



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Ontario Wine Awards - 2019 Results*  
*Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

# Ontario Wine Awards Celebrates 25 Years

**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - Niagara-on-the-Lake** – The Ontario Wine Awards celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary competition with a record number of entries – 542 wines from 78 wineries producing VQA wines in Ontario.

'The team at the Ontario Wine Awards is privileged to have witnessed the incredible growth of the Ontario wine industry over the past 25 years - not only in the number of wineries but more importantly in the impressive growth in the quality of their products', said OWA's founder, Tony Aspler.

The celebrations started on April 11<sup>th</sup> with a dinner at Niagara College's Benchmark Restaurant to honour all the previous winners of the 'Winemaker of the Year' Award. It was a hilarious evening, hosted by Lori Love of 105.7 EZ Rock. Each winemaker was invited to stand and give a short speech confessing to their best and worst experiences making wine in Ontario.

The Awards Ceremony was held at Niagara College and their Benchmark Restaurant on June 6<sup>th</sup>, hosted by stand-up comedian Joe Pillitteri whose family has a long-time connection with the Ontario wine industry.

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 VINES Magazine. The '**Red Wine of the Year**' was awarded to *Trius 2016 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc Clark Farm Vineyard*, and the '**White Wine of the Year**' was awarded to *Peller Estates 2016 Andrew Peller Signature Series Riesling*. The 105.7 EZ Rock / Newstalk 610 CKTB '**Winemaker of the Year**' award went to *David Johnson, Featherstone Estate Winery*. 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. *Dick Snyder, Freelance Writer*, received this year's VQA Wines of Ontario '**Wine Journalism Award**', which recognized him for his Q&A with Ontario Winemakers in Toronto Life – To view his articles:

<https://torontolife.com/author/dsnyder/>

Another unique aspect of the Ontario Wine Awards' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is a one-time accolade in memory of the late Karl Kaiser, a legendary pioneer of the Ontario wine industry. This award is called **The Karl Kaiser Winemaker Emeritus Award** and was presented to Peter Gamble on June 6<sup>th</sup> for making an outstanding contribution to the Canadian wine industry over his career.

Join us in celebrating **WINETARIO**, the consumer arm of the Ontario Wine Awards, on June 24<sup>th</sup> at The Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts at George Brown College. This table-top tasting will feature 16 wineries and their award-winning VQA wines from the 2019 Ontario Wine Awards.

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

**2019 Ontario Wine Awards Sponsors**

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**ONTARIO WINE AWARDS 2019 – 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 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Wine Awards wine judging, with the exception of Icewines and Late Harvest wines, was held in one day on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.'

## **2019 Ontario Wine Awards – Final Results**

### **105.7 EZ Rock / Newstalk 610 CKTB Winemaker of the Year Award**

David Johnson, Featherstone Estate Winery

### **VINES Magazine Red Wine of the Year Award**

Trius 2016 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc Clark Farm Vineyard

### **VINES Magazine White Wine of the Year Award**

Peller Estates 2016 Andrew Peller Signature Series Riesling

### **VQA Wines of Ontario Wine Journalism Award**

Dick Snyder, Freelance Writer

### **ASL Print FX Best Label Design Award**

*Gold:* Palatine Hills Estate 2017 The Wanderers Red

*Silver:* Drea's Wine Co. 2017 Drea's Sauvignon Blanc

*Bronze:* Windrush Estate 2017 Pinot Grigio

### **105.7 EZ Rock / Newstalk 610 CKTB Sparkling Wine Award ~ Traditional Method**

*Gold:* Megalomaniac N/V Bubblehead

*Silver:* Kew Vineyards Estate 2016 Pinot Meunier

*Bronze:* Henry of Pelham Family Estate N/V Cuvée Catherine Rosé Brut

*Bronze:* Trius N/V Brut Rosé

### **Niagara Airbus Sparkling Wine Award ~ Cuve Close**

*Gold:* Megalomaniac 2018 Sparkling Personality

*Silver:* Reif Estate N/V The Stars Sparkling Riesling

*Bronze:* Pelee Island 2016 Secco

*Bronze:* Vieni Estates 2018 Classic Brut

### **Dry Riesling Award**

*Gold:* No Gold Awarded

*Silver:* No Silver Awarded

*Bronze:* Honsberger Estate 2018 Riesling

### **Benchmark Restaurant Semi-Dry Riesling Award**

*Gold:* Peller Estates 2016 Andrew Peller Signature Series Riesling

*Silver:* Redstone 2017 Limestone Vineyard Riesling

*Bronze:* Flat Rock Cellars 2017 Riesling

### **Fine Wine Reserve Dry White Varietal Award**

*Gold:* Big Head Wines 2017 RAW Chenin Blanc

*Silver:* No Silver Awarded

*Bronze:* Colio Estate 2017 Bricklayer's Reward Herringbone White

*Bronze:* Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate 2017 Grand Reserve White Meritage

### **George Brown College Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts Gewurztraminer Award**

*Gold:* Big Head Wines 2018 Gewurztraminer

*Silver:* Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2017 Small Lot Gewurztraminer

*Bronze:* Niagara College Teaching Winery 2017 Balance Gewurztraminer

*Bronze:* Konzelmann Estate 2016 Gewurztraminer Late Harvest

**VIA Rail Canada Pinot Blanc/Pinot Gris Award**

*Gold:* Konzelmann Estate 2017 Lakefront Series Pinot Blanc

*Silver:* Strewn 2017 Terroir Pinot Blanc

*Silver:* Harwood Estate 2017 Pinot Gris

*Bronze:* Magnotta 2017 Pinot Grigio Venture Series

*Bronze:* Huff Estates 2017 Pinot Gris

**Amcor Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Award**

*Gold:* Creekside Estate 2017 Iconoclast Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon

*Gold:* Angels Gate Estate 2017 Sauvignon Blanc

*Gold:* Trius 2017 Showcase Clean Slate Sauvignon Blanc Wild Ferment

*Silver:* Megalomaniac 2018 Savvy Sauvignon Blanc

*Silver:* Leaning Post Wines 2018 Sauvignon Blanc

*Silver:* Niagara College Teaching Winery 2017 Gastronomy Fumé Blanc

*Bronze:* Vieni Estates 2016 Sauvignon Blanc

**Cogeco Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Under \$20**

*Gold:* Niagara College Teaching Winery 2017 Gastronomy Chardonnay

*Silver:* Strewn 2017 Barrel Aged Chardonnay

*Bronze:* Flat Rock Cellars 2017 Chardonnay

**IWEG Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Over \$20**

*Gold:* Tawse 2013 Lenko Vineyard Chardonnay

*Silver:* Flat Rock Cellars 2017 The Rusty Shed Chardonnay

*Bronze:* Two Sisters Vineyards 2017 Chardonnay

**Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara College Unoaked Chardonnay Award**

*Gold:* Big Head Wines 2017 Chardonnay Stainless

*Silver:* Konzelmann Estate 2017 Unoaked Chardonnay

*Bronze:* Two Sisters Vineyards 2017 Unoaked Chardonnay

**Rosé/Blanc de Noir Award**

*Gold:* No Gold Awarded

*Silver:* Peller Estates 2018 Private Reserve Rosé

*Bronze:* North 42 Degrees Estate 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé

**Donna's Fashions Gamay Award**

*Gold:* London Born Wine Co. 2017 Gamay Noir

*Silver:* 13<sup>th</sup> Street 2017 Gamay

*Bronze:* Peller Estates 2017 Private Reserve Gamay Noir

*Bronze:* Megalomaniac 2017 Avant Garde Gamay

*Bronze:* Malivoire 2018 Gamay

**Allen's Pinot Noir Award**

*Gold:* Flat Rock Cellars 2015 Gravity Pinot Noir

*Gold:* The Farm 2017 Black Label Pinot Noir

*Gold:* Bachelder 2016 les Villages Pinot Noir

*Silver:* Tawse 2016 Tintern Road Vineyard Pinot Noir

*Bronze:* Megalomaniac 2016 SonOfABitch Pinot Noir

*Bronze:* Megalomaniac 2016 Reserve Pinot Noir

**Grapes for Humanity Red Hybrid Award**

*Gold:* Malivoire 2017 Old Vines Foch

*Silver:* Sandbanks 2017 Sleeping Giant

*Silver:* Sandbanks 2017 Baco Noir Reserve

*Bronze:* Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2017 Speck Family Reserve Baco Noir

**Niagara Airbus Cabernet Sauvignon Award**

*Gold:* Kacaba Vineyards 2016 Signature Series Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

*Silver:* Riverview Cellars 2015 Salvatore's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

*Bronze:* Nomad at Hinterbrook 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon

*Bronze:* Two Sisters Vineyards 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon

**Cogeco Cabernet Franc Award**

*Gold:* Trius 2016 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc Clark Farm Vineyard

*Silver:* Two Sisters Vineyards 2015 Cabernet Franc

*Bronze:* Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2016 Small Lot Cabernet Franc

*Bronze:* Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2016 Reserve Cabernet Franc

**FCC Agribusiness and Agri-Food Merlot Award**

*Gold:* Malivoire 2016 Stouck Merlot

*Gold:* Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate 2016 Grand Reserve Merlot

*Gold:* Megalomaniac 2016 Big Mouth Merlot

*Silver:* Konzelmann Estate 2017 Lakefront Series Merlot

*Silver:* Angels Gate Estate 2016 Mountainview Merlot

*Bronze:* Magnotta 2016 Limited Edition Merlot

**Quench Magazine Syrah/Shiraz Award**

*Gold:* Big Head Wines 2017 RAW Syrah

*Gold:* Creekside Estate 2016 Broken Press Syrah Reserve

*Silver:* Niagara College Teaching Winery 2017 Balance Syrah

*Silver:* Angels Gate Estate 2016 Mountainview Syrah

*Bronze:* Meldville Wines 2017 Syrah

**Fine Wine Reserve Meritage and Cabernet/Merlot Blends Award**

*Gold:* Konzelmann Estate 2016 Meritage Reserve

*Silver:* The Foreign Affair 2016 Temptress

*Bronze:* Wayne Gretzky Estates 2016 No. 99 Estate Series Cabernet Merlot

*Bronze:* Palatine Hills Estate 2017 Wanderer's Red

**Vintage Assessments Late Harvest Award**

*Gold:* Big Head Wines 2016 Special Select Late Harvest Riesling

*Silver:* Konzelmann Estate 2017 Special Select Late Harvest Vidal

*Bronze:* Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2018 Botrytis Affected Viognier

**105.7 EZ Rock / Newstalk 610 CKTB Vidal Icewine Award**

*Gold:* Sue-Ann Staff Estate 2017 Howard's Vidal Icewine

*Silver:* Château des Charmes 2017 Vidal Icewine

*Bronze:* Byland Estate 2018 Vidal Icewine

**LCBO Vinifera White Icewine Award**

*Gold:* The Lakeview Wine Co. 2017 Lakeview Cellars Gewurztraminer Icewine

*Silver:* Byland Estate 2018 Riesling Icewine

*Silver:* Peller Estates 2017 Andrew Peller Signature Series Riesling Icewine

*Bronze:* Tawse 2013 Chardonnay Icewine

**LCBO Vinifera Red Icewine Award**

*Gold:* The Lakeview Wine Co. 2017 Lakeview Cellars Cabernet Franc Icewine

*Silver:* The Lakeview Wine Co. 2017 Lakeview Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Icewine

*Bronze:* Pillitteri Estates 2017 Cabernet Franc Icewine

*Bronze:* Palatine Hills Estate 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Icewine

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

*Gold:* Pillitteri Estates 2015 Riserva Famiglia Cabernet Franc Appassimento

*Gold:* Burning Kiln 2016 Kiln Hanger

*Gold:* Angels Gate Estate 2016 BIN 95

*Silver:* Burning Kiln 2017 Horse & Boat

*Bronze:* The Foreign Affair 2016 Apologetic Red

**Cogeco Blended Red Award**

*Gold:* Magnotta 2016 G. Marquis Epic - The Silver Line

*Silver:* No Silver Awarded

*Bronze:* Wayne Gretzky Estates 2016 No.99 Estate Series Shiraz Cabernet

*Bronze:* Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2016 Discovery Series Merlot Petit Verdot

*Bronze:* Megalomaniac 2016 Big Kahuna