



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2019

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE APPELLATION WINES WIN BIG AT THE 2019 ONTARIO WINE AWARDS

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario – The *Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake* association is pleased to announce that Niagara-on-the-Lake appellation wines from 15 member wineries won 41 medals at the 2019 Ontario Wine Awards. The association is very proud of the award-winning wineries for achieving such outstanding results at one of Canada’s most renowned and rigorous wine competitions. The winning bottles were revealed on June 6th at a Wine Awards Ceremony held at Niagara College and hosted by Joe Pillitteri.

Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake member wineries won 11 gold, 14 silver and 14 bronze medals across 23 award categories. In addition, Trius Winery and Peller Estates, both long-standing members of the group, were the recipients of the competition’s most coveted awards – the *Trius 2016 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc* won the *Red Wine of the Year Award*, and the *Peller Estates 2016 Andrew Peller Signature Series Riesling* won the *White Wine of the Year Award*. Special mention also goes to Konzelmann Estate Winery, another long-standing member of the association, for being the most awarded winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake with a total of 6 medals (including 2 gold) and for the *Lifetime Achievement Award* that was bestowed upon the winery’s founder and winemaker, Herbert Konzelmann, in recognition of his exceptional service and outstanding contribution to the Ontario wine industry.

Andrew Niven, current Chair of The *Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake* association, says “It’s wonderful to see the achievements of our Niagara-on-the-Lake winemakers at the recent Ontario Wine Awards, including both red and white wine of the year, as well as the first ever lifetime achievement award. Together as an industry we celebrate the hard work, vision and passion that our winemakers exude on a daily basis. Complemented by our fine wines, unique terroir and unforgettable experiences, the *Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake* have truly evolved into a world class destination.”

The Ontario Wine Awards was founded in 1995 by Tony Aspler, Order of Canada Recipient and one of the leading authorities on Canadian wines, to recognize Ontario VQA wines for their *quality, distinction and brilliance*. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Ontario Wine Awards with a record participation of 78 wineries and 542 Ontario VQA wines. For more information on the Ontario Wine Awards and for a complete list of this year’s award winners please visit ontariowineawards.ca.



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About Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake is a member-driven cooperative of over 20 wineries nestled below the Niagara Escarpment amidst a landscape of vineyards and orchards. The wineries span across four unique sub-appellations – Niagara River, Niagara Lakeshore, Four Mile Creek, and St. David's Bench – with distinct elements of terroir that result in wines of exceptional quality and surprising diversity. The aim of the cooperative is to offer wine lovers authentic wine experiences in the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake Wine Country. The captivating events and innovative campaigns have made the group leaders in Ontario wine and culinary tourism, as well as in the tourism industry in the Niagara Region. For more information visit wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com.

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