

VQA NEWS – DECEMBER 2017

DR KARL KAISER 1941- 2017

VQA Ontario notes with deep sadness the passing of Dr. Karl Kaiser. Karl was instrumental in the development of the rules that became the foundation of the VQA system and continued to be fully engaged as a member of the VQA Standards Development Committee until 2016. Karl was immensely knowledgeable about appellation rules around the world and helped shape many of the standards as they exist in the regulations today. He was always willing to share his experience and we will gratefully remember his contributions. Our thoughts are with Karl's family and may he rest peacefully, and with a glass of his favourite wine always by his side.

CALLING ALL LAKE ERIE NORTH SHORE WINEMAKERS – WINEMAKERS FORUM

VQAO is sponsoring a Winemakers Forum at Cooper's Hawk Vineyards on Tuesday Dec. 5. This is a great opportunity to share your experiences/challenges with the 2017 vintage. Please contact Katherina Radcliffe, katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca to reserve your spot or for more information. Pre-registration is required and will be capped at 15 participants. Winemakers from other regions are welcome to attend, subject to the limit of 15.

NO TASTINGS IN DECEMBER, LAB SHUTDOWN OVER HOLIDAYS

The VQA tasting panel does not operate in the month of December and therefore new applications for wine approval will not be tasted until the panel reconvenes in January. Regular VQA tastings will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

If you have an unexpected and urgent need to get a wine approved in December such as a stock out or last-minute order, please contact us as early as possible to see if an emergency tasting can be arranged. In the past, we have occasionally been able to convene an ad-hoc tasting panel subject to panelist availability.

The laboratory will shut down for annual maintenance for two weeks beginning December 18. This means that the last intake for full lab analysis will be December 7, 2017 for testing the following week. The lab will resume normal operations on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Once normal operations resume, remember that you need to get your samples in by noon on a Wednesday to have them in the testing lineup the following week.

LATE HARVEST AND ICEWINE GRAPE REGISTRATION – ENTER YOUR HARVEST INFORMATION

Don't forget to record all your harvest data when you harvest grapes for Icewine and late harvest and enter this information into VQA Ontario's online Icewine monitoring registry at <https://office.vqaontario.ca/vqaservices>. For each harvest batch, you will need to record the date, time, ambient temperature at harvest, actual (weighed) tonnes and the volume of the juice. You will also need the brix reading as tested by McKibbin and Associates. More information can be found at <http://www.vqaontario.ca/Regulations/Processes> under the Late Harvest/Icewine tab.

ONTARIO WINE AND GRAPE INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE STUDY – DEADLINE DEC. 8!

Your winery should have recently received an emailed invitation to participate in the third annual Ontario Wine and Grape Industry Performance Study. The invitation was sent to the individual identified during last year's survey as most likely to be responsible for the financial data required. Please check your inbox and don't hesitate to contact Katherina at VQAO Katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca or Deloitte at ontariowinestudy@deloitte.ca if you need assistance or have any questions.

The completed survey is due no later than **Friday, December 8, 2017**.

This study is part of the Ontario Government's Wine and Grape Strategy and is aimed at assisting wineries in identifying opportunities to maximize business performance as well as enhancing government's understanding of the impact of its programs. The Ontario government requires you to complete this survey if your company receives or intends to receive funding under the VQA Wine Support Program or the Marketing and Vineyard Improvement Program.

The 2017 edition of the report is available at <http://www.vqaontario.ca/AboutVQA/News#News>. Have a look and see how your business numbers stack up against your competitors.

Happy Holidays!

VQA Ontario wishes you and your families a happy and safe holiday and all the best for the new year!

Please note that the VQA office will close at 2:00 pm on December 22, 2017 and reopen at 7:30 am January 2, 2018. Normal operations at the tasting panel and laboratory will resume on January 3.

If you wish to have your wine samples in the queue for the first week of January, please get them to the LCBO no later than December 27. Samples will be processed on a first-come, first served basis.