



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ontario Wine Awards and sip & Savour Ontario  
Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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

**Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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**

680News

Allen's

VINES Magazine

All Stick Label Limited

Dairy Farmers of Canada

Grape Growers of Ontario

Niagara Airbus

The Ontario Wine Society

VIA Rail Canada

Luxor Realty Inc.

The Stonemill Bakehouse Ltd.

Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre

NOW Magazine

Wines of Ontario

Bullfrog Power

Eurocork

LCBO

Satta & Satta

The Wine Establishment

Crush Wine Bar

Ottawa Wine & Food Show

### **Ontario Wine Week – June 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### **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.sipandsavourontario.ca](http://www.sipandsavourontario.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)

#### **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](http://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 17<sup>th</sup> 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