

VQA Ontario Policy

The Board of Directors may establish additional Viticultural Areas or amend existing Viticultural Areas, subject to the approval of the Minister responsible for the *Vintners Quality Alliance Act, 1999*, in accordance with the following guidelines:

- i) the name must be locally recognized as referring to the specified area;
- ii) the boundaries must be specified in a textual description and be accompanied by a properly identified map;
- iii) the geographical features (e.g., climate, soil, elevation, physical features etc.) must distinguish the grape growing attributes of the area from the surrounding region; and
- iv) the area must produce at least an average of 250 tonnes of wine grapes a year from a minimum of 125 acres under vine and comprise at least five wine grape vineyards of at least five hectares each that do not have common ownership; or it must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors that the area produces wines consistently critically acknowledged to be of distinct character attributable to the geographical features of the area in which the grapes are grown.

A Viticultural Area may be established within a Viticultural Area provided it meets the same criteria set out above. A "sub-viticultural area" (not an official title) may be identified on the label of a wine separately or in combination with the Viticultural Area in which it is located.

Approved by the VQA Ontario Board of Directors September 12, 2005