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## **DEADLINE TO ADOPT NEW LOGO ON ALL PACKAGING – AUGUST 1, 2024**

The new logo (adopted in September 2019) will be the only VQA logo accepted for wines that are approved after August 1, 2024. This applies to the logo as it appears on labels, neck bands, screw caps, foils and capsules. This does not apply to any products that received label or package approval before the deadline. Please reach out to the office with any questions you may have.

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JULY 9, 2024, PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY**

MEMBER WINERIES - Look for the notice of meeting and election information in your inbox.

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## **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION UPDATE – CHANGES TO THE VQA AUTHORIZED GRAPE VARIETIES LIST**

Thank you to all those who responded to the request for feedback on expanding the list of authorized varieties for VQA wines. We received a total of

44 submissions and these comments will be considered by the OWAA Board of Directors when it meets to review this issue in June.

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## **LABEL REVIEW – BEST PRACTICES**

Labels are reviewed daily and on an as-needed basis. The label review is the last component of the Wine Approval Process and can only be completed once the lab results have been received and the application payment has been processed. To expedite your label review, please ensure that your label files are uploaded to the VQA Services site, and the application fee is paid. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact [helen.ly@vqaontario.ca](mailto:helen.ly@vqaontario.ca).

### **SECOND LABELS AND ADDITIONAL BRANDS**

If you have a second label or an additional branded label for a particular wine, you can upload all the label files at the time of application, and they will be reviewed for compliance before approval. If you decide to add a label after the fact, please email that label file along with the Wine Approval ID to [katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca](mailto:katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca) or [helen.ly@vqaontario.ca](mailto:helen.ly@vqaontario.ca) and we will review it against the existing approval, to ensure it is compliant. If the label is acceptable, we will append it to the approval or, if changes are required, we will let you know.

### **NO LABEL PRE-APPROVALS**

Please note that we no longer offer informal label reviews outside of the regular Wine Approval Process. Each label must be reviewed against a specific wine, based on the full details provided in the application and the results of laboratory lab testing. For this reason, we cannot provide a review of a specific label without the information in an active application including the lab test results. We strongly recommend that wineries do not print labels until the wine is approved. Label corrections can be both time-consuming and costly. If you have specific questions about regulations that apply for appellation, varietal or other labelling requirements, we will be happy to guide you through the general requirements.

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## **INGREDIENT LIST LABELLING FOR EUROPEAN UNION EXPORTS**

We have received many inquiries about new European regulations that require labels for all wines produced after December 8, 2023 to include a list of ingredients and a nutritional fact panel. There is no requirement to provide the list of ingredients to OWAA since it is not required to complete the European Export Certificate (VI-1 form). However, the label requirement is now in effect

for wines shipped to the EU. Please contact your winery association or Wine Growers Canada for more information.

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## COMING UP – VQA ONTARIO WINES OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT WORKSHOP

Join Katherina for a workshop on Wines of the Niagara Escarpment. This will be a deep dive into the regional appellation, including the three sub-appellations, with a look at the unique terroir and conditions that make the production of fine wine possible. Wines for this session were chosen based on wine chemistry and grape origin (this is not a sponsored event). The event will run Thursday May 30, 2024, from 6:30-8:30 at the Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts, George Brown College, 300 Adelaide St. E. Toronto. For more information, please contact Katherina or check out the EventBrite posting here: [VQA Ontario Wines of the Niagara Escarpment Workshop Tickets, Thu, 30 May 2024 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

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## UNDERSTANDING ONTARIO VQA WINE APPELLATIONS – AVAILABLE NOW!

Be sure to check out our second online course, *Understanding Ontario VQA Wine Appellations*. This course includes five separate modules covering Ontario + Icewine, the Niagara Peninsula, Lake Erie North Shore, Prince Edward County, and the VQA Certification process. This offering is 100% online and available here:

[Understanding Ontario VQA Wine Appellations: An Ontario Wine Course - Ontario Wine Appellation Authority \(vqaontario.ca\)](#)

Don't forget - winery members can access this course for 50% off the regular price of \$295. Use this to train your seasonal staff or offer access to the course for continuing professional development for your year-round retail staff and sales force. Use code "winery" as checkout to access the discount.

To update your email address: [Contact Us](#)

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