



New Kids on the Vineyard Block

Wineries to visit: Colaneri Estate Winery, The Ice House Winery, Niagara College Teaching Winery and PondView Estate Winery

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a hotbed of young winery stars. This tour will take you on a discovery of the hot, young wineries that have been making waves and it will give you the opportunity to rub shoulders with future winemaking talents. It's well worth seeking out the latest and greatest wineries, because their small batch creations are often unavailable in the LCBO or the wines sell out in a snap. Not only is it a chance to taste rare wines, but also to engage the people behind the scenes and witness dreams turning into reality.

You never know who you might meet at **Niagara College Teaching Winery**. A future star winemaker. An up-and-coming sommelier. Or, even the next innovator to turn the wine world on its ears. Niagara College is where the next generation of winery and viticulture masters go to learn hands-on the ins and outs of the wine industry. Under the tutelage of Professor and winemaker, Terence Van Rooyen, Niagara College is putting out some of the hottest graduates and wines. Niagara College also makes for a great research and resource for the local wine industry. Get more out of your visit with a Wine 101 seminar or check out the student run campus greenhouse and restaurant.

The Ice House Winery is one of the newest members of the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake, having opened its doors to the public in 2009. As its names alludes, this winery is particularly unique. It is the only winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake completely devoted to making only Icewine. This concept was the brainchild of veteran Winemaker Jamie MacFarlane, who was one of the pioneering Icewinemakers and spent 25 years working in some of the largest wineries in the region. The Icewines he is crafting are already making waves internationally and we are not just talking about winning awards. In 2010 Ice House Icewine was selected as Canada's Premium Gift for the Golden Globes Oh Canada event. Putting another unique stamp on the winery experience, it is currently the only winery we know of that offers Icewine Slushies, or rather, N'Icewine Slushies.

PondView Estate Winery opened its doors in the summer of 2010, but it is likely the winery most steeped in the traditions of the old world. Grape growing, winemaking and running a winery has been a family affair for generations, both in Sicily where the Puglisi family hails from and in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where patriarch Guiseppe Puglisi put down roots. Son Lou and wife Adriana have been trusted grape growers for decades before deciding to open PondView. We are glad they did. The portfolio may be small (for now) but the wines they are already winning awards and are best enjoyed with food, family and good conversation. This belief is put into practice daily - you will be greeted by one of the family, offered a tasting of terroir-focused wine and encouraged to relax on the patio or in front of the fireplace with a cheese platter or traditional antipasto.

The moment you lay eyes on **Colaneri Estate Winery** you realize in an instant that it is a truly special place. The grand winery, built in the Romanesque style, is sprawled out in the lush Colaneri family vineyards. The winery is a large semi-circle giving guests the finest panoramic view of Niagara-on-the-Lake wine country. Colaneri Estate Winery opened its doors to the public in 2010 and is a testament to the Colaneri family legacy, both in Niagara-on-the-Lake and in their homeland of Frosolone, Italy. The wines made by Colaneri are indeed a testament to La Famiglia, as each member of the Colaneri family is represented by one of their wines. Currently Colaneri Estate Winery is offering tastings in the stunning tasting room, which overlooks the winemaking production facility.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a magnet for new chefs and restaurants, including Restaurant Tony de Luca (one of Toronto Life's Best New Restaurants of 2007). Or, try de Luca's even newer venture, the Old Winery Restaurant. Ryan Crawford of Stone Road Grille's chef leapt on to the local scene in 2004 and hasn't looked back. Of course, the Niagara Culinary Institute at Niagara College is churning out culinary talent to go with their winery peers.