

For Immediate Release Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) March 5, 2008 905-688-5550, ext. 5222

Excellence celebrated at Experts' Wine Tasting at Brock

The Governor General of Canada joined more than 150 members of Ontario's wine community at the 19th annual Experts' Wine Tasting on Saturday at Brock University.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean and her husband, His Excellency Jean-Daniel Lafond, along with delegates from Rideau Hall, plus many winemakers, sommeliers, restaurateurs, wine and food writers, and Brock representatives took part in the event.

"We're happy to have been able to get premium VQA wines into the hands of so many important figures," said Barb Tatarnic, Managing Director of the Canadian Wine Library at Brock.

The theme for this year's Experts' Tasting, hosted by Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute, was "The Art of the Blend", featuring Ontario's best VQA blended wines. Tatarnic, who coordinated the event, noted that wine experts travelled from across the province and parts of the U.S. for the opportunity to test Ontario's finest blends.

"These [people] really are the experts and we're very pleased with the response. The event has really grown in stature," said Tatarnic.

Linda Bramble, a local wine writer, former Brock professor of wine appreciation, and CCOVI Professional Affiliate, was honoured at the event with a Promoting the Promoters Award for Lifetime Achievement in the promotion of Ontario wines.

Promoters Awards were also presented to individuals for excellence in the following categories:

Media – Tony Aspler, wine writer

Education – Janet Dorozynski, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Wine, Spirits and Beer, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Hospitality – Sylvia and John Taylor, Domus Café, Ottawa

LCBO – Michael Fagan, LCBO Manager, Knowledge Resource Group

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