

VQA ONTARIO
Ontario Wine Appellation Authority
NEWS & TIPS January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM VQA – ONTARIO WINE APPELLATION AUTHORITY

2020 RESOLUTION: SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS – YOUR VQA AUDIT

Last fall, VQA Ontario partnered with the LCBO Audit team to present seminars on how to prepare for your VQA Audit, in several regions. If you missed these presentations, the slide deck is available online on the secure Members Area of our site. This presentation contains a wealth of knowledge and covers topics such as Winery Responsibility, Label Review, Navigating the Wine Approval System (WAS), the Invoices and Payments, Monthly Sales Reports, and other Best Practices.

The next seminar will be held in Norfolk County on March 5, 2020.

TOP 3 TIPS

- Understand your obligations. Know what is required of you – and review the Regulations.
- Ensure your samples are properly labelled. This will prevent delays in testing at the LCBO.
- Read the comments provided on your label review – even if it passes! We will flag issues within the Federal Rules in the comments section.

If you have any questions about working within the VQA system, please call the office or contact kailtin.wilson@vqaontario.ca

ONTARIO WINE AND GRAPE INDUSTRY BENCHMARKING STUDY – THANK YOU!

The online survey for the study has now closed. Thank you to everyone who participated for another successful year. Please look forward to the release of the 2019 Benchmarking Study Report later this spring.

UPDATE! PAYING VQA INVOICES

We are continuing to upgrade our IT systems to streamline your paperwork. All invoices for wine approvals, monthly sales fees and membership dues are now generated in the VQA Services web application and all payments must correspond to an invoice. To pay an invoice or multiple invoices, go to your invoice page and simply select all the invoices you wish to pay and choose the method of payment.

Please make sure you click on “Choose Payment Method” and indicate if you’d like to pay by credit card or by check for the selected invoice(s). Please do not mail us a cheque that does not have a corresponding invoice (our computers cannot figure this out). As always, if you have any questions about our online system, don’t hesitate to contact Susan.piovesan@vqaontario.ca

NEW! LOT CODES REQUIRED FOR NON-VINTAGE WINES

In order to be able to identify non-vintage VQA wines for audit, lot codes will be required for all non-vintage wines approved after July 1, 2020. A lot code may be applied anywhere on the package by any method, as long as it is legible.

Please contact kaitlin.wilson@vqaontario.ca with any questions you may have pertaining to labeling issues.