



**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
Vintage Hotels	LCBO
NOW Magazine	Luxor Realty Inc.
VINES Magazine	Niagara Airbus
Wine Country Ontario	Q water
Allen's	The Ontario Wine Society
ASL Print FX	The Wine Establishment
Bullfrog Power	VIA Rail Canada
Crush Wine Bar	The Stonemill Bakehouse Ltd.
Dairy Farmers of Canada	

**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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.houselink.on.ca). For more information, please visit [www.sipandsavourontario.ca](http://www.sipandsavourontario.ca).

**Ontario Wine Week – June 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.ontariowineawards.ca)

**Contacts:**

**Sandy Kurbis**

Director of Client and Event Services  
The Forefront Communications Network Inc.  
1698 Avenue Road  
Toronto, ON M5M 3Y4  
Tel: 416-398-3335 Ext. 2#  
Fax: 416-398-6630  
[sandy@forefrontcom.com](mailto:sandy@forefrontcom.com)  
[www.ontariowineawards.ca](http://www.ontariowineawards.ca)  
[www.forefrontcom.com](http://www.forefrontcom.com)

**Tony Aspler**

Tony Aspler Enterprises  
416-488-8597  
[tony.aspler@rogers.com](mailto:tony.aspler@rogers.com)  
[www.tonyaspler.com](http://www.tonyaspler.com)  
[www.grapesforhumanity.com](http://www.grapesforhumanity.com)

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

Icewine Judging took place on March 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 M<sup>2</sup> 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