



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Ontario Wine Awards 2012 Results
Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The Juices Are Flowing In Ontario

An annual tradition celebrating excellence in Ontario viniculture

Friday, May 4, 2012 - 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 hosts this year, the OWA had the privilege of presenting to its audience two of Ontario's most knowledgeable and respected wine experts, and brothers in wine - John Szabo MS and Zoltan Szabo.

As expressed by John and Zoltan, "It was an honour and privilege for us to host the 18th annual Ontario Wine Awards Gala. With 200 guests in attendance, the night certainly was a memorable one for everyone involved. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of being part of this celebration and look forward to the 19th edition of Canada's leading wine competition."

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, John and Zoltan made their energetic entry through the crowd and took to the stage as the MC's and welcomed vintners, winery principals, sponsors and industry professionals alike. Special guest this year was Lord Mayor Dave Eke of the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, 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 Randy Dupuis, 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 482 wine submissions from 72 wineries, Tony Aspler, Founder of the Ontario Wine Awards and Order of Canada Recipient, readily announced, "Some real surprises in this year's top scoring wines which just goes to show that the level of quality of winemaking in Ontario is of a very high standard across the appellations."

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 Cattail Creek Estate 2007 Reserve Series Cabernet Merlot, and the '**White Wine of the Year**' was awarded to Inniskillin 2008 Riesling Icewine.

The Vintage Hotels '**Winemaker of the Year**' award, went to the deserving Andrzej Lipinski, Colaneri 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.

Michael Pinkus, OntarioWineReview.com, received this year's Post City Magazines '**Wine Journalism Award**', which recognized his on-going coverage in 2011 of the Ontario wine scene in his Ottawa Life blog.

To honour the memory of Larry Paterson, the **Larry Paterson Innovation in the Vineyard Award** was presented for the second year in a row. Larry, who called himself the Little Fat Wino, was a tireless proponent of winegrowing in Ontario and an inspiration to those who wanted to plant vineyards in areas outside VQA's designated boundaries. The executive committee of the Grape Growers of Ontario chose Rob Power of Creekside Estate Winery as the recipient.

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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2012 Ontario Wine Awards / sip & Savour Ontario Sponsors

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Crush Wine Bar	The Stonemill Bakehouse Ltd.
Dairy Farmers of Canada	Ottawa Wine and Food Festival

sip & Savour Ontario, in Support of Houselink – October 4, 2012

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 October 4th at Steam Whistle Brewing in Toronto from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm. Some of Ontario's top chefs will bring 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, please visit www.sipandsavourontario.ca.

Ontario Wine Week – June 17th to 23rd, 2012

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

Contacts:

Sandy Kurbis

Director of Client and Event Services
The Forefront Communications Network Inc.
1917 Avenue Road, Suite A
Toronto, ON M5M 4A2
Tel: 416-398-3335 Ext. 2#
sandy@forefrontcom.com
www.ontariowineawards.ca
www.forefrontcom.com

Tony Aspler

Tony Aspler Enterprises
416-488-8597
tony.aspler@rogers.com
www.tonyaspler.com
www.grapesforhumanity.com

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ONTARIO WINE AWARDS 2012 – 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 published in 2011 on the Ontario wine industry.

How does the judging occur?

The 18th Annual Ontario Wine Awards wine judging, with the exception of Icewines, was held over two consecutive Saturdays – April 7th and April 14th, 2012 at Crush Wine Bar and was not open to the public.

Icewine Judging took place on April 15th 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 30 award-winning Ontario wineries, and regionally prepared food by top chefs. The event is to take place at Steam Whistle Brewing in Toronto on Thursday, October 4, 2012. 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."

2012 Ontario Wine Awards – Final Results

Vintage Hotels Winemaker of the Year Award

Andrzej Lipinski, Colaneri Estate Winery

Vintage Hotels Red Wine of the Year Award

Cattail Creek Estate 2007 Reserve Series Cabernet Merlot

Vintage Hotels White Wine of the Year Award

Inniskillin 2008 Riesling Icewine

Larry Paterson Innovation in the Vineyard Award

Rob Power, Creekside Estate Winery

Post City Magazines Wine Journalism Award

Michael Pinkus, OntarioWineReview.com

Q water Sparkling Wine Award

Gold: The Grange of Prince Edward 2008 Brut, Estate Bottled

Silver: Henry of Pelham Family Estate NV Cuvée Catharine Brut

Bronze: Château des Charmes NV Brut Sparkling Wine

NOW Magazine Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Vineland Estates 2009 Dry Riesling

Silver: Thirteenth Street Winery 2009 Old Vines Riesling

Bronze: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2009 Speck Family Reserve Riesling

680News Semi-Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Vineland Estates 2009 St. Urban Riesling

Silver: Tawse 2010 Sketches of Niagara Riesling

Bronze: Tawse 2010 Carly's Block Riesling

Luxor Realty Inc. Dry White Varietal Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2010 Viognier Reserve

Silver: Colaneri Estate 2011 Allegria

Bronze: Stoney Ridge Cellars 2010 Simply White

Bronze: Cornerstone Estate 2009 Chenin Blanc

Niagara Airbus Gewurztraminer Award

Gold: Konzelmann Estate 2010 Gewürztraminer Late Harvest

Silver: Rosewood Estates 2011 Gewurztraminer

Bronze: Malivoire Wine Company 2011 Gewurztraminer

Houselink Pinot Blanc/Pinot Gris Award

Gold: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2011 Pinot Grigio

Silver: Stoney Ridge Cellars 2010 Excellence Pinot Gris

Bronze: Pelee Island 2011 Pinot Grigio

The Wine Establishment Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2010 Sauvignon Blanc Reserve

Silver: Colaneri Estate 2010 Fumoso Bianco

Bronze: Mike Weir Estate 2010 Sauvignon Blanc

680News Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Under \$20

Gold: Inniskillin 2010 Winemaker's Series Montague Vineyard Chardonnay

Silver: Stoney Ridge Cellars 2010 Warren Classic Chardonnay

Bronze: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2009 Barrel-Fermented Chardonnay

NOW Magazine Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Over \$20

Gold: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2009 Dean's List Chardonnay

Gold: Exultet Estates 2010 The Blessed Chardonnay

Silver: Malivoire Wine Company 2010 Forgotten Row Chardonnay

Silver: Rennie Estate 2010 Christine Chardonnay Reserve

Bronze: Peller Estates 2009 Signature Series Chardonnay Sur Lie

Bullfrog Power Unoaked Chardonnay Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2010 Chardonnay Musqué, Estate Bottled

Silver: Cornerstone Estate 2009 Chardonnay Musqué

Bronze: Vineland Estates 2011 Chardonnay Unoaked

Post City Magazines Rosé/Blanc de Noir Award

Gold: Sue-Ann Staff Estate 2011 Rosé

Silver: Inniskillin 2011 Pinot Noir Rosé

Bronze: Southbrook Vineyards 2011 Triomphe Cabernet Franc Rosé

Bronze: Malivoire Wine Company 2011 Ladybug Rosé

Gamay Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Thirteenth Street Winery 2010 Gamay Noir

Bronze: Malivoire Wine Company 2011 Gamay

Bronze: Malivoire Wine Company 2011 M2 Small Lot Gamay

Grape Growers of Ontario Pinot Noir Award

Gold: Coyote's Run Estate 2009 Red Paw Vineyard Pinot Noir

Silver: Thirteenth Street Winery 2009 Essence Pinot Noir

Bronze: Rosewood Estates 2009 Pinot Noir Reserve

Crush Wine Bar Red Hybrid Award

Gold: Malivoire Wine Company 2010 Old Vines Foch

Silver: Georgian Hills Vineyards 2010 Marechal Foch

Bronze: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2010 Baco Noir

Cabernet Sauvignon Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Magnotta Winery 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Special Reserve

Bronze: G. Marquis Vineyards 2009 Red Line Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: Southbrook Vineyards 2010 Whimsy Cabernet Sauvignon

680News Cabernet Franc Award

Gold: Lailey Vineyard 2010 Cabernet Franc

Silver: Malivoire Wine Company 2010 Wismer Cabernet Franc

Bronze: Vignoble Rancourt Winery 2007 Cabernet Franc

The Stonemill Bakehouse Ltd. Merlot Award

Gold: Tawse 2008 David's Block Merlot

Silver: Rosewood Estates 2010 Merlot

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2009 Gold Series Merlot

Dairy Farmers of Canada Syrah/Shiraz Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2008 Broken Press Syrah Reserve

Silver: Kacaba Vineyards 2009 Single Vineyard Syrah

Silver: Peninsula Ridge Estates 2010 Syrah Reserve

Bronze: Lailey Vineyard 2010 Syrah

The Ontario Wine Society Meritage and Cabernet/Merlot Blends Award

Gold: Cattail Creek Estate 2007 Reserve Series Cabernet Merlot

Silver: Vineland Estates 2009 Elevation Cabernet

Bronze: Hillebrand Estates 2010 Trius Red

VIA Rail Canada Late Harvest Award

Gold: Konzelmann Estate 2010 Special Select Late Harvest Vidal

Silver: Colaneri Estate 2010 Profondo Mistera

Bronze: Caroline Cellars 2008 Late Harvest Riesling

Ottawa Wine and Food Festival Vidal Icewine Award

Gold: Inniskillin 2007 Oak Aged Vidal Icewine

Silver: Reif Estate 2010 Vidal Icewine

Bronze: Inniskillin 2010 Vidal Sparkling Icewine

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate 2010 Vidal Icewine

LCBO Vinifera Icewine Award

Gold: Inniskillin 2008 Riesling Icewine

Silver: Sue-Ann Staff Estate 2007 Riesling Icewine

Silver: G. Marquis Vineyards 2009 Silver Line Riesling Icewine

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2007 Delaine Vineyard Riesling Icewine

Bronze: Inniskillin 2007 Cabernet Franc Icewine

Allen's Blended White Award

Gold: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2010 Family Tree White

Silver: Creekside Estate 2010 Laura's White

Bronze: Hillebrand Estates 2010 Trius White

Allen's Blended Red Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2010 Cabernet Shiraz

Silver: Colaneri Estate 2009 Insieme

Bronze: Crush Wines 2010 Crush Red

ASL Print FX Best Label Design Award

Gold: Diamond Estates–The Winery 2010 NHL Alumni Hat Trick Red

Silver: Flat Rock Cellars 2010 The Rogue Pinot Noir

Bronze: Mike Weir The Underdog Wine Co. 2009 White