

Ontario Wine Appellation Authority NEWS & TIPS AUGUST 2021

UPDATE FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to all those who attended our Annual General Meeting, held July 23, 2021. We are pleased to announce the election results for the Board of Directors as follows:

- Small Class Winery: Nadia Senchuk, Leaning Post Wines
- Medium Class Winery: Amelie Boury, Chateau des Charmes
- Large Class Winery: Greg Berti, Andrew Peller Limited

A heartfelt thank you to retiring Directors Jennifer Hart and Marty Werner. We appreciate your contribution of time and wisdom to managing our appellation system.

AUDIT PROGRAM ROLLOUT

In July, the Ontario Wine Appellation Authority implemented its own winery audit program specific to the VQA Act and associated regulations. Going forward, the Appellation Authority audit will review winery compliance with VQA requirements only. It will not include any assessment of compliance with other legislation or authorizations.

Wineries can expect a similar audit experience as before the change but with a focus on origin, composition and labelling of VQA wines and compliant use of VQA-regulated terms. Your auditor will contact you in advance to collect information and set an appointment for either a remote or an in-person audit. Our goal is to verify compliance through a robust and dynamic program without unnecessary burden on wineries.

We appreciate the invaluable assistance of the LCBO in making this a smooth transition. Reporting and fee collection overseen by the LCBO will continue, but not be part of the audit. Wineries must continue to submit the monthly Winery Reporting Template (J10) to LCBO and upload the VQAO Sales Report to the Appellation Authority website.

AGCO will continue to monitor licencing and compliance with its associated regulations and update its audit program as legislation under its purview is reviewed.

Please contact Peter Harris at peter.harris@vqaontario.ca with questions about the VQA audit program and AGCO or LCBO directly about their respective processes.

REMINDER ON APPROVAL PROCEDURES

Quality Assurance at the LCBO (43 Freeland St. Toronto, 3rd Floor) continues to be the central collection point for VQA wine testing. Please send two (2) samples for each application, marked with the VQA ID number. The LCBO requires at least 500mL for lab analysis.

Tastings take place each week on Wednesday. Samples must be received at the LCBO by 3:00 PM on Monday to be included in the weekly Wednesday tasting.

Lab testing is conducted weekly. Please have your wines in by 12:00 PM Wednesday in order to have your wines processed in the lab lineup for the following week.

To ensure a timely result, make sure you upload your labels and pay outstanding invoices promptly. No approvals are finalized until all steps are complete and payment received.

The calendar below shows the typical timing of tasting and lab assessment based different dates received by the LCBO. Timing may vary at peak times of the year or around statutory holidays.

	MON Deadline for tasting 3:00 PM	TUES	WED Deadline for lab lineup 12:00 PM	THURS	FRI
WEEK 1	MON Wine 1 arrives	TUES Wine 2 arrives	WED Wine 1 Tasting results posted	THURS	FRI Wine 3 arrives
WEEK 2	MON Wine 1 starts lab Wine 2 starts lab	TUES	WED Wine 2 Tasting results posted Wine 3 Tasting results posted	THURS	FRI Wine 1 Lab results expected Wine 2 lab results expected
WEEK 3	Wine 3 starts lab			Wine 3 lab results expected	

EVERYTHING EXPLAINED

See the Members Manual at [Ontario Wine Appellation Authority Winery SERVICES Guide \(vqaontario.ca\)](https://vqaontario.ca)