



# Grape Growers of ONTARIO

**Wines Of Ontario's Legislative Assembly For 2024**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**100% Grown in Ontario VQA Wines**

**Chosen as the Official Wines of Ontario's Legislative Assembly for 2024**

*October 27, 2022 (St. Catharines):* The Grape Growers of Ontario with the Honourable Speaker of the Legislature and MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, Ted Arnott, hosted the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting event at Queen's Park on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The following have been chosen as the official wines of Ontario's Legislative Assembly for 2024:

**Red Wine: 2020 Cabernet by King and Victoria Winery**

**White Wine: 2021 Chardonnay by Watchful Eye Winery**

"As the legacy partner of the Legislature's wine tasting event, the Grape Growers of Ontario thank the Hon. Speaker Arnott for continuing the tradition of choosing the official VQA wines of the Legislative Assembly for the coming year," said Matthias Oppenlaender, Chair. "Our agriculture value-added industry is rooted in the land, and the Grape Growers of Ontario look forward to continuing to work with the Government of Ontario to support Ontario's grape and wine industry. Congratulations to King and Victoria Winery and Watchful Eye Winery on their wines being selected."

"The wines showcased at this event reflect the connection between 100% Ontario grown grapes and the winemakers who craft them. We congratulate all of Ontario's wineries on producing top-quality VQA wines and thank the six wineries who participated in this year's

tasting,” said Debbie Zimmerman, CEO.

“We are so excited to have had our Cabernet 2020 chosen as the red wine for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We have been growing grapes for more than two decades to supply to premium winemakers throughout Ontario and in May of 2023 we were able to open the doors to our very own boutique winery on the Twenty Mile Bench in Vineland, Ontario.

Made from vines planted in 2000, our Cabernet 2020 is a rich and full-bodied red that reflects the outstanding growing season experienced throughout Niagara in that vintage. It is a blend of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon that showcases the quality of wines that we are producing throughout all of our offerings. We are confident that you will enjoy the best that these Ontario grapes have to offer.

Cheers from King and Victoria”

“The Watchful Eye Family would like to thank the Grape Growers of Ontario and the Queens Park Legislative staff providing a wonderful event to celebrate the amazing wines that come from 100% Ontario grown grapes. We would also like to thank all the wineries that attended and recognize their incredible support and encouragement as we continue this amazing journey of growing our family winery. It is an honour to have our 2021 Chardonnay chosen as the white wine of the legislature and we appreciate the amazing feedback we received from all who tasted as we told our story and poured our wines. Cheers!”

Members of Provincial Parliament gathered to select the Legislative Assembly of Ontario’s official VQA wines to be served at legislative functions throughout 2024. Participants tasted and marked their preferences on a voting ballot to determine which wines would be selected from six Ontario VQA wineries. The Grape Growers of Ontario thank the Honourable Speaker Ted Arnott and look forward to continuing the tradition of the Legislative Wine Tasting.

The Grape Growers of Ontario is the official organization that represents over 500 actively producing farm families of 18,000 acres in the province’s three viticulture areas: Niagara Peninsula, Lake Erie North Shore and Prince Edward County, and emerging regions across Ontario.



For more information, please contact:

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