

VINTAGE REPORT 2013

Niagara Peninsula – Lake Erie North Shore – Prince Edward County

Conditions

Weather conditions during the 2013 season were quite variable in all of the major wine regions but on average, the temperatures were close to normal and precipitation ranged from normal to a bit wetter than normal.

January and February were relatively mild presenting limited opportunities for

the Icewine harvest. Spring was cool and wet ending with some isolated late frosts in Niagara and Prince Edward County and then moving quickly into hot weather. June and July were both warm, with humid periods and stormy conditions appearing often throughout Southern Ontario. Within the trends,

there was significant variation between appellations and specific sites. After a wet mid-summer, August brought more stable weather, warm to normal temperatures and less rain and the grapes ripened more or less on schedule.

Harvest

September started with some spotty hail in the Niagara Peninsula causing some minor damage to grapes but progressed into a pleasant, dry month which set the stage for harvest. Temperatures through September and October were slightly higher than normal but October was wet putting pressure on harvest schedules and many wineries worked long hours to optimize harvest strategies around the weather. Lake Erie North Shore was considerably drier than other regions in September and dry through the beginning of October with significant

rains holding off until the end of the month. Harvest conditions were generally good. Prince Edward County saw ideal warm and dry conditions for harvest in September progressing to a wetter October. All regions experienced higher than normal daytime temperatures and a higher than usual diurnal shift between daily highs and night time lows. It was a relatively large crop and the harvest window for all regions stretched well into November for many growers and wineries.

Preliminary registrations for Icewine and Late

Harvest grapes show 6600 tonnes of grapes netted for the 2013 season.



This is a substantial increase from last year's 5550 tonnes and reflects new plantings coming into production and the larger overall crop in 2013. The year's tonnage equals the previous record tonnage

recorded in 2007. Icewine harvest got off to an early

start with temperatures falling below – 8 degrees in

all three appellations by November 24th.

Wine Expectations

2013 was an interesting year with some significant weather variations through the growing season.

Earlier ripening varieties benefited from good harvest conditions in September. Ontario wines

can be expected to play to their cool climate strengths this year – Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet Franc and Pinot Noir should fare well along with the aromatic whites. The variability of weather may

well highlight the unique character of individual appellations, and will certainly differentiate wines from specific vineyards.