserve

Vintage Hotels White Wine of the Year Award

Exultet Estates 2011 Chardonnay “the Blessed”

Tidings Wine Journalism Award

Steven Elphick

Q water Sparkling Wine Award

Gold: 13th Street 2008 Premier Cuvée

Gold: Huff Estates 2007 Cuvée Peter F Huff

Silver: Angels Gate 2010 Archangel Chardonnay

Bronze: Hernder Estates 2007 Sparkling Riesling

NOW Magazine Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Flat Rock Cellars 2010 Nadjia's Vineyard Riesling

Gold: Daniel Lenko Estate 2009 Reserve Riesling

Silver: John Howard Cellars of Distinction 2011 Traveller's Series Riesling

Bronze: Hinterbrook Estate 2011 Riesling

Cornerstone Insurance Brokers Ltd. Semi-Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Tawse 2010 Carly's Block Riesling

Silver: Burning Kiln 2011 Riesling

Bronze: Tawse 2010 Sketches Riesling

Luxor Realty Inc. Dry White Varietal Award

Gold: Inniskillin 2012 Reserve Viognier

Silver: Château des Charmes 2011 Aligote, St. David's Bench Vineyard

Bronze: Nyarai Cellars 2012 Viognier

Gewurztraminer Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Tawse 2012 Quarry Road Gewurztraminer

Silver: Konzelmann Estate 2011 Gewurztraminer Late Harvest

Bronze: Riverview Cellars 2011 Gewurztraminer

Niagara Airbus Pinot Blanc/Pinot Gris Award

Gold: Stoney Ridge Cellars 2011 Pinot Gris Excellence

Silver: Angels Gate 2011 Pinot Gris

Bronze: Harwood Estate 2011 Pinot Gris

680News Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Award

Gold: Angels Gate 2010 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon

Silver: Sandbanks Estate 2011 Sauvignon Blanc

Bronze: Hillebrand Estates 2012 Trius Sauvignon Blanc

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2011 Grand Reserve Sauvignon Blanc

Rosehill Wine Cellars Inc. Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Under \$20

Gold: Rockway Vineyards 2011 Small Lot Reserve Chardonnay

Silver: Malivoire Wine Company 2011 Chardonnay

Bronze: Burning Kiln 2011 Cureman's Chard

Steven Elphick & Associates Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Over \$20

Gold: Exultet Estates 2011 Chardonnay "the Blessed"

Gold: Stoney Ridge Cellars 2010 Chardonnay Excellence

Silver: Tawse 2010 Quarry Road Chardonnay

Bronze: Huff Estates 2010 South Bay Chardonnay

Bronze: Tawse 2010 Estate Chardonnay

Bullfrog Power Unoaked Chardonnay Award

Gold: Malivoire Wine Company 2012 Musqué Spritz

Silver: Vineland Estates 2010 Chardonnay Musqué

Bronze: Vineland Estates 2011 O'Leary Chardonnay

Dairy Farmers of Canada Rosé/Blanc de Noir Award

Gold: Southbrook Vineyards 2011 Triomphe Cabernet Franc Rosé

Silver: Cooper's Hawk Vineyards 2011 Rosé

Bronze: Château des Charmes 2012 Rosé, Cuvée d'Andrée, Estate Bottled

Bronze: Tawse 2012 Rosé

Crush Wine Bar Gamay Award

Gold: Malivoire Wine Company 2012 Gamay

Silver: Château des Charmes 2010 Gamay Noir 'Droit', St. David's Bench Vineyard

Bronze: Malivoire Wine Company 2012 Small Lot Gamay

Grape Growers of Ontario Pinot Noir Award

Gold: Willow Springs 2010 Testa Pinot Noir

Silver: Angels Gate 2010 Mountainview Pinot Noir

Bronze: Flat Rock Cellars 2010 Pinot Noir

Red Hybrid Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Malivoire Wine Company 2011 Old Vines Foch

Silver: Sandbanks Estate 2011 Baco Noir

Bronze: Coffin Ridge 2011 Back From The Dead Red

Post City Magazines Cabernet Sauvignon Award

Gold: Tawse 2010 Redstone Cabernet Sauvignon

Silver: PondView Estate 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: Calamus Estate 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon

680News Cabernet Franc Award

Gold: Pillitteri Estates 2010 Exclamation Cabernet Franc Reserve

Gold: Hillebrand Estates 2010 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc 'Clark Farm Vineyard'

Silver: Lailey Vineyards 2010 Cabernet Franc

Bronze: Magnotta Winery 2011 Cabernet Franc Special Reserve

Bronze: Inniskillin 2010 Winemaker's Series Three Vineyards Cabernet Franc

The Stonemill Bakehouse Ltd. Merlot Award

Gold: Malivoire Wine Company 2010 Stouck Merlot

Gold: Peller Estates 2010 Signature Series Merlot

Silver: Rosewood Estates 2010 Merlot Reserve - Wild Ferment

Bronze: Kacaba Vineyards 2010 Reserve Merlot

Syrah/Shiraz Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Rockway Vineyards 2010 Small Lot Reserve Syrah

Silver: Tawse 2010 Syrah

Bronze: Lailey Vineyards 2011 Syrah

The Ontario Wine Society Meritage and Cabernet/Merlot Blends Award

Gold: Jackson-Triggs 2010 Delaine Cabernet Merlot

Silver: The Foreign Affair 2011 Dream

Silver: Vineland Estates 2007 Cabernet Merlot Reserve

Bronze: PondView Estate 2010 Meritage

VIA Rail Canada Late Harvest Award

Gold: Konzelmann Estate 2011 Special Select Late Harvest Vidal

Silver: Crooked Pine Vineyards by Diamond Estates The Winery 2012 Cabernet Franc Late Harvest

Bronze: Sandbanks Estate 2011 Winter Harvest

Ottawa Wine and Food Festival Vidal Icewine Award

Gold: Jackson-Triggs 2008 Proprietors' Reserve Vidal Icewine

Silver: Inniskillin 2011 Gold Oak-Aged Vidal Icewine

Bronze: Inniskillin 2008 Gold Oak-Aged Vidal Icewine

LCBO Vinifera Icewine Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2009 Riesling Icewine, Paul Bosc Estate Vineyard

Silver: Reif Estate 2011 Riesling Icewine

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2008 Grand Reserve Riesling Icewine

Blended White Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Small Talk Vineyards 2011 Faux Pas

Bronze: Fresh Wines 2012 Moscato

Allen's Blended Red Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2007 Lost Barrel Red

Silver: Inniskillin 2010 Legacy Shiraz Merlot

Bronze: Creekside Estate 2010 Undercurrent Merazier

ASL Print FX Best Label Design Award

Gold: Cooper's Hawk Vineyards 2010 Cabernet Franc Reserve

Silver: Cattail Creek Estate 2011 Serendipity Rosé Estate Series

Bronze: Hillebrand Estates 2010 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc 'Clark Farm Vineyard'