
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUVÉE 2009 REVEALS WINNERS OF PRESTIGIOUS WINE AWARDS AT CUVÉE GALA

Niagara Falls, ON, February 27, 2009 -- The highly anticipated results of the prestigious Cuvée Wine Awards were announced in Niagara Falls this evening during the Cuvée Gala, known as the “Oscars” of the Ontario wine industry.

The Cuvée Wine Awards are the only awards in Canada where the winning wines are chosen by the winemakers, and the judging process upholds strict criteria for the award winners and the wines selected for pouring at the Gala.

Each participating winery enters its three best wines into the competition and can also present two wines distributed through the LCBO to compete in the General List Red Wine and General List White Wine categories.

This year, 41 winemakers tasted over 190 wines from 52 wineries to determine the winners. In addition, during the judging process, judges were asked to indicate if wines merited a Cuvée Gold designation, demonstrating international standards for excellence in quality. The Cuvée Award Winners are provided on the attached sheet.

Wineries sell the coveted award winning wines at their winery boutiques over the Cuvée weekend, where they traditionally sell out within a matter of days. Consumers can shop for these wines and experience special tastings during Cuvée En Route, a weekend passport program that takes place at participating wineries. Details can be found on the Cuvée web site, www.cuvee.ca and passports can be purchased for \$30.00 at participating wineries this weekend.

Proceeds from Cuvée Weekend go to the Niagara Community Foundation and are used in its work with community groups across the region.

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For further information, contact:
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Cuvée Awards 2009

Red Wine / WINNER

sponsored by Scott Laboratories
Thirty Bench Wine Makers
Small Lot Cabernet Franc 2006 **GOLD**

Limited Edition Red Wine / WINNER

sponsored by Sun Media
Creekside Estate Winery
Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 **GOLD**

White Wine / WINNER

sponsored by Scott Laboratories
Legends Estates Winery
Riesling Reserve 2003 **GOLD**

Limited Edition White Wine / WINNERS

sponsored by Vines Magazine
(TIED FOR 1ST PLACE)
Cattail Creek Estate Winery
Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2007 **GOLD**

Creekside Estate Winery
Viognier 2007 **GOLD**

General List Red Wine / WINNER

LCBO Chair Award
Dan Aykroyd Winery
Cabernet Shiraz 2007

General List White Wine / WINNER

LCBO Chair Award
Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate Winery
Proprietors' Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2007 **GOLD**

Sparkling Wine / WINNERS

Hillebrand Estates Winery
Showcase Sparkling Riesling 2006 **1ST PLACE**

Maleta Estate Winery
View Old Vines Brut 2006 **2ND PLACE**

Sweet Wine / WINNERS

sponsored by Bruni Glass Packaging Canada
Inniskillin Wines
Riesling Icewine 2007 1ST PLACE **GOLD**

Konzelmann Estate Winery
Vidal Icewine 2007 2ND PLACE **GOLD**

Peller Estates Winery
Riesling Icewine 2006 3RD PLACE **GOLD**

Limited Edition Sweet Wine / WINNER

De Sousa Wine Cellars
Cabernet Franc Icewine 2006

Meritage / WINNERS

Tawse Winery
Meritage 2006 1ST PLACE **GOLD**

Strewn Winery
Three Terroir 2006 2ND PLACE

Pinot Noir / WINNER

Niagara College Teaching Winery
Dean's List Pinot Noir 2007 1ST PLACE

Flat Rock Cellars
Pinot Noir 2007 2ND PLACE

Cabernet Franc / WINNERS

Thirty Bench Wine Makers
Wine Makers Small Lot Cabernet Franc 2006 1ST PLACE **GOLD**

Cave Spring Cellars
Cabernet Franc Estate 2006 2ND PLACE **GOLD**

Grange of Prince Edward Estate Winery
Grange Cabernet Franc Northfield Block 2007 3RD PLACE

Merlot / WINNER

Harvest Estates Winery
Merlot 2006

Syrah/Shiraz / WINNERS

Creekside Estate Winery
Broken Press Shiraz 2006 1ST PLACE **GOLD**

Lailey Vineyard
Lailey Vineyard Syrah Niagara River 2007 2ND PLACE

Red Assemblage / WINNER

Wayne Gretzky Estate Winery
Shiraz Cabernet 2006 **GOLD**

Riesling / WINNERS

(TIED FOR 1ST PLACE)
Legends Estates Winery
Riesling Reserve 2003 **GOLD**

Tawse Winery
Sketches of Niagara Riesling 2007 **GOLD**

Gewürztraminer / WINNER

CALAMUS ESTATE WINERY
Gewürztraminer 2007

Chardonnay Musqué / WINNER

Cave Spring Cellars
Chardonnay Musqué 2007

Sauvignon Blanc / WINNERS

(TIED FOR 1ST PLACE)
Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery
Sauvignon Blanc Wismer Vineyards 2007

Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery
Fumé Blanc 2006

Chardonnay / WINNER

Peller Estates Winery
Signature Series Chardonnay Sur Lie 2007 **GOLD**

Southbrook Vineyards
Triomphe Chardonnay 2006 **2ND PLACE GOLD**

Vineland Estates Winery
Elevation Chardonnay 2007 **3RD PLACE**

White Assemblage / WINNER

Hillebrand Estates Winery
Winery Trius White 2007 **GOLD**

Tony Aspler Cuvée

Award of Excellence / WINNER

sponsored by Tony Aspler
Darryl Brooker, Hillebrand Estates Winery

Darryl Brooker, Hillebrand's winemaker – who raised the bar of quality for Ontario wines by bringing his extensive experience of winemaking in Australia and New Zealand to Canada and sharing it magnanimously with his peers.

Cuvée Gold Award / WINNER

Inniskillin Wines
Cabernet Franc Icewine 2007

**Cuvée Award of
Excellence in Viticulture** / WINNER

sponsored by Grape Growers of Ontario
Martin Schuele, Schuele Vineyards