
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUVÉE 2008 REVEALS WINNERS OF PRESTIGIOUS WINE AWARDS WITH GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA IN ATTENDANCE

Niagara Falls, ON, February 29, 2008 -- The highly anticipated results of the prestigious Cuvée Wine Awards were announced in Niagara Falls this evening during the 20th Anniversary Cuvée Gala, known as the “Oscars” of the Ontario wine industry. His Excellency Jean-Daniel Lafond, who was named Honourary Patron of Cuvée in 2006, attended the Gala with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.

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. This year, 44 winemakers tasted over 180 wines from 55 wineries 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 sell the coveted award winning wines at their winery boutiques starting Sunday, March 2nd, 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:

Liz Palmieri, Executive Director, Niagara Community Foundation

Tel: 905-684-8688

CUVÉE 2008 AWARDS

RED WINE

Sponsored by Scott Laboratories

WINNER: Thirty Bench Wine Makers Benchmark Red 2005 GOLD

LIMITED EDITION RED WINE

Sponsored by Osprey Media Group

WINNER: Creekside Estate Winery Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2004 GOLD

WHITE WINE

Sponsored by Scott Laboratories

WINNER: Cave Spring Cellars Gewürztraminer 2006 GOLD

LIMITED EDITION WHITE WINE

Sponsored by Vines

WINNER: Featherstone Winery Estate Bottled Gewürztraminer 2007 GOLD

GENERAL LIST RED WINE

LCBO Chair Award

WINNER: Hillebrand Estates Winery Artist Series Meritage 2005

GENERAL LIST WHITE WINE

LCBO Chair Award

WINNER: Hillebrand Estates Winery Trius Riesling 2006 GOLD

SPARKLING

WINNER: Peller Estates Winery Signature Series Ice Cuvee Rose NV GOLD

SWEET WINE

Sponsored by Bruni Glass Packaging Canada

WINNER: Reif Estate Winery Vidal Icewine 2005 GOLD

LIMITED EDITION SWEET WINE

WINNER: Cattail Creek Estate Winery Barrel Fermented Vidal Icewine 2006 GOLD

MERITAGE

WINNER: Creekside Estate Winery Reserve Meritage 2004 GOLD

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINNER: Pelee Island Winery Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 GOLD

CABERNET FRANC

WINNER: Cave Spring Cellars Cabernet Franc Estate 2005

SYRAH/SHIRAZ

WINNER: Creekside Estate Winery Broken Press Shiraz 2005 GOLD

RED ASSEMBLAGE

WINNER: Mike Weir Estate Winery Cabernet Shiraz 2005 GOLD

RIESLING

WINNER: Thirty Bench Winemakers Small Lot Riesling "Triangle Vineyard" 2006 GOLD

SAUVIGNON BLANC

WINNER: Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate Winery Proprietors' Grand Reserve White Meritage 2006 GOLD

CHARDONNAY

WINNER: Niagara College Teaching Winery Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2006 GOLD

WHITE ASSEMBLAGE

WINNER: Hillebrand Estates Winery Trius White 2006 GOLD

TONY ASPLER CUVÉE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Sponsored by Tony Aspler

WINNER: Lanny Huff, Huff Estates for his leadership role in helping to establish Ontario's newest designated viticultural area.

CUVÉE GOLD AWARD

Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery Reserve Riesling 2006
Stonechurch Vineyards Riesling Dry 2006