



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Ontario Wine Awards 2011 Results
Saturday, June 11, 2011

Turning Black And Green Grapes Into Liquid Gold *An annual tradition celebrating excellence in Ontario viniculture*

Friday, June 10, 2011 - 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 has grown, so has this event. Joined by guest celebrity Laura Calder, host of Food Network's French Food at Home and a judge on the upcoming series Recipe to Riches, the 2011 Ontario Wine Awards Gala didn't hesitate to roll out the red carpet.

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 VIP's. The perfect way to kick-off Ontario Wine Week! As the guests settled into their seats, Laura Calder took to the mic as the gala MC, and welcomed vintners, winery principals, sponsors and industry professionals alike. During the awards ceremony, a delicious five-course meal was served by Queen's Landing's Executive Chef Mark Lyons, inspired by and created with locally produced, grown and raised Ontario foods. Each course was paired with an Ontario Wine Awards Gold Medal Winning Wine, highlighting and celebrating the abundance of quality flavour available from Ontario.

This year, with an outstanding 452 wine submissions from 63 wineries, Tony Aspler, Founder of the Ontario Wine Awards and Order of Canada Recipient, readily announced, "This year's competition showed that Ontario Winemakers don't have to rely on a stellar year like 2007 to make great wines. Undoubtedly, we are entering the Golden Age of Ontario wines."

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 Flat Rock Cellars 2007 The Rogue Syrah, and the '**White Wine of the Year**' was awarded to Château des Charmes 2008 'Old Vines' Riesling Estate Bottled.

The Vintage Hotels '**Winemaker of the Year**' award, went to the deserving Paul Pender from Tawse 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.

Beppi Crosariol, of The Globe and Mail, received this year's VINES Magazine '**Wine Journalism Award**', which recognizes the best article published in 2010 on the Ontario wine industry. His article 'Hot growing season spells a great year for Niagara vintages', ran in The Globe and Mail, September 8, 2010.

New to the award line-up this year to honour the memory of Larry Paterson, was the **Larry Paterson Innovation in the Vineyard Award**. 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 Deborah Paskus of Closson Chase Vineyards as the recipient of this inaugural award.

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

2011 Ontario Wine Awards / sip & Savour Ontario Sponsors

680News	Grape Growers of Ontario
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sip & Savour Ontario, in Support of Houselink – October 19, 2011

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 19th 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 12th to 18th, 2011

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 2011 – 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 2010 on the Ontario wine industry.

How does the judging occur?

The 16th Annual Ontario Wine Awards wine judging, with the exception of Icewines, was held over two consecutive Saturdays – March 19th and March 26th, 2011 at Crush Wine Bar and was not open to the public.

Icewine Judging took place on March 27th 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 Wednesday, October 19, 2011. 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."

2011 Ontario Wine Awards – Final Results

Vintage Hotels Winemaker of the Year Award

Paul Pender, Tawse Winery

Larry Paterson Innovation in the Vineyard Award

Deborah Paskus, Closson Chase Vineyards

Vintage Hotels Red Wine of the Year Award

Flat Rock Cellars 2007 The Rogue Syrah

Vintage Hotels White Wine of the Year Award

Château des Charmes 2008 'Old Vines' Riesling Estate Bottled

VINES Magazine Wine Journalism Award

Beppi Crosariol, The Globe and Mail

Q water Sparkling Wine Award

Gold: Peller Estates NV Ice Cuvée Rosé

Silver: Château des Charmes 2008 Rosé Sparkling Methode Traditionnelle

Bronze: Henry of Pelham Family Estate NV Cuvée Catharine Brut

Bronze: Peller Estates NV Ice Cuvée

NOW Magazine Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2008 'Old Vines' Riesling Estate Bottled

Silver: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2008 Riesling

Bronze: Thirty Bench 2009 Small Lot Riesling Steel Post Vineyard

680News Semi-Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Mike Weir Estate 2008 Riesling

Silver: Hillebrand Estates 2009 Showcase Riesling Four Mile Creek Vineyard

Silver: Flat Rock Cellars 2009 Riesling

Bronze: Tawse 2010 Quarry Road

Luxor Realty Inc. Dry White Varietal Award

Gold: Nyarai Cellars 2010 Viognier

Gold: Creekside Estate 2009 Viognier Reserve

Silver: Konzelmann Estate 2008 Riesling Traminer Late Harvest

Bronze: Château des Charmes 2009 Aligoté Estate Bottled

Gewurztraminer Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Konzelmann Estate 2008 Gewurztraminer

Bronze: Malivoire Wine Company 2010 Gewurztraminer

Houselink Pinot Blanc/Pinot Gris Award

Gold: Calamus Estate 2009 Pinot Gris

Silver: Fielding Estate 2009 Pinot Gris

Bronze: Inniskillin 2010 Pinot Grigio

The Wine Establishment Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Award

Gold: Jackson Triggs 2009 Gold Series Fumé Blanc
Silver: Creekside Estate 2009 Sauvignon Blanc Reserve
Bronze: Jackson Triggs 2009 Gold Series White Meritage

680News Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Under \$20

Gold: Magnotta Winery 2007 Chardonnay Special Reserve
Silver: Stoney Ridge Estate 2009 Warren Classic Chardonnay
Bronze: Lailey Vineyard 2009 Chardonnay

NOW Magazine Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Over \$20

Gold: Exultet Estates 2009 Chardonnay
Silver: Tawse 2009 Robyn's Block Chardonnay
Bronze: Coyote's Run Estate 2009 Red Paw Vineyard Chardonnay

Bullfrog Power Unoaked Chardonnay Award

Gold: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2009 Unoaked Chardonnay
Silver: Vineland Estates 2009 Chardonnay Musqué
Bronze: Tawse 2010 Chardonnay Musqué

VINES Magazine Rosé/Blanc de Noir Award

Gold: Flat Rock Cellars 2009 The Rogue Pinot Noir
Silver: Malivoire Wine Company 2010 Ladybug Rosé
Bronze: Palatine Hills Estate 2010 Cabernet Franc Rosé
Bronze: Tawse 2010 Sketches Rosé
Bronze: Southbrook Vineyards 2010 Connect Organic Rosé

Crush Wine Bar Gamay Award

Gold: Malivoire Wine Company 2010 M² Small Lot Gamay
Silver: Malivoire Wine Company 2010 Gamay
Bronze: Malivoire Wine Company 2009 Courtney Gamay

Grape Growers of Ontario Pinot Noir Award

Gold: Tawse 2008 Laidlaw Pinot Noir
Silver: Stoney Ridge Estate 2009 Excellence Pinot Noir
Bronze: Rosewood Estates 2009 Pinot Noir Reserve

Red Hybrid Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded
Silver: Sandbanks Estate 2008 Foch Reserve
Bronze: Sandbanks Estate 2009 Baco Noir

Niagara Airbus Cabernet Sauvignon Award

Gold: Fielding Estate 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon
Silver: Southbrook Vineyards 2007 Whimsy Cabernet Sauvignon Lot 19
Bronze: Strewn 2007 Terroir Cabernet Sauvignon

680News Cabernet Franc Award

Gold: Kacaba Vineyards 2007 Cabernet Franc Reserve
Silver: Hillebrand Estates 2008 Showcase Cabernet Franc 'Carlton Vineyard'
Silver: Peller Estates 2008 Signature Series Cabernet Franc
Bronze: Pillitteri Estates 2007 Exclamation Cabernet Franc Reserve
Bronze: Rosewood Estates 2008 Cabernet Franc

Merlot Award

Gold: No Gold Awarded

Silver: Kacaba Vineyards 2007 Merlot Reserve

Bronze: Hillebrand Estates 2007 Showcase Merlot 'Carlton Vineyard'

Dairy Farmers of Canada Syrah/Shiraz Award

Gold: Flat Rock Cellars 2007 The Rogue Syrah

Silver: Lakeview Cellars 2007 Syrah Reserve (Diamond Estates-The Winery)

Bronze: Southbrook Vineyards 2009 Triomphe Syrah

Bronze: Kacaba Vineyards 2008 Syrah

Bronze: Creekside Estate 2007 Shiraz Reserve

The Ontario Wine Society Meritage and Cabernet/Merlot Blends Award

Gold: Kacaba Vineyards 2007 Meritage Reserve

Silver: Vineland Estates 2007 Cabernet Merlot Reserve

Bronze: Magnotta Winery 2007 Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon Special Reserve

VIA Rail Canada Late Harvest Award

Gold: Konzelmann Estate 2008 Special Select Late Harvest Vidal

Silver: Château des Charmes 2008 Late Harvest Riesling Estate Bottled

Bronze: Calamus Estate 2009 Special Select Late Harvest Vidal

Grape Growers of Ontario Vidal Icewine Award

Gold: Inniskillin 2007 Pearl Vidal Icewine

Silver: Inniskillin 2008 Sparkling Icewine

Bronze: Inniskillin 2006 Oak-Aged Vidal Icewine

LCBO Vinifera Icewine Award

Gold: Magnotta Winery 2007 Cabernet Franc Icewine Limited Edition

Silver: Mike Weir Estate 2008 Cabernet Icewine

Bronze: Peller Estates 2008 Signature Series Cabernet Franc Icewine

Allen's Blended White Award

Gold: Peninsula Ridge Estates 2009 Top Bench White

Silver: Hinterbrook 2010 Cabernet Franc Blanc

Bronze: Legends Estates 2010 Truth

Allen's Blended Red Award

Gold: Wayne Gretzky Estates 2008 Estate Series Shiraz/Cabernet

Silver: Reif Estate 2009 The Magician

Bronze: Vineland Estates 2009 Pinot Meunier

ASL Print FX Best Label Design Award

Gold: Kacaba Vineyards 2008 Single Vineyard Syrah

Silver: Lakeview Cellars 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve

Bronze: Fielding Estate 2007 Chosen Few Red