



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Wine Awards

June 24th, 2018

Winemaker of the Year Award Withdrawn from Norman Hardie

Sunday, June 24th, 2018 – St. Catharines, Ontario - It is with deep regret that the management of the Ontario Wine Awards has decided to rescind the 2018 award of ‘Winemaker of the Year’ from Norman Hardie, effective immediately.

The presentation of this honour was based on the annual polling of Ontario Wine Awards judges who voted overwhelmingly for him. The ballot took place 45 days before the story of his improprieties broke in the Globe & Mail on June 19th.

While we respect Norman Hardie’s abilities as a winemaker and acknowledge the international reputation he has achieved, we cannot condone or ignore his self-admitted behavior.

Over the course of its 24 years, the objective of the Ontario Wine Awards has always been to recognize, encourage, promote and celebrate the excellence of the province’s VQA wines. And this mission statement also includes the need to provide a safe and respectful working environment.

For this reason, we are formally withdrawing the award of ‘Winemaker of the Year’ that was presented to Mr. Hardie at Niagara College on June 7th, 2018.

For further information please contact:

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