



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
*Ontario Wine Awards - 2020 Results*  
*Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

## **Ontario Wine Awards Goes Virtual During The Pandemic**

**Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Niagara** – 2020 would have been the 26<sup>th</sup> year for the Ontario Wine Awards. Unfortunately, COVID-19 put paid to the usual rigorous judging of entries by 24 highly qualified tasters. However, our OWA team was determined that we celebrate the quality of Ontario's VQA wines in the fashion of the day.

So, we reached out to judges, who had participated in the last three years of the competition, and asked them to nominate the top three white, red and sparkling wines they had tasted during the year. From their responses we tabulated the top scoring wines.

In addition, the judges were asked to vote on whom they considered should be honoured with the title 'Winemaker of the Year', sponsored by **Quench Magazine**.

### ***The results for 2020 are:***

**Allen's** Red Wine of the Year Award  
Rosehall Run 2018 JCR Pinot Noir, Rosehall Vineyard

**Quench Magazine** White Wine of the Year Award  
Charles Baker 2017 Riesling, Picone Vineyard

**Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara College** Sparkling Wine of the Year Award  
Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2014 Cuvée Catharine Carte Blanche Estate Blanc de Blanc

**Quench Magazine** Winemaker of the Year Award  
Philip Dowell, Angels Gate Estate Winery

***(Owing to Social Distancing protocols, presentation of the awards will be made privately this year.)***

We are looking forward to 2021 when we will celebrate the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ontario Wine Awards with everyone.

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**ONTARIO WINE AWARDS – 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.'