



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Wine Awards and sip & Savour Ontario
Friday, June 18th, 2010

The Results Are In and the Glass is Half Full! Going Local in Ontario - A Lifestyle of Great Taste

Thursday, June 17th, 2010 - Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre - Every year, the Ontario Wine Awards and sip & Savour Ontario roll out the red carpet to showcase some of Ontario's finest, world-class VQA wines. This year saw another successful Wine Week with the participation of some of the industry's biggest names. With 26 award-winning wineries pouring more than 100 VQA wines, and locally inspired food pairings by five of the industry's top chefs, it was definitely an exciting and intense day of thirst quenching and savouring of some of Ontario's homegrown goodness.

Each year, a panel of highly respected industry experts taste more than 500 wine entries from over 65 of Ontario's first-rate wineries in accreditation of the provinces best. This year's award ceremony was kicked off by industry exclusive seminars where guest speakers Norman Hardie, Natalie Reynolds and Bill Redelmeier led discussions on a few of the provinces highlighted varietals, as well as the wine industries recent spotlight in London, England.

The afternoon began with a traditional sparkling wine reception, followed by an aw-inspiring, locally themed four-course meal, prepared by Pantages Hotel's Chef Marco Ormond. Each course was artfully paired with some of this year's gold medal-winning wines, as guests were wined and dined through an afternoon of award ceremonies. Celebrity MC Kevin Brauch from Food Network Canada's hit series *The Thirsty Traveler*, alongside celebrated Canadian wine writer and Order of Canada Recipient, Tony Aspler, joined forces in promoting local wine and food in hosting this year's Ontario Wine Awards ceremonies.

With more than 25 varietal award categories, Ontario is truly a world-class region that is lucky to boast both its quality and variety of wines. A few of this year's big winners, taking home three or more medals include, Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery, Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery and Tawse Winery. The consumer-judged award of label of the year went to one of Niagara's newest members of the wine community, Sue-Ann Staff Estate Winery with their Baco Noir label.

The 2010 **'Wine of the Year'** awards, sponsored by Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre, was awarded to Vineland Estates 2007 Cabernet Franc Reserve for the **'Red Wine of the Year'**, and the **'White Wine of the Year'** was awarded to Huff Estates 2007 South Bay Vineyards Chardonnay.

The Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre **'Winemaker of the Year'** award, went to the deserving Darryl Brooker for his successes at Hillebrand Winery. This award recognizes the winemaker's consistent quality production across his portfolio, and his overall contribution to the wine industry. The traditional gift of a Montblanc watch accompanied this prestigious award.

Linda Bramble received the VINES Magazine '**Wine Journalism Award**', which recognizes the best written work published in 2009 on the Ontario wine industry and acknowledged Linda for her book entitled 'Niagara's Wine Visionaries'.

With the award ceremonies wrapped up, and the day growing into early evening, the Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre and the Ontario Wine Awards opened its doors to the public for an evening of home-grown excellence with sip & Savour Ontario, the cities freshest local tasting event of the year.

Wine beginners, enthusiasts, and experts alike, sipped and savored award-winning VQA wines, while indulging in regional cuisine prepared by top industry Chefs. Guests also had the opportunity to get up close and personal with Ontario's finest winemakers, sommeliers and winery representatives while immersed in this gastronomically inspiring wine and culinary experience.

The support has never felt greater for the Ontario VQA wineries and locally inspired restaurants. On behalf of the Ontario Wine Awards and sip & Savour Ontario, we raise our glass in thanks for making this year such a huge success. We hope you continue to honour Ontario Wine Week throughout the year by purchasing VQA Ontario wines at your local LCBO, and making the trip to visit and experience your local wine regions and farmers markets in support of a local and sustainable Ontario. Ask about the variety of local excellence available fresh from Ontario's vineyards, farmlands and kitchens and love the land you live on. Cheers!

For more information please visit sipandsavourontario.ca

Participating Chefs and Restaurants

Executive Chef Jason Parsons
Peller Estates

Chef Michael Wilson
Crush Wine Bar

Chef Tim Dunnill
The Old Mill Inn & Spa

Chef Brad Long
Veritas Restaurant

Chef Anne Yarymowich
Frank Restaurant / AGO

Participating Ontario VQA Wineries

Alvento Winery
Calamus Estate Winery
Château des Charmes
Coyote's Run Estate Winery
Creekside Estate Winery
Fielding Estate Winery
Five Rows Craft Wine of Lowrey Vineyards
Flat Rock Cellars
Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery
Huff Estates Winery
Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery
Konzelmann Estate Winery
Lailey Vineyard

Mike Weir Wine
Nyarai Cellars
Pelee Island Winery
Peller Estates
Pillitteri Estates Winery
Riverview Cellars Winery
Rosewood Estates Winery
Sandbanks Estate Winery
Southbrook Vineyards
Sue-Ann Staff Estate Winery
Tawse Winery
Vineland Estates Winery
Wayne Gretzky Estate Wines

2010 Ontario Wine Awards Sponsors

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The Wine Establishment

Crush Wine Bar

Ottawa Wine & Food Show

Ontario Wine Week – June 13th to 19th, 2010

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.

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Ontario Wine Awards

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."

About The Forefront Communications Network Inc.

Forefront Communications is an acknowledged full-service marketing and communications company specializing exclusively in the beverage alcohol industry. To date, Forefront has served such clients as; Brewers Association of Canada, Beverage Brands UK Ltd., Fruit Wines of Canada, Pacific NW Wine Coalition, Wines of Chile, SOPEXA, Tetra Pac, Wines of New York, Wine Institute of California, Wine Council of Ontario, United States Department of Agriculture, Wines of South Africa, Whitehall Agencies Inc., Trade Commission of Spain, Distillers Corp. and Pernod Ricard S.A. – www.forefrontcom.com

2010 Ontario Wine Awards – Final Results

Eurocork Sparkling Wine Award

Gold: Hillebrand Winery NV Trius Brut

Silver: Henry of Pelham Family Estate NV Cuvée Catharine Rosé Brut

Bronze: Henry of Pelham Family Estate NV Cuvée Catharine Brut

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate 2008 Sparkling Riesling Methode Cuvée Close

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Thirty Bench 2008 Small Lot Riesling Steel Post Vineyard

Silver: Thirty Bench 2008 Riesling

Bronze: Rosewood Estates 2008 Riesling Reserve

680News Semi-Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Flat Rock Cellars 2008 Riesling

Silver: Tawse 2009 Sketches of Niagara Riesling

Bronze: Jackson-Triggs 2007 Proprietors' Grand Reserve Riesling

Luxor Realty Inc. Dry White Varietal Award

Gold: Reif Estate 2008 Chenin Blanc

Silver: Lakeview Cellars 2009 Reserve Auxerrois

Bronze: Inniskillin 2008 Reserve Series Brae Blanc

Bronze: Hillebrand Winery 2008 Trius White

Bronze: Flat Rock Cellars 2008 Twisted

Bullfrog Power Gewurztraminer Award

Gold: Thirty Bench 2009 Small Lot Gewurztraminer

Silver: Rosewood Estates 2008 Gewurztraminer

Bronze: Stonechurch Vineyards 2009 Gewurztraminer

NOW Magazine Pinot Gris Award

Gold: Peller Estates 2008 Private Reserve Pinot Gris

Silver: Inniskillin 2008 Winemaker's Series Pinot Gris

Bronze: Calamus Estate 2008 Pinot Gris

The Wine Establishment Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Award

Gold: Lakeview Cellars 2009 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc

Silver: Peninsula Ridge Estates 2008 Fumé Blanc

Bronze: Rosewood Estates 2008 Semillon

680News Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Under \$20

Gold: Jackson-Triggs 2008 Proprietors' Grand Reserve Chardonnay

Silver: Inniskillin 2008 Reserve Series Chardonnay

Bronze: Inniskillin 2008 Winemaker's Series Three Vineyards Chardonnay

Bronze: Riverview Cellars Estate 2008 Angelina's Reserve Chardonnay

Ottawa Wine & Food Show Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Over \$20

Gold: Huff Estates 2007 South Bay Vineyards Chardonnay

Silver: Flat Rock Cellars 2007 Reserve Chardonnay

Bronze: Peller Estates 2008 Signature Series Chardonnay Sur Lie

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Unoaked Chardonnay Award

Gold: Tawse 2009 Chardonnay Musque

Silver: Rosewood Estates 2008 Unoaked Chardonnay

Bronze: Château des Charmes 2008 Unoaked Chardonnay

VINES Magazine Rosé/Blanc de Noir Award

Gold: Magnotta Winery 2008 White Merlot Special Reserve

Silver: Tawse 2009 Sketches of Niagara Rosé

Bronze: Cattail Creek Estate 2009 Serendipity Rosé

Crush Wine Bar Gamay Award

Gold: Thirteenth Street Winery 2008 Gamay Noir

Silver: Angels Gate Winery 2008 Gamay Noir

Bronze: Malivoire Wine Company 2008 Gamay

Grape Growers of Ontario Pinot Noir Award

Gold: Coyote's Run Estate 2007 Red Paw Vineyard Pinot Noir

Silver: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2007 Reserve Pinot Noir

Bronze: Tawse 2007 17th Street Pinot Noir

Niagara Airbus Red Hybrid Award

Gold: Malivoire Wine Company 2008 Old Vines Foch

Silver: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2007 Reserve Baco Noir

Bronze: Sandbanks Estate 2007 Baco Noir Reserve

NOW Magazine Cabernet Sauvignon Award

Gold: Kacaba Vineyards 2007 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Silver: Creekside Estate 2006 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: Peller Estates 2007 Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon

680News Cabernet Franc Award

Gold: Vineland Estates 2007 Cabernet Franc Reserve

Silver: Calamus Estate 2007 Cabernet Franc

Bronze: Inniskillin 2007 Reserve Series Cabernet Franc

Satta & Satta Merlot Award

Gold: Jackson-Triggs 2007 Delaine Vineyard Merlot

Silver: Creekside Estate 2006 Reserve Merlot

Bronze: Cattail Creek Estate 2007 Merlot Reserve

Dairy Farmers of Canada Syrah/Shiraz Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2007 Broken Press Shiraz

Silver: Southbrook Vineyards 2008 Triomphe Syrah

Bronze: Marynissen Estates 2007 Syrah

The Ontario Wine Society Meritage and Cabernet/Merlot Blends Award

Gold: Wayne Gretzky Estates 2007 Estate Series Cabernet / Merlot

Silver: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2007 Dean's List Meritage Canadian Oak Project

Bronze: Thirty Bench 2007 Small Lot Benchmark Red

VIA Rail Canada Late Harvest Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2007 Late Harvest Riesling, Estate Bottled

Silver: Ridgepoint Wines 2008 Late Harvest Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: 20 Bees 2008 Late Harvest Vidal

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate 2008 Vidal Special Select Late Harvest

Allen's Vidal Icewine Award

Gold: Jackson-Triggs 2007 Proprietors' Reserve Vidal Icewine

Silver: Inniskillin 2006 Oak Aged Vidal Icewine

Bronze: Dan Aykroyd Winery 2006 Signature Series Vidal Icewine

LCBO Vinifera Icewine Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2007 Riesling Icewine, Paul Bosc Estate Vineyard

Silver: Inniskillin 2007 Riesling Icewine

Bronze: Peller Estates 2008 Signature Series Cabernet Franc Icewine

Allen's Blended White Award

Gold: Pelee Island Winery 2009 Monarch Vidal

Silver: Southbrook Vineyards 2009 Fresh

Bronze: Pelee Island Winery 2009 Blanc de Blanc

Allen's Blended Red Award

Gold: Wayne Gretzky Estates 2007 Estate Series Shiraz / Cabernet

Silver: Inniskillin 2007 Winemaker's Series Select Vineyards Shiraz-Cabernet

Bronze: Dan Aykroyd Winery 2008 Cabernet Shiraz

All Stick Label Limited Best Label Design Award

Gold: Sue-Ann Staff Estate 2008 Baco Noir

Silver: Five Rows Craft Wine of Lowrey Vineyards 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: Southbrook Vineyards Whimsy! 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon

VINES Magazine Wine Journalism Award

Linda Bramble

Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre White Wine of the Year Award

Huff Estates 2007 South Bay Vineyards Chardonnay

Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre Red Wine of the Year Award

Vineland Estates 2007 Cabernet Franc Reserve

Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre Winemaker of the Year Award

Darryl Brooker, Hillebrand Winery