

VQA ONTARIO
Ontario's Wine Appellation Authority
NEWS & TIPS JULY 2020

COVID-19 OPERATIONS UPDATE

Operations continue to run smoothly here at VQA Ontario. Our focus remains keeping core services functioning, including wine testing and approval.

VQA Ontario is operating its own ad-hoc tasting panels for the duration that the LCBO panels are suspended. Keep in mind:

- Panels are operating once a week on Wednesdays.
- Wineries should continue to deliver samples for testing to the LCBO Quality Assurance Department (noting their reduced hours of Monday-Thursday 8:30 am – 3 pm).
- If you can, please provide samples in clean bottles marked only with the VQA Sample ID# and we will be very grateful if you use screw cap closures.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – AUGUST 13, 2020.

The VQA Ontario Annual General Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2020 at 10 am and will be held by electronic means. A formal notice and call for nominations for the Board of Directors was recently sent to member wineries (nominations are due not later than July 29). If you are interested in running for a position on the Board for a small, medium or large class winery, please contact [Laurie Macdonald](#) for more information.

ANNUAL REPORT

The VQA Ontario 2020 Annual Report will be released shortly before the Annual Meeting. New this year, the report will be published electronically only and will be available to view or download from our website.

HOW TO REQUEST A REGULATION CHANGE

We often receive calls asking about changing the VQA wine standards. Most of the standards are enshrined in regulation and changes require a formal process. It begins with a request from a winery so it is in your hands to begin the process. We believe it is important to keep the standards updated and relevant and have made over 30 regulation changes since 2000. Many changes are not as difficult as you might think if you are organized and have wide support among your peers. The full procedure is set out on the VQA website under [Process to Change a Regulation](#) but in brief, it is:

- Winery fills in a short form describing the requested change and reason.
- Request is reviewed by Board and normally referred to Standards Development Committee (winemakers and academic experts).
- Committee makes technical recommendations, Board considers strategic and appellation objectives, consumer protection, Board decides whether to proceed to industry/public consultation.

- After reviewing consultation, Board decides whether to recommend to the Minister of Government and Consumer Services for approval
- Minister undertakes own review and consultation and decides whether to amend the regulations.

The process is straight-forward, and a request can be made by any Ontario winery. If you have any questions or would like additional guidance on requesting a regulation change do not hesitate to contact us. We always love to hear from you.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR REPORTING AND SUBMISSIONS UP TO DATE

We are currently undergoing our annual financial audit. Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to keep your VQA reports and accounts up to date. For those who have outstanding sales reports or fees owing, please take a moment to bring these up to date. And don't forget you must upload your sales reports – please no printed reports in the mail!