



## NEWS & TIPS *MARCH 2022*

### ADDING PECORINO TO THE LIST OF PERMITTED GRAPES

The formal consultation period on the request to add Pecorino to the list of approved varieties ends on March 9, 2022. If you have feedback, get your comments in! Please contact [Laurie Macdonald](#) for a copy of the full consultation documents.

### SUSTAINABLE WINEMAKING CERTIFICATION

Ontario Craft Wineries and Grape Growers of Ontario recently announced the refreshed Sustainable Winegrowing Ontario Certified (SWO Certified) program encompassing vineyards and wineries. SWO Certified is an independent third-party audit program available to Ontario vineyards and wineries that produce VQA wines. It is not part of the Appellation Authority's mandate however the SWO logo embeds the VQA-regulated term "Ontario" and is permitted for use on VQA wines only. The Appellation Authority will monitor use of the logo and enforce VQA regulations as required. For more information on the SWO Certified program see their website at [www.sustainablewinegrowingontario.ca](http://www.sustainablewinegrowingontario.ca).

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for continuing to make the wines that build and sustain our appellation system. It's time to renew your membership so we can continue supporting you and your consumers with the label integrity that is core to the authenticity of VQA.

Please login to VQA Services, at <https://office.vqaontario.ca/vqaservices> to renew for the upcoming year. Once the renewal is complete, find your invoice on the Invoices page and either pay online or send us a cheque. Please make sure you follow up with an emailed copy of your current manufacturer's licence. **Your online renewal must be completed by March 31** or your membership will automatically expire. Fee payment can be deferred to as late as June 30 as long as you notify us first.

Please remember to renew all your memberships if you are a winery operating with more than one AGCO manufacturer's license.

## UPDATE YOUR ONLINE PROFILE – PERSONNEL

When renewing your membership, please take some time to update your online profile and ensure that your personnel information is up-to-date with correct names and contact info (email addresses AND phone numbers). This is also a good a time to review your permission settings (i.e. who can pay an invoice, who receives primary VQA communications, etc.) If you have any questions about this please contact [Susan Piovesan](mailto:susan.piovesan@vqa.com) or see the Member Handbook on the VQA Services website.

## ICEWINE GRAPE REGISTRATION – ENTER YOUR HARVEST INFORMATION

Don't forget to record all of your harvest data when you harvest grapes for Icewine and late harvest and enter this information into VQA Services online Icewine registration system 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 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.

## YEAR END – PLEASE PAY YOUR OUTSTANDING INVOICES AND CLEAN UP YOUR OUTSTANDING APPROVAL APPLICATIONS

Please review the status of your invoices. As we prepare for our financial year-end, we ask you bring your reports and accounts up to date.

Remember to report and upload your monthly sales reports to the secure VQA Services website each month, even if you have no sales. These reports are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. After that, you are overdue! For those wineries with small volumes of sales, payment can be consolidated every few months, but you must submit the reports monthly. Please pay any balances up to and including the March sales report by April 30.

Several hundred approval applications remain open where testing has been completed but no labels and/or no payment have been received. Please complete your applications. You may also wish to take this opportunity to make sure you have bottled all approved wines within 12 months of testing and are not inadvertently selling any wines that have not completed the approval process. Passing the tasting and lab is not enough – you must see the green checkmark in the approval status column.

## PET NAT FORUM

Winemakers Forums have resumed after a hiatus during the pandemic. The first Forum was held in Niagara on March 4, 2022, focusing on “Pet-Nat” wines and was fully subscribed. Two more Forums are planned for Prince Edward County and Lake Erie North Shore over the Spring and Summer.

Winemakers Forums are intended to provide an opportunity for informal discussion of viticulture and winemaking techniques where winemakers can share experiences and best practices aimed at making better wine. Check your inbox for notifications of upcoming forums!

## EUROPEAN EXPORT CERTIFICATES (VI-1 FORMS)

We frequently receive email and phone requests to issue VI-1 forms. Please note these forms can only be issued through an online request in VQA Services. An authorized winery user must login, access the individual wine approval, and “Request VI-1 form”. We are always happy to provide you with assistance ([Tricia Ramnath](#)) to complete the process but Authority staff cannot make the requests.

*From the Ontario Craft Winery Association*

### Ontario Craft Wine Conference 2022: Let’s Get Growing

Registration is now open for the fourth annual [Ontario Craft Wine Conference](#) which will take place virtually on Tuesday, April 5 & Wednesday, April 6. Presented by the Ontario Craft Wineries, this conference is a must-attend business, education, and networking event for wine and grape industry leaders and professionals. Featuring quality presentations from leading local and international industry experts, the two-day interactive agenda includes education sessions in digital marketing, direct-to-consumer sales, wholesale channel, viticulture, sustainability, and more. Attendees include winery owners, operators, vineyard, production, sales and marketing staff, suppliers to the industry, investors, government, and industry champions. You can register [HERE](#) for the conference. The formal announcement highlighting the Day 1 Keynote, Eugenia Keegan can be found [HERE](#).