

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Ontario Wine Awards - 2015 Results
Friday, May 8, 2015

New Stars In The Ontario Wine Firmament

Friday, May 8, 2015 - Niagara-on-the-Lake – Since 1995, the Ontario Wine Awards (OWA), now in its 21st year, has been celebrating the Ontario Wine industry, and accrediting some of the finest and most respected VQA 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 host this year, the OWA had the privilege of welcoming Chef John Higgins, Director of one of North America's top culinary schools, George Brown Chef School in Toronto.

The evening began with a sparkling wine reception allowing the who's who of the wine industry to mix and mingle with each other and the gala VIPs. With his Scottish brogue and keen wit, John welcomed the audience and set the tone for the evening. Special guests this year were Lord Mayor Darte, Mayor of the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Arthur Potts, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, who both rose 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 Marc Lyons, inspired by and created with locally produced, grown and raised Ontario foods, with each course paired with an Ontario Wine Awards Gold Medal wine.

This year, with 472 wine submissions from 79 wineries, Tony Aspler, Founder of the Ontario Wine Awards and Order of Canada Recipient, announced, 'It's really exciting to see new wineries taking medals at this year's Ontario Wine Awards. Their presence show how dynamic and diverse the Ontario wine industry has become. This year's results show many new names to consumers who are guided by the expertise of our judges.'

The Ontario Wine Awards recognize VQA varietal quality in 25 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 Pillitteri Estates 2010 Riserva Famiglia Cabernet Franc, and the '**White Wine of the Year**' was awarded to Peller Estates 2013 AP Signature Series Sauvignon Blanc.

The Vintage Hotels '**Winemaker of the Year**' award, went to Emma Garner, Thirty Bench Wine Makers. This award recognizes the winemaker's consistent quality production across her portfolio, successes as demonstrated by additional wine awards, and her overall contribution to the wine industry.

Evan Saviolidis received this year's Wine Country Ontario '**Wine Journalism Award**', which recognized his article, Back Again, published in the July/August 2014 issue of Quench Magazine.

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

2015 Ontario Wine Awards Sponsors

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ONTARIO WINE AWARDS 2015 – 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/book published in 2014 on the Ontario wine industry.

How does the judging occur?

The 21st Annual Ontario Wine Awards wine judging, with the exception of Icewines, was held over two consecutive weekends – April 11th and April 17th, 2015 at Crush Wine Bar + Kitchen and was not open to the public.

Icewine Judging took place on April 19th at The Fine Wine Reserve Wine Storage and was not open to the public.

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."

2015 Ontario Wine Awards – Final Results

Vintage Hotels Winemaker of the Year Award

Emma Garner, Thirty Bench Wine Makers

Vintage Hotels Red Wine of the Year Award

Pillitteri Estates 2010 Riserva Famiglia Cabernet Franc

Vintage Hotels White Wine of the Year Award

Peller Estates 2013 AP Signature Series Sauvignon Blanc

Wine Country Ontario Wine Journalism Award

Evan Saviolidis

Q water Sparkling Wine Award

Gold: Huff Estates 2010 Cuvée Peter F Huff

Silver: Colio Estate N/V Lily Sparkling

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate N/V Methode Cuve Close Rosé

BlackSquare Inc. Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2013 Riesling

Silver: Stanners Vineyard 2012 Riesling

Bronze: Two Sisters Vineyards 2013 Riesling

Bronze: Flat Rock Cellars 2014 Nadja's Vineyard

Mother Parkers Tea and Coffee Semi-Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Flat Rock Cellars 2014 Riesling

Silver: Vieni Estates 2013 Riesling Semi-Dry

Bronze: Kacaba Vineyards 2014 Reserve Riesling

Luxor Realty Inc. Dry White Varietal Award

Gold: Inniskillin 2013 Reserve Viognier

Silver: Cornerstone Estate 2011 Stoned White

Bronze: Pillitteri Estates 2013 Viognier

Vintage Hotels Gewurztraminer Award

Gold: Trius 2013 Showcase Outlier Gewurztraminer

Silver: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2013 Small Lot Gewurztraminer

Bronze: Pillitteri Estates 2013 Gewurztraminer

The Ontario Wine Society Pinot Blanc\Pinot Gris Award

Gold: Konzelmann Estate 2013 Pinot Blanc

Silver: Konzelmann Estate 2013 Pinot Grigio

Silver: Kacaba Vineyards 2014 Jennifer's Pinot Gris

Bronze: No Bronze Awarded

680 NEWS Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Award

Gold: Peller Estates 2013 AP Signature Series Sauvignon Blanc

Silver: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2013 Balance Sauvignon Blanc

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2013 Grand Reserve Sauvignon Blanc

Post City Magazines Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Under \$20

Gold: Flat Rock Cellars 2012 Chardonnay

Silver: Magnotta 2013 Chardonnay Limited Edition

Bronze: Keint-he 2013 Voyageur Chardonnay

Quench Magazine Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Over \$20

Gold: 16 Mile Cellar 2011 Civility Chardonnay

Silver: Huff Estates 2012 South Bay Chardonnay

Bronze: The Foreign Affair 2010 Chardonnay

Bronze: Ravine Vineyard Estate 2013 Chardonnay

Forefront Communications Unoaked Chardonnay Award

Gold: Konzelmann Estate 2013 Unoaked Chardonnay

Silver: Kacaba Vineyards 2014 Unoaked Chardonnay

Bronze: Two Sisters Vineyards 2013 Unoaked Chardonnay

Niagara Airbus Rosé/Blanc de Noir Award

Gold: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2014 Rosé

Silver: Flat Rock Cellars 2014 Pink Twisted

Bronze: John Howard Cellars of Distinction 2014 Rosé

Crush Wine Bar + Kitchen Gamay Award

Gold: Vieni Estates 2012 Gamay Noir

Silver: 13th Street 2013 Gamay Noir Sandstone Vineyard

Silver: Château des Charmes 2013 Gamay Noir, Estate Bottled

Bronze: No Bronze Awarded

Performance Mercedes-Benz Pinot Noir Award

Gold: Huff Estates 2013 Pinot Noir

Silver: Domaine Queylus 2012 Pinot Noir

Bronze: Stanners Vineyard 2012 Pinot Noir Four Mile Creek

680 NEWS Red Hybrid Award

Gold: Pelee Island 2013 Baco Noir Reserve

Silver: Hernder Estates 2012 Baco Noir

Bronze: Henry of Pelham Estate 2013 Baco Noir

Bronze: Sandbanks Estate 2013 Baco Noir Reserve

Post City Magazines Cabernet Sauvignon Award

Gold: Trius 2012 Showcase East Block Cabernet Sauvignon

Silver: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2012 Small Lot Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: GreenLane Estate 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon

Quench Magazine Cabernet Franc Award

Gold: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2012 Small Lot Cabernet Franc

Silver: Trius 2012 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc

Bronze: Pillitteri Estates 2012 Exclamation Cabernet Franc

The Stonemill Bakehouse Ltd. Merlot Award

Gold: Kacaba Vineyards 2010 Reserve Merlot

Silver: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2012 Small Lot Merlot

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2012 Grand Reserve Merlot

Grapes for Humanity Syrah/Shiraz Award

Gold: Jackson-Triggs 2012 Delaine Syrah

Gold: Magnotta 2013 Shiraz Limited Edition

Silver: No Silver Awarded

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2012 Grand Reserve Shiraz

The Ontario Wine Society Meritage and Cabernet/Merlot Blends Award

Gold: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2012 Benchmark Red

Silver: Calamus Estate 2012 Meritage

Bronze: Wayne Gretzky Estate 2012 Estate Series Cabernet Merlot

VIA Rail Canada Late Harvest Award

Gold: Peller Estates 2013 Private Reserve Late Harvest Vidal

Silver: Pillitteri Estates 2014 Select Late Harvest Vidal

Bronze: Trius 2013 Showcase Late Harvest Vidal

680 NEWS Vidal Icewine Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2012 Vidal Icewine, Estate Bottled

Gold: Sue-Ann Staff Estate 2012 Vidal Icewine

Silver: No Silver Awarded

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate 2010 Vidal Icewine

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2012 Grand Reserve Vidal Icewine

Bronze: Marynissen Estates 2013 Vidal

Bronze: Inniskillin 2013 Vidal Icewine

LCBO Vinifera Icewine Award

Gold: Inniskillin 2012 Riesling Icewine

Silver: Hinterbrook Estate 2012 Cabernet Franc Icewine

Bronze: Vieni Estates 2011 Cabernet Icewine

Bronze: Willow Springs 2012 Riesling Icewine

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2013 Grand Reserve Cabernet Franc Icewine

Quench Magazine Appassimento Red Award

Gold: Pillitteri Estates 2010 Riserva Famiglia Cabernet Franc

Silver: Reif Estate 2012 Kiln Dried Syrah

Bronze: Angels Gate 2012 Bin XCV

Allen's Blended Red Award

Gold: The Foreign Affair 2012 Petit Verdot

Silver: Kacaba Vineyards 2012 Cabernet Syrah

Bronze: EastDell Estates 2011 Black Label Cabernet Shiraz

Bronze: Inniskillin 2012 Reserve Shiraz Cabernet

ASL Print FX Best Label Design Award

Gold: Sue-Ann Staff Estate 2013 Fancy Farm Girl Foxy Pink

Silver: Two Sisters Vineyards 2012 Vidal Icewine

Bronze: Trius 2013 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay