

O N T A R I O

Beverage News

A MONTHLY REPORT ON THE BEVERAGE ALCOHOL INDUSTRY

Editor, Mike Deibert Tel: 905-206-0150 ext.227, toll free: 1-800-201-8596, mdeibert@can-restaurantnews.com

Ontario Chardonnays make their mark in England

LONDON, ENGLAND—As with entertainers, sometimes Canadian wines have to be successful in other countries before they gain recognition at home.

This was the thinking of Southbrook Vineyards owner Bill Redelmeier when he came up with the idea for a tasting of Ontario Chardonnays in London, England in May, at which top wine writers praised Canada's cool climate Chardonnays.

He and one of Canada's top wine experts, Tony Aspler, organized the tasting of Chardonnays from 22 wineries in Niagara region and Prince Edward County.

When wine writers talk about "the Queen" in England, they might just as likely be referring to Jancis Robinson as to Elizabeth Regina.

After tasting the Canadian wines, the top international wine writer and critic had good things to say.

On her website she commented that the

wineries that brought their products to London "showed that Ontario alone can produce a vivid array of styles of Chardonnay, some of which can hold their own with the world's finest."

She said the most distinctive came from Prince Edward County.

After tasting bottles that some wineries had brought from their libraries, Robinson also concluded that the Canadian wines can age well.

"Burgundian influence is strong, but the wines in my list here are fine wines with their own personality and great charm, with 2007 a particularly successful vintage," wrote Robinson.

Her top picks were: Huff Estates, South Bay Vineyard 2007, Prince Edward County; Closson Chase, South Clos 2007, Prince Edward County, Norman Hardie, Unfiltered 2008, Niagara (Hardie's winery and vineyards are in Prince Edward County but he sometimes uses Niagara grapes); Southbrook Vineyards, Tri-

omphe 2008, Niagara-on-the Lake, and Poetica 1998, Niagara Peninsula; Henry of Pelham, Barrel Fermented 2007, Niagara Escarpment; Le Clos Jordanne, 2006 Twenty Mile Bench, and Talon Ridge 2007, Vinemount Ridge; Tawse Winery, Quarry Road Vineyard 2007, Vinemount Ridge; Malivoire Wine Company, Moira Vineyard 2004, Beamsville Bench; and Mottiar Vineyard 2007, Niagara Peninsula.

Stephen Spurrier, who as a young wine agent organized the 1976 tasting in Paris with famous French wines pitted against California wines—and greatly helped California make its reputation as one of the world's best wine producers—was at the London tasting in May and was impressed by the Ontario Chardonnays.

In his Tweets about the Canadian wines he compared the 1998 Southbrook Chardonnay to one of the best Chardonnays (as well as one of the best white wines) in the world: a Bâtard-Montrachet from a good vintage.

Canadian wines receive trophies at national competition

WINDSOR—Ontario took three top honours, British Columbia two and Quebec one at the All-Canadian Wine Championships held here in May.

The trophy winners were:

Best Fruit Wine of the Year—Applewood Farm Winery, ON, Madrigal Meade

Best Value Wine of the Year—Hernder Estates Wines ON, 2007 Riesling

Best Sparkling Wine of the Year—Huff Estates Winery, ON, 2006 Cuvee Peter F. Huff

Best Red Wine of the Year—Desert Hills Estate Winery, BC, 2006 Syrah Select

Best White Wine of the Year—Lake Breeze Vineyards, BC, 2009 Pinot Blanc

Best Dessert Wine of the Year—Vignoble du Marathonien, QC, 2008 Vidal Vendange Tardives

Double gold winners were:

Huff Estates Winery, ON 2006 Cuvee Peter F. Huff

Fielding Estate Winery, ON, 2008 Unoaked Chardonnay

Sandhill Estate Vineyard, BC, 2008 Chardonnay

Church & State Wines BC, 2008 Gravelbourg Chardonnay

Inniskillin Wines ON, 2008 Reserve Series Riesling, Fielding Estate Winery, ON

Red Rooster Winery BC, 2009 Viognier
Road 13 Vineyards BC, 2009 Old Vines
Chenin Blanc

Silkscaf Winery, BC, 2009 Riesling-Muscat
Hillside Estate Winery BC, 2009 Rose

Inniskillin Okanagan Vineyards BC, 2007
Dark Horse Cabernet Sauvignon

Lafrenz Winery BC, 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon

Red Rooster Winery BC, 2008 Merlot
Cassini Cellars BC, 2008 Collectoris Series

Nobilus
Henry of Pelham ON, 2007 Reserve Pinot

Noir
Cedarcreek Estate Winery BC, 2007 Platinum

Pinot Noir
Peller Estates Winery ON, 2007 Private Reserve

Cabernet Franc
Thirty Bench Wines ON, 2007 Small Lot

Cabernet Franc
See Ya Later Ranch BC, 2007 Rover

Desert Hills Estate Winery BC, 2006 Syrah
Select

Creekside Estate Winery Ltd. ON, 2007 Laura
Red

Niagara College Winery ON, 2007 Dean's
List Meritage

Muse Winery BC, 2008 Foch Noir
Henry of Pelham ON, 2007 Reserve Baco

Popular Greek wine now on general list

TORONTO—Greece's most popular wine became widely available in Ontario last month.

The 2009 vintage of Moschofilero Boutari has been put on the provincial wine retailer's general list for the first time, at a price of \$11.95.

The grape's name is pronounced mohskoh-FEE-leh-roh.

With a production of three million cases a year, this white with 11.5 per cent alcohol is the best selling Greek wine in the world, said Steve Kriaris, president of Kolonaki Group, the wine's agent in Ontario.

The 2007 vintage won a gold award at the International Wine Competition and the 2008 version was as a category champion with *Wine Access* magazine.

An article in *USA Today* several years ago, when Greek wines were making their way into mainstream restaurants in the United States, said that while retsina was still around, "it's giving way to elegant white wines made from indigenous grapes, such as Moschofilero and Assyrtiko, and complex, meaty reds made from Xynomavro and Agiorgitiko."

In Ontario, Moschofilero Boutari was pre-