

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Ontario Wine Awards - 2017 Results
Wednesday, May 31, 2017*

Winemakers Show Their Mettle in Ontario's Longest Running Competition

Wednesday, May 31st, 2017 - Niagara-on-the-Lake –The 23rd year of the Ontario Wine Awards showed just how dynamic the contemporary Ontario wine industry is across the province – from the large companies to the boutique and garage producers. This year the awards ceremony was held at Niagara College and their Benchmark Restaurant, hosted by Rush's legendary guitarist, Alex Lifeson.

Special guest this year was Dr. Dan Patterson, President of Niagara College, who rose to say a few words to the audience. During the awards reception, held at Benchmark Restaurant, guests were treated to a selection of Gold Medal-Winning wines, paired with appetizers prepared by student chefs at the Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara College.

This year, with 373 wine submissions from 54 wineries, Tony Aspler, Founder of the Ontario Wine Awards and Order of Canada Recipient, announced, 'Ontario growers have suffered two difficult winters but winemakers have shown their expertise and experience in overcoming the obstacles Mother Nature has put in their path by producing high quality wines in spite of these trying vintages.'

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 Grape Growers of Ontario. The '**Red Wine of the Year**' was awarded to Château des Charmes 2012 Equuleus, Paul Bosc Estate Vineyard, and the '**White Wine of the Year**' was awarded to Tawse 2015 Quarry Road Riesling.

The Quench Magazine '**Winemaker of the Year**' award went to Shiraz Mottiar, Malivoire Wine. 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.

James Chatto received this year's VQA Wines of Ontario '**Wine Journalism Award**', which recognized his piece on 'Celebrating Chardonnay' in the Early Summer 2017 issue of LCBO Food & Drink.

To view his article: <http://www.foodanddrink.ca/fooddrink/magazine/en/EarlySummer2017/FDESu17ENG.html#80>

Tony Aspler and the iYellow Wine Club would like to announce a second year partnership that brings to life the Ontario Wine Awards, the best of VQA wines and Ontario Wine Week. Join us in celebrating **WINETARIO** on June 21st, 2017 at Arta Gallery in Toronto's Distillery Historic District. More information can be found at www.iyellowwineclub.com.

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

2017 Ontario Wine Awards Sponsors

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ONTARIO WINE AWARDS 2017 – 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 Wine Journalism Award, which recognizes the best published piece on the Ontario wine industry.

How does the judging occur?

The 23rd Annual Ontario Wine Awards wine judging, with the exception of Icewines, was held in one day on Saturday, April 29th at George Brown College Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts and was not open to the public.

Icewine & Sweet Wine Judging took place on April 30th at IWEG and was not open to the public.

History

Tony Aspler, one of Canada's most acclaimed wine writers, and Order of Canada Recipient, 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."

Quench Magazine Winemaker of the Year Award

Shiraz Mottiar, Malivoire Wine

Grape Growers of Ontario Red Wine of the Year Award

Château des Charmes 2012 Equuleus, Paul Bosc Estate Vineyard

Grape Growers of Ontario White Wine of the Year Award

Tawse 2015 Quarry Road Riesling

VQA Wines of Ontario Wine Journalism Award

James Chatto

ASL Print FX Best Label Design Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2016 Pinot Grigio

Silver: Exultet Estates 2014 Chardonnay

Bronze: Megalomaniac 2015 SonofaBitch Pinot Noir

Q water Sparkling Wine Award

Gold: Magnotta N/V Blanc De Blancs

Silver: Kacaba Vineyards 2016 Effervescence

Silver: Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate 2013 Grand Reserve Entourage Sparkling Brut

Bronze: No Bronze Awarded

Fine Wine Reserve Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Niagara College Teaching Winery 2015 Balance Dry Riesling

Silver: Central Valley 2015 Riesling

Bronze: Château des Charmes 2014 'Old Vines' Riesling, Estate Bottled

Benchmark Restaurant Semi-Dry Riesling Award

Gold: Tawse 2015 Quarry Road Riesling

Silver: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2016 Estate Riesling

Bronze: Trius 2015 Showcase Riesling Ghost Creek Vineyard

Bronze: Adamo Estate 2016 Riesling Off Dry

Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara College Dry White Varietal Award

Gold: Kew Vineyards Estate 2015 Marsanne

Silver: Rockway Vineyards 2016 9 White Spritz

Bronze: Strewn 2015 Two Vines Riesling Gewurztraminer

George Brown College Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts Gewurztraminer Award

Gold: Konzelmann Estate 2014 Gewurztraminer Late Harvest

Silver: Reif Estate 2015 Gewurztraminer Reserve

Bronze: Trail Estate 2013 Gewurztraminer

VIA Rail Canada Pinot Blanc/Pinot Gris Award

Gold: Sandbanks 2016 Pinot Grigio

Gold: Vieni Estates 2016 Pinot Grigio

Silver: No Silver Awarded

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate 2015 Pinot Blanc

680 NEWS Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Award

Gold: Creekside Estate 2015 Iconoclast Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc

Gold: Trius 2015 Showcase Clean Slate Sauvignon Blanc Wild Ferment

Silver: No Silver Awarded

Bronze: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2015 Discovery Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc

Cheese Boutique Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Under \$20

Gold: Meldville Wines 2015 Chardonnay

Silver: Palatine Hills Estate 2012 Neufeld Vineyard Chardonnay

Bronze: Magnotta 2015 G. Marquis Chardonnay - The Silver Line

Bronze: 16 Mile Cellar 2013 Rebel Chardonnay

Quench Magazine Oaked Chardonnay Award ~ Over \$20

Gold: Flat Rock Cellars 2014 The Rusty Shed Chardonnay

Silver: Tawse 2013 Quarry Road Chardonnay

Silver: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2014 Montague Vineyard

Bronze: No Bronze Awarded

Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara College Unoaked Chardonnay Award

Gold: Kacaba Vineyards 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay

Silver: Creekside Estate 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate 2015 Unoaked Chardonnay

Niagara Airbus Rosé/Blanc de Noir Award

Gold: Malivoire Wine 2016 Ladybug Rosé

Silver: Château des Charmes 2016 Rosé, Cuvée d'Andrée, Estate Bottled

Bronze: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2015 Small Lot Rosé

680 NEWS Gamay Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2015 Gamay Noir 'Droit', St. David's Bench Vineyard

Silver: Malivoire Wine 2015 Courtney Gamay

Bronze: Malivoire Wine 2015 Gamay Small Lot

George Brown College Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts Pinot Noir Award

Gold: Southbrook Vineyards 2015 Triomphe Pinot Noir

Silver: Stanners Vineyard 2014 Barrel Select Pinot Noir

Bronze: 16 Mile Cellar 2012 Incivility Pinot Noir

Grapes for Humanity Red Hybrid Award

Gold: Henry of Pelham Family Estate 2015 Speck Family Reserve Baco Noir

Silver: Malivoire Wine 2014 Old Vines Foch

Bronze: Gallucci 2015 Don Paolo

IWEG Cabernet Sauvignon Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, St. David's Bench Vineyard

Silver: Peller Estates 2014 Andrew Peller Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon

Bronze: Magnotta 2016 G. Marquis Cabernet Sauvignon - The Red Line

Bronze: Trius 2014 Showcase East Block Cabernet Sauvignon Clark Farm Vineyard

Bronze: Thirty Bench Wine Makers 2012 Small Lot Cabernet Sauvignon

iYellow Wine Club Cabernet Franc Award

Gold: Nomad at Hinterbrook 2013 Cabernet Franc

Silver: Kacaba Vineyards 2015 Reserve Cabernet Franc

Bronze: Hernder Estates 2012 Deep Roots Cabernet Franc

Arta Gallery Merlot Award

Gold: Nomad at Hinterbrook 2013 Merlot

Silver: Château des Charmes 2014 Merlot, St. David's Bench Vineyard

Bronze: Magnotta 2012 Merlot Limited Edition

Quench Magazine Syrah/Shiraz Award

Gold: Trius 2015 Shiraz

Silver: Magnotta 2015 Shiraz Limited Edition

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate 2015 Shiraz-Lakefront Series

Allen's Meritage and Cabernet/Merlot Blends Award

Gold: Château des Charmes 2012 Equuleus, Paul Bosc Estate Vineyard

Silver: Rockway Vineyard 2012 Meritage

Bronze: Tawse 2012 Meritage

Vintage Assessments Late Harvest Award

Gold: Peller Estates 2015 Private Reserve Late Harvest Vidal

Silver: Trius 2015 Showcase Late Harvest Vidal

Bronze: Konzelmann Estate 2016 Special Select Late Harvest Vidal

Fine Wine Reserve Vidal Icewine Award

Gold: Trius 2014 Showcase Vidal Icewine

Silver: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2014 Sparkling Vidal Icewine

Bronze: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2015 Sparkling Cabernet Franc Icewine

LCBO Vinifera Icewine Award

Gold: Tawse 2013 Riesling Icewine

Silver: Inniskillin Niagara Estate 2015 Cabernet Franc Icewine

Silver: Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate 2015 Reserve Cabernet Franc Icewine

Bronze: No Bronze Awarded

Allen's Appassimento Red Award

Gold: Kew Vineyards Estate 2012 Heritage

Silver: Kew Vineyards Estate 2014 Soldier's Grant

Bronze: Reif Estate 2013 The Magician Shiraz

Bullfrog Power Blended Red Award

Gold: Wayne Gretzky Estates 2015 Estate Series Shiraz Cabernet

Silver: Kacaba Vineyards 2014 Cabernet Syrah

Bronze: Kacaba Vineyards 2015 Cabernet Syrah