
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUVÉE 2006 ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF PRESTIGIOUS WINE AWARDS

St. Catharines, ON, March 4, 2006 -- The highly anticipated results of the prestigious Cuvée Wine Awards judged in January were announced in Niagara-on-the-Lake this evening during the 17th annual Cuvée Gala.

The Cuvée Wine Awards are the only awards in Canada where the winning wines are chosen by the winemakers themselves. In keeping with the event's reputation as the "Oscars" of the Ontario wine industry, the judging process upholds strict criteria for the award winners and the wines selected for pouring at the Gala. This year, 37 winemakers tasted 180 wines to determine the winners. 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.

A singular winner was awarded in each category. 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 will sell the coveted award winning wines at their boutiques starting Sunday, March 5th, 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 along the Niagara Wine Route. Details about each winery's Cuvée En Route activities can be found on the Cuvée web site, www.cuvee.ca and passports can be purchased for \$20.00 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 2006 Awards

RED WINE - Sponsored by Scott Laboratories

Pillitteri Estates Winery Cabernet Franc Family Reserve 2002 GOLD

LIMITED EDITION RED WINE - Sponsored by Osprey Media Group

Creekside Estate Winery Reserve Merlot 2002 GOLD

WHITE WINE - Sponsored by Scott Laboratories

Peller Estates Winery Andrew Peller Signature Series Chardonnay Sur Lie 2004 GOLD

LIMITED EDITION WHITE WINE - Sponsored by Vines

Niagara College Teaching Winery Chardonnay Warren Classic 2003 GOLD

GENERAL LIST RED WINE - Andrew S. Brandt Award

Creekside Estate Winery Cabernet Merlot 2002 GOLD CSPC# 669424

GENERAL LIST WHITE WINE - Andrew S. Brandt Award

Colio Estate Wines Estate Pinot Grigio 2004 GOLD CSPC# 503391

SPARKLING - Sponsored by Metro Label

Hillebrand Estates Winery Trius Brut NV GOLD

SWEET WINE - Sponsored by Bruni Glass Packaging Canada

Peller Estates Winery Andrew Peller Signature Series Vidal Icewine Oak Aged 2004 GOLD

LIMITED EDITION SWEET WINE

EastDell Estates Vidal Icewine 2004 GOLD

MERITAGE

Mike Weir Estate Winery Cabernet Merlot 2002 GOLD

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Kacaba Vineyards Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2002 GOLD

RED HYBRID

Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery Reserve Baco 2004 GOLD

MERLOT

Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery Merlot Reserve 2002 GOLD

PINOT NOIR

Niagara College Teaching Winery Pinot Noir Reserve 2004 GOLD

RIESLING

Angels Gate Winery Süssreserve Riesling 2002 GOLD

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Vineland Estates Winery Sauvignon Blanc 2004 GOLD

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

Malivoire Wine Company Estate Bottled Gewürztraminer 2004 GOLD

TONY ASPLER CUVÉE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - Sponsored by Tony Aspler

Bill Lenko

CUVÉE GOLD AWARD

Birchwood Estate Wines Cabernet Franc Icewine 2004

Cave Spring Cellars Riesling CSV 2004

Coyote's Run Estate Winery Riesling Icewine 2004

Creekside Estate Winery Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2004

Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery Cuvée Catherine Brut NV

Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery Speck Family Reserve Cabernet Merlot 2002

Hillebrand Estates Winery Showcase Cabernet Franc Icewine 2004

Hillebrand Estates Winery Showcase Chardonnay Unfiltered 2004

Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate Winery Proprietor's Grand Reserve Meritage 2002

Lailey Vineyard Vidal Icewine 2004

Mike Weir Estate Winery Cabernet Merlot 2002

Pelee Island Winery Gewürztraminer Reserve 2004

Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery Merlot Reserve 2002

Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery Vintners Private Reserve Chardonnay 2003

Pillitteri Estates Winery Vidal Icewine 2004

Reif Estate Winery Vidal Icewine 2003

Stoney Ridge Estate Winery Founder's Signature Collection Meritage 2002