



Ontario's Top Restaurants Go for VQA Gold

More restaurants showcasing Ontario wine

Niagara, Ontario (October 13, 2006) – Some of the best restaurants in Ontario are being honored with a VQA Award of Excellence this year including several receiving Gold Status for their comprehensive list of Ontario wines.

Each year, the Wine Council of Ontario (WCO) accepts applications from restaurants to be considered for an award for their representation of Ontario VQA wine. Last year, 42 restaurants received the award and this year it has grown to 63.

“Anyone looking for a world-class meal with world-class wine can look no farther than our list of award winners who will provide the best of Ontario food and wine all in one location,” said Norm Beal, WCO Chair.

“I believe these restaurants are very proud to win this award and to showcase Ontario VQA wines,” said sommelier Zoltan Szabo. He noted that one of the winners, Toronto restaurant Sette Mezzo is hosting a special five course dinner with chef Zlatko Maric, Monday, October 16 to celebrate honor of winning the award.

A new category, introduced last year– VQA Gold - was created to raise the bar and encourage more restaurants to think exclusively Ontario. Receiving a VQA Gold Status for restaurants with a wine list that was 75 per cent or more Ontario VQA include: Jamie Kennedy at the Gardiner, Allen's, Volo, Riverbend Inn & Vineyard, Queenston Heights, Inn on the Twenty, M. E & Suzie's, Stone Road Grille, and Black Dog Village Pub & Bistro.

The 63 winning restaurants are from throughout Ontario including Toronto, Stratford, Guelph, Kitchener, Cambridge, Picton and the Niagara region were presented with VQA Award of Excellence Plaques.

The list of 2006 VQA Award of Excellence winners include: 360 The Restaurant at the CN Tower, 5th Elementt, Aberfoyle Mill, Allen's, Amelia's Garden at The Waring House, Auberge du Pommier, Bb33 Bistro, Beckta dining & wine, Black Dog Village Pub & Bistro, Bluestone Bistro, Buchanans Chophouse, Canyon Creek Chophouse (6 locations), Canyon Creek Chophouse- Fallsvview Casino, Casa Mia Ristorante, Charcoal Steak House, Clara's at Claramount Inn & Spa, del Dente, Italian Mediterranean Dining, Elora Mill Inn, Enver's of Morriston, Escabeche - Prince of Wales, Il Mulino, Inn at Manitou, Inn On The Twenty, Izakaya Restaurant, Jamie Kennedy at the Gardiner, Jamie

Kennedy Wine Bar & Restaurant, John Taylor at Domus Café, Keefer Mansion Inn, La Bodega Lounge, Langdon Hall, LIV at White Oaks Resort, M.E & Suzie's, Queen's Landing, Pangaea Restaurant, Peking Restaurant, Queenston Heights Restaurant, Restaurant Tony DeLuca, Riverbend Inn & Vineyard, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Sette Mezzo, Sightlines/Levy Restaurants - Rogers Centre, Smith + Latham Restaurant + Catering, Spencers Tall Trees Restaurant, Splendido, Stargazers on the Thames, Stone Road Grille, The Bishop and Belcher, The Breadalbane Inn, The Millcroft Inn & Spa, The Old Mill Inn, The Old Prune, The Platinum Club, The Superior, The Wildflower Restaurant, Treadwell Farm-to-Table Cuisine, Truffles Restaurant, Tundra Restaurant, Volo.

The Wine Council of Ontario is a non-profit trade association that represents Ontario's four wine regions – Niagara Peninsula, Pelee Island, Lake Erie North Shore and Prince Edward Country. These regions grow 75 per cent of the grapes used in Canadian wine production.

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