

Letter from Nova Scotia



Dear CCOVI friends,

In 2007, with my new Certificate in Oenology and Viticulture in hand, I left Brock University, moved to the east coast and settled at Jost Vineyards in Nova Scotia. The province is a relatively new player in the grape and wine industry, but it is growing fast and offers exciting job positions for new grads.

The winery, which has been in business since 1986, is in the Malagash Peninsula. Most wineries in Nova Scotia are in the Annapolis Valley, but Jost Vineyards is the sole winery in the Malagash region. It is situated on a beautiful coastline, making it attractive to tourists and vacationers who keep the winery always busy.

It is also a nice quiet area to work and raise a family. My second child was actually born out here.

I am the Assistant Winemaker and Head Distiller at Jost, and every day is different, which makes my job so enjoyable.

At Jost we produce yearly over 40,000 cases of red, white, rosé, fruit and specialty wines, including Icewine.

When I put on my Head Distiller hat, I'm dealing with sourcing out and purchasing fruits for fermentation and distillation. I had to learn hands-on how to do distillation, which was a challenge.

But I also like being able to experiment with different fruits and grapes to make exceptional tasting wines.

As Assistant Winemaker, I am responsible for ensuring adequate fermentation of wines, suitable blending and filtration as well as proper preparation of each wine for bottling. I'm also the scientist on staff being in charge of lab analysis at the winery.

CCOVI prepared me for my career in the grape and wine industry by giving me a strong understanding of wine fermentation and analysis. This allows me to create, each year, the highest quality wines possible.

Regards,

Andrew Shelswell, Class of 2007