

# Experts Tasting

June 1, 2023 – CCOVI, Brock University

**Brock**  
University



**Cool Climate  
Oenology &  
Viticulture Institute**

<b>FLIGHT #1 – FLIGHT NAME: VQA's Gamazing Future</b>					
<b>SPEAKER: James Peden, President, CAPS Ontario and Director of Operations, Liberty Entertainment Group</b>					
#	Vintage	Name	Proprietor	Price	Availability
1	2021	Gamay Estate Bottled	Fielding Estate Winery	\$25.95	Winery
2	2021	Gamay "Genova"	Malivoire Wine Company	\$27.95	Winery
3	2020	Gamay Noir "les Villages"	Bachelor	\$25.95	Winery, LCBO/Vintages
4	2020	Moulin-à-Vent	Stéphane Aviron Vieilles Vignes	\$23.95	LCBO Vintages
5	2020	Gamay Noir Discovery Series	Inniskillin	\$19.95	Winery, online
6	2020	Gamay Noir	Featherstone Estate Winery	\$19.15	Winery

<b>FLIGHT #2 – FLIGHT NAME: Local Love for the Heartbreak Grape</b>					
<b>SPEAKER: Joe Abruscato, Writer/Researcher, Customer Engagement Group, LCBO</b>					
#	Vintage	Name	Proprietor	Price	Availability
1	2021	Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast	La Crema	\$36.75	LCBO Vintages
2	2020	Pinot Noir Grand Reserve	Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate	\$29.95	Winery, LCBO/Vintages
3	2020	Pinot Noir "Sonofabitch"	Megalomaniac Winery	\$29.95	Winery
4	2020	Pinot Noir "Wild West End"	Bachelor	\$65.00	Winery
5	2019	Pinot Noir, McNally Vyd Proprietor's Res.	Peninsula Ridge Est. Winery	\$30.15	Winery
6	2019	Reserve Pinot Noir	Westcott Vineyards	\$44.95	Winery
7	2018	La Grand Reserve Pinot Noir	Domaine Quelyus	\$64.75	Winery, LCBO/Vintages

<b>FLIGHT #3 – FLIGHT NAME: Time Warp</b>					
<b>SPEAKER: Lawrence Buhler, Head Winemaker, Henry of Pelham Family Estate</b>					
#	Vintage	Name	Proprietor	Price	Availability
1	2020	Pinot Noir, Speck Family Reserve	Henry of Pelham Family Estate	\$47.95	Winery, LCBO/Vintages
2	2019	Pinot Noir, Speck Family Reserve	Henry of Pelham Family Estate	\$47.95	Winery, LCBO/Vintages
3	2009	Pinot Noir, Speck Family Reserve	Henry of Pelham Family Estate	\$116.00	Not available
4	2007	Pinot Noir, Speck Family Reserve	Henry of Pelham Family Estate	\$125.00	Not available

<b>FLIGHT #4 - FLIGHT NAME: We need the Franc, we gotta have that Franc</b>					
<b>SPEAKER: Emma Garner, Director of Winemaking, Ontario, Andrew Peller Limited</b>					
#	Vintage	Name	Proprietor	Price	Availability
1	2020	Cabernet Franc	Featherstone Estate Winery	\$22.15	Winery, LCBO/Vintages
2	2020	Cabernet Franc	Fielding Estate Winery	\$25.95	Winery
3	2020	Cabernet Franc Lonna's Block	Ravine Vineyard	\$61.80	Winery
4	2020	Cabernet Franc Nancy's Block	Ravine Vineyard	\$61.80	Winery
5	2020	Wild Cask Cabernet Franc	Thirty Bench Wine Makers	\$55.00	Winery
6	2020	Cabernet Franc Winemaker's Blend	Thirty Bench Wine Makers	\$26.95	Winery, LCBO/Vintages
7	2020	Small Lot Cabernet Franc	Thirty Bench Wine Makers	\$76.00	Winery

<b>FLIGHT #5 – FLIGHT NAME: They're Red Hot</b>					
<b>SPEAKER: Michael Godel, Partner/Principal Critic, WineAlign</b>					
#	Vintage	Name	Proprietor	Price	Availability
1	2020	Shiraz Grand Reserve	Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate	\$29.95	Winery, LCBO/Vintages
2	2017	Broken Press Syrah Reserve	Creekside Estate Winery	\$55.00	Winery
3	2020	Syrah, Wismer Parke Vineyard	Icellars Estate Winery	\$75.00	Winery
4	2020	Cabernet Sauvignon, Beal Vyd Reserve	Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery	\$34.95	Winery
5	2020	Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Reserve	Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate	\$40.95	Winery, LCBO/Vintages
6	2020	Small Lot Cabernet Sauvignon	Thirty Bench Wine Makers	\$60.00	Winery
7	2017	Cabernet Sauvignon	Two Sisters Vineyards	\$65.00	Winery

<b>FLIGHT #6 – WINE OPTIONS: Did You Ever Have to Make Up Your Mind?</b>					
<b>SPEAKER: Chris Waters, Globe &amp; Mail Wine &amp; Spirits Columnist and Wine Educator</b>					
#	Vintage	Name	Proprietor	Price	Availability
1	2011	Cabernet Sauvignon	Fielding Estate Winery	\$29.95	Not available
2	2012	Syrah	Fielding Estate Winery	\$39.95	Not available
3	2018	Syrah	Esk Valley, Hawkes Bay	\$29.95	LCBO Vintages
4	2016	Cabernet Franc Estate	Cave Spring Vineyard	\$39.95	Winery
5	2020	Cabernet Franc, Picone Vineyard	Fogolar	\$54.95	Winery

## Experts Tasting 2023 – WINE SUMMARIES

**Thank you to all of the VQA wineries  
for their wine submissions and ongoing support of the tasting.**

**Thank you to VQA Wines of Ontario and Magdalena Kaiser for supporting  
the Magic Bus for sommeliers to attend and prizes.**

**Thank you to the LCBO and Diana Ruscetta for supporting  
so many from the LCBO to attend.**

### FLIGHT #1 – “VQA’s Gamayzing Future”

#### **2021 Gamay, Estate Bottled, Fielding Estate Winery**

4020 Locust Lane, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B2 905-563-0668 Web: fieldingwines.com

A vineyard selection from our Tufford Road Vineyard in the Lincoln Lakeshore, from low-yielding vines planted in 2014. Picked October 8<sup>th</sup>, approx. 15% stems integrated in ferment, approx. 25% whole berry. Just over two weeks on skins, followed by six months in older French oak barrels. Barrel-selection bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Alc: 12.0%

#### **2021 Genova Gamay, Malivoire**

4260 King Street, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0 905-563-9253 Web: melivoire.com

Sourced from Genova Vineyard located just above the brow of the Niagara Escarpment on the Vinemount Moraine, a stoney, glacial-till mount. Vines are planted on the north-eastern aspect of farm. Grapes were hand-picked and sorted on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October at 21.6 °Brix. 2/3 of grapes were fermented in stainless steel, while the other 1/3 vinified in a concrete tank. In both cases, 1/4 of the grapes were retained as whole clusters, layered into the crushed remainder. Following fermentation, the wine aged in neutral French oak for six months. 222 cases were bottled in May 2022.

#### **2020 Gamay “les Villages, Bachelder**

bachelderniagara.com

A deft blend (read: "obsessed-over") of Gamay Noir parcels from single-vineyard origins, with the expression of the terroir of all-Niagara as its goal... this wine leads us on a dizzy dance combining the deep ripe fruit and silky tannins of N.O.T.L. (Niagara-on-the-Lake) with the delicate perfume and limestone angularity of the best Bench (Escarpment) vineyard fruit. A bewitching nose of rose-petals, black raspberry and smoky cherry jelly - already incredibly delicious, best from 2023 - 2025!!! Wismer-Foxcroft; Bai Xu; Bator; Willms... all these great terroirs have found their place in this wine that so effortlessly marries balance and a slatey minerality, dancing the line between easy drinkability and ageability.

#### **2020 Moulin-à-Vent, Stéphane Aviron Vieilles Vignes**

From the cru village that makes the biggest, longest lived gamays of Beaujolais, comes a quite deeply coloured youthful example. It sports ripe sweet plummy fruit, florals, licorice and hay. It is medium bodied, fairly plush and dense with some salt and pepper spice on the palate. It is warm, rich, and fairly dense – certainly among the biggest – with some dusty tannin. The length is excellent. Best 2023 to 2028.

#### **2020 Discovery Series Gamay Noir, Inniskillin**

1499 Line 3 Road, Niagara on the Lake, ON L0S 1J0 905-468-2187 Web: Inniskillin.com

Grapes were meticulously selected from specific vineyards in Niagara. After the grapes were gently destemmed and crushed, the juice was inoculated and allowed to ferment at an average temperature of 25C for 10 days. The wine was then transferred into a combination of new and older French barrels where it aged for 6 months, and then racked into a stainless-steel tank – producing an intensely concentrated, perfectly structured wine with polished tannins and accents of raspberry, cranberry, and hints of spice.

#### **2020 Gamay Noir, Featherstone Estate Winery**

3678 Victoria Avenue, Vineland, ON L0R 2C0 905-562-3989 Web: featherstonewinery.ca

All the grapes for this wine were machine harvested, crushed, destemmed and optically sorted to separate the ripest grapes. Cold soaked on the skins for 72 hours and fermented in our climate-controlled cellar. Aged in neutral (5-year-old +) American oak barrels for 10 months; stirred on lees monthly. Aromas of red cherry and red licorice decorated with mixed spice and exotic incense dominate the nose. It’s tang-infused with hints of pomegranate that meet up quickly with ripe black currant and sweet, black, juicy Bing cherry. This showcases persistent purity of fruit, good balance and a lengthy dry, flavourful finish and aftertaste.

## FLIGHT #2 – “ Local love for the Heartbreak Grape ”

### **2021 Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast La Crema**

Sonoma is renowned for the quality of the Pinot it produces. This one is nuanced and silky with impressive cherry, cinnamon, floral, berry reduction and toast aromas and concentrated flavours. A great choice for cedar-planked salmon, or pork dishes.

### **2020 Pinot Noir Grand Reserve, Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate**

2145 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara on the Lake, ON L0S 1J0 Web: [jacksontriggswinery.com](http://jacksontriggswinery.com)

Harvested from select prized vineyards Le Clos Jordanne, Claystone

Terrace, Montague Vineyard and our onsite Estate, the fruit underwent wild fermentation in open top tanks. Once this process was complete, the must was gently pressed prior to the free run being transferred to barrel. Each block underwent malolactic fermentation, to completion. The wine then underwent an 18-month élevage in French oak, until it attained a remarkable complexity and balance.

### **2020 Pinot Noir, “Sonofabitch”, Megalomaniac**

3930 Cherry Avenue, Vineland, ON L0R 2C0 905-562-5155 Web: [megalomaniacwine.com](http://megalomaniacwine.com)

This wine was made with 100% estate grown grapes from the Megalomaniac vineyard. Grapes were cropped at 3 tons per acre, machine picked and processed by gravity into the fermenters. After 20 days of maceration on skins the wine was aged in 100% French oak for 16 months. Malolactic was completely done in barrel.

### **2020 Pinot Noir “Wild West End”, Bachelder**

[bachelderniagara.com](http://bachelderniagara.com)

TASTING NOTE UPON RELEASE OF WINE AT 24 MONTHS OLD. JUST 136 CASES MADE, of which 69 bottles are magnums\*:

A nose of great and pure Pinot, closed, yet dark red fruit appears after scented red raspberries, violets and Darjeeling tea leaf! Just 50 metres from Hanck, and yet dense, dense, chewy-textured, less beguilingly-fruity than Hanck, more bloody, more dark-fruited, even carries more massive fullness and rusty-iron tones than the ‘Wild West-End! Magistrale! Great weight: some dark black-curranty grainy tannins still to arrange on the dark, fruity, spicy, licquorice-tinged finish.’

### **2019 Pinot Noir McNally Vineyard Proprietor’s Reserve, Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery**

5600 King Street West, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B3 905-563-0900 Web: [peninsularidge.com](http://peninsularidge.com)

Warm fermentation with frequent punch downs to develop structure with 11-day post fermentation maceration. Aged for 19 months in 1st and 2nd fill French oak barrels with frequent lees stirring. A lovely, delicate Pinot Noir. The nose is of red currant, cherry, and hints of cocoa powder. The palate is light bodied with soft tannins, and a long finish accented with a touch of cassis and bumbleberry.

### **2019 Reserve Pinot Noir, Westcott Vineyards**

3180 Seventeenth Street, Jordan Station, ON L0R 1S0 Web: [westcottvineyards.com](http://westcottvineyards.com)

A fantastic expression of the 2019 vintage and our estate vineyard. 100% Pinot Noir sourced exclusively from our HOME Vineyard in Vinemount Ridge. The grapes are hand-picked, hand sorted, and eventually only 70% destemmed with the remaining 30% comprising the whole cluster base layer for ferment. All native fermentation and ML and macerated 40days. Only free drained wine is moved gently to age in various used FO barrels for 22months. 200 cases bottled un-fined and unfiltered.

### **2018 La Grande Reserve Pinot Noir, Domaine Queylus**

3651 Sixteen Road, Saint Ann’s, ON L0R 1Y0 Web: [queylus.com](http://queylus.com)

Deftly blended from the most subtle, ageable, and mineral barrels of the noble Eastern blocks of our Estate vineyards, this wine of great purity has the structure to improve and develop perfume and richness with several years’ cellaring. Always a mysterious wine that develops slowly into something beautiful. After ten years of vine maturity (115 and 667 Pinot Noir clones), this wine consistently shows black cherry and violets on the nose then shifts to spice, cassis, bramble with structure and tannins. Oak is integrated with a complex finish that offers great potential for ageing.

## FLIGHT #3 – “Time Warp”

### **2020 Pinot Noir, Speck Family Reserve, Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery**

1469 Pelham Road, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P7 905-684-8423 Web: henryofpelham.com

Soils are a combination of lacustrine silty clay for the more structured masculine fruit. Clones 667 on Block 100.

Sustainably grown under SWO. Vineyards are not a monoculture, wildlife corridors are preserved. Yields of 3.0 tonnes per acre. All grapes gently moved by gravity. Hand-picked, gently destemmed, mechanically sorted (optically as needed).

Fermented in stainless steel utilizing pulse-air followed by hand punch downs to gently manage the cap. All juice is separated from the skins with no press wine added back. Aged in European oak, with 30% new, then married together in an oak tank. Total wood aging is 10 months.

### **2019 Pinot Noir, Speck Family Reserve, Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery**

1469 Pelham Road, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P7 905-684-8423 Web: henryofpelham.com

Soils are a combination of lacustrine silty clay for the more structured masculine fruit. Clones 667 on Block 100.

Sustainably grown under SWO. Vineyards are not a monoculture, wildlife corridors are preserved. Yields of 3.0 tonnes per acre. All grapes gently moved by gravity. Hand-picked, gently destemmed, mechanically sorted (optically as needed).

Fermented in stainless steel utilizing pulse-air followed by hand punch downs to gently manage the cap. All juice is separated from the skins with no press wine added back. Aged in European oak, with 30% new, then married together in an oak tank. Total wood aging is 10 months.

### **2009 Pinot Noir, Speck Family Reserve, Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery**

1469 Pelham Road, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P7 905-684-8423 Web: henryofpelham.com

From our oldest Estate vineyards in the Short Hills Bench, shovel planted by the Speck Bros starting in 1988, these wines are composed from our most interesting vineyards. Many enjoy the most southern exposure in Niagara. All are clonally selected vines except in a few special cases where the plantings are old enough to predate this practice, making these unique vineyard blocks an opportunity to add qualities that cannot easily be reproduced. Multiple clones play a role in the layered complexity of this wine. Careful bunch selection and oak tank fermentation followed by gentle aging in small barrels for up to 10 months.

### **2007 Pinot Noir, Speck Family Reserve, Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery**

1469 Pelham Road, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P7 905-684-8423 Web: henryofpelham.com

From our oldest Estate vineyards in the Short Hills Bench, shovel planted by the Speck Bros starting in 1988, these wines are composed from our most interesting vineyards. Many enjoy the most southern exposure in Niagara. All are clonally selected vines except in a few special cases where the plantings are old enough to predate this practice, making these unique vineyard blocks an opportunity to add qualities that cannot easily be reproduced. Multiple clones play a role in the layered complexity of this wine. Careful bunch selection and oak tank fermentation followed by gentle aging in small barrels for up to 10 months.

## FLIGHT #4 – “We need the Franc, we gotta have that Franc”

### **2020 Cabernet Franc, Featherstone Estate Winery**

3678 Victoria Avenue, Vineland, ON L0R 2C0 905-562-3989 Web: featherstonewinery.ca

All the grapes for this wine were machine harvested, crushed, destemmed and optically sorted to separate the ripest grapes. Cold soaked on the skins for 5 days and fermented in our climate-controlled cellar. Aged in 100% American oak barrels from Tonnellerie O, 25% new barrels for 10 months; stirred on lees monthly. This is a blend of cabernet franc with just a splash of merlot. It displays a beautiful nose of red cherry, tobacco and a touch of pepper. This is medium-bodied with delicious flavours of red cherry, pomegranate and cola notes developing on the back palate before closing on a bright, fresh red fruit and savoury note. Pour alongside stuffed red bell peppers or gourmet red-sauce pizza.

### **2020 Cabernet Franc, VQA Niagara Peninsula, Fielding Estate Winery**

4020 Locust Lane, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B2 905-563-0668 www.fieldingwines.com

A barrel selection, bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Sourced from three different vineyards from Lincoln Lakeshore, Niagara Lakeshore and Four Mile Creek. Hand picked November 2<sup>nd</sup> and destemmed, 2 days cold soak and 27 days total on skins. Drained free run to barrel for aging, 14 months in French oak on lees, 25% new. Alc: 14.0% \$25.95 Winery Only

### **2020 Cabernet Franc Lonna’s Block, Ravine Vineyard**

1366 York Rd, St. Davids, ON L0S 1P0 905-262-8463 www.ravinevineyard.com

Both blocks were planted with CF clones 214 and 327 (both on 3309 rootstock). Both blocks were harvest on the same day, same rate of kms and enzymes. Pumped over 2 times a day, same yeast strain, same fermenting temperature, same press day (Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020), finished malo in tank and then filled into red barrels in New Year. Flavour profiles consists of cassis, strawberry jam, espresso, plum, Bold, Round, lots of depth and big tannic structure.

### **2020 Cabernet Franc Nancy’s Block, Ravine Vineyard**

1366 York Rd, St. Davids, ON L0S 1P0 905-262-8463 www.ravinevineyard.com

Both blocks were planted with CF clones 214 and 327 (both on 3309 rootstock). Both blocks were harvest on the same day, same rate of kms and enzymes. Pumped over 2 times a day, same yeast strain, same fermenting temperature, same press day (Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020), finished malo in tank and then filled into red barrels in New Year. Flavour profiles consists of red currants, cherry, strawberry, earthiness, structure, acidity. Elegant, balanced, understated.

### **2020 Wild Cask Cabernet Franc, Thirty Bench Winemakers**

4281 Mountainview Rd, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0 905-563-3921 Web: thirtybench.com

This Cabernet Franc was made from hand-picked grapes from two organically grown, low-yielding vineyard blocks, Crabtree Vineyard and the Thirty Bench Estate vineyard. The grapes received an 18-day maceration in open wooden fermenters, with ‘wild’ yeast fermentation. The wine was then barrel aged in premium French oak for 12 months [Taransaud and St. Martin T+J (Tronçais and Jupilles)]. Top barrel selection to determine the final blend. Once bottled the wine will receive an extended period of bottle aging before release. Limited production of 422 cases.

### **2020 Cabernet Franc, Winemaker’s Blend, Thirty Bench Winemakers**

4281 Mountainview Rd, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0 905-563-3921 Web: thirtybench.com

From the phenomenal 2020 vintage, we hand-picked Cabernet Franc grapes from two premium growers, Crabtree Vineyard and the Emerald Shores Vineyard. The grapes received a 14-day maceration in open wooden fermenters, with a twice daily pigeage to break surface cap. The wine was then barrel aged in 80% French oak and 20% American oak for 12 months (25% new oak). Individual barrel selection to determine the final blend. Limited production of 800 cases.

### **2020 Small Lot Cabernet Franc, Thirty Bench Winemakers**

4281 Mountainview Rd, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0 905-563-3921 Web: thirtybench.com

Hand-picked from the most northern section of our own Thirty Bench vineyard. The Cabernet Franc block is isolated from the rest of the vineyard and farmed organically. Traditional red wine making consisting of roughly twenty days of skin contact in open wooden fermenters; hand plunged to break surface cap two to three times daily. The individual batches received different strains of yeast and varying length of maceration to increase complexity in the final blend. Barrel aged in 100% French oak for 20 months (30% new oak barrels). Individual barrel selection to determine the final blend. Limited production of 193 cases.

## FLIGHT #5 – “They’re Red Hot”

### **2020 Shiraz Grand Reserve, Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate**

2145 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara on the Lake, ON L0S 1J0 905-468-6173 Web: [jacksontriggswinery.com](http://jacksontriggswinery.com)

These grapes were grown and harvested from the prestigious Delaine Vineyard in the Niagara River appellation. The fruit was processed and allowed a 72-hour cold soak before undergoing fermentation in rotary fermenters. As primary fermentation concluded, malolactic fermentation began before pressing and being transferred to barrel. The wine was then aged 18-months in French and American oak, until it attained a remarkable complexity and balance. This wine expresses deep, pungent notes of freshly cracked peppercorn, stewed mulberry, dried wild strawberry, cedar mulch and pine tar. The palate is dark and lush with dusty tannins, preserved wild black fruits and spice culminating in a long finish with an undertone of slate.

### **2017 Broken Press Syrah Reserve, Creekside Estate Winery**

2170 Fourth Avenue, Jordan Station, ON L0R 1S0 905-562-0035 Web: [creeksidewine.com](http://creeksidewine.com)

97% Syrah, 3% Viognier. Sourced entirely from our Queenston Mile vineyard on the St. David’s Bench, harvested Oct. 17 (Viognier) and Nov. 1 (Syrah). Co-ferment with partly pressed Viognier skins in 1-tonne bins and stainless tank, followed by 20 months in mostly older French oak. Barrel selection yielded 204 cases, bottled Aug. 29, 2019. \$55: available online at [creeksidewine.com](http://creeksidewine.com), or at our retail store.

### **2020 Syrah Wismer Parke Vineyard, Icellars Estate Winery**

615 Concession 5 Road, Niagara on the Lake, ON L0S 1J0 289-479-5969 Web: [icellars.ca](http://icellars.ca)

The fruit was hand picked in late November very ripe with 27.3 brix. After hand sorting it was cold soaked for 7 days at 10 C. Alcoholic fermentation was finished in 3 weeks with daily punch down and pump overs. Malolactic was started and finished in French oak barrels. Total barrel aging was 24 months in a mixture of new and 2 years old French oak barrels. It was bottled unfiltered & unfiltered.

### **2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Beal Vineyard Reserve, Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery**

5600 King Street West, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B3 905-563-0900 Web: [peninsularidge.com](http://peninsularidge.com)

We only make this wine in the very best years; it was last made in 2016! Perfectly ripe grapes from our own vineyard were cold soaked prior to fermentation and fermented at warm temperatures, in neutral stainless-steel tanks, to extract optimum flavours and soft tannins. Twice daily pump-overs were performed to promote gentle extraction from skins. Aged up to 14 months in 1st and 2nd fill French and American barrels.

### **2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Reserve, Jackson Triggs Niagara Estate**

2145 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara on the Lake, ON L0S 1J0 905-468-6173 Web: [jacksontriggswinery.com](http://jacksontriggswinery.com)

The fruit for this wine was grown on the hillside of Niagara’s Escarpment Bench at Heron Pond Vineyard. Harvested in November, these grapes were afforded a 72-hour cold soak prior to being inoculated for fermentation. Near the end of primary fermentation, malolactic fermentation began; the wine was pressed off skins and sent to barrel to finish. It subsequently spent 18 months in a combination of French and American oak before blending and bottling. The nose displays pungent black current, cassis and stewed blackberry notes with clove, licorice spice and toasted tobacco leaf. The palate opens with nuances of ripe black cherry and dark chocolate, followed by tight, grippy tannins and a long finish. This wine will age beautifully for 6-8 years. If drinking now, decant for 2 hours prior to serving or pair with rich, rare game meats.

### **2020 Small Lot Cabernet Sauvignon, Thirty Bench**

4281 Mountainview Rd, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0 905-563-3921 Web: [thirtybench.com](http://thirtybench.com)

Hand-picked from the eastern block of our own Thirty Bench vineyard. This block is divided into two sections, each with a different clone, and harvested separately. Each clone receives traditional red wine making with about two weeks of skin contact in open wooden fermenters. The individual batches received different strains of yeast and varying length of maceration to increase complexity in the final blend. Barrel aged in 70% French and 30% American oak for 20 months (40% new oak barrels). Individual barrel selection to determine the final blend. Limited production of 192 cases.

### **2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, Two Sisters Vineyards**

240 John Street East, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0 905-468-0592 Web: [twosistersvineyards.com](http://twosistersvineyards.com)

The Two Sisters Cabernet Sauvignon for 2017 is a wonderful reflection of the vintage in Niagara. A long warm fall created great ripeness and flavor development. Late picking allowed for exceptional concentration of flavor. Crop management and thirty months in barrel perfected this cabernet sauvignon, immediately evident in the opaque, dark ruby color of the wine.

## FLIGHT #6 – WINE OPTIONS – “Did You Ever Have to Make Up Your Mind?”

### 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon, Fielding Estate Winery

4020 Locust Lane, Beamsville, ON LOR 1B2 905-563-0668 Web: fieldingwines.com

Sourced from Lowrey Vineyard, St. David’s Bench, vines planted 1998/2001. Handpicked November 2<sup>nd</sup> and destemmed, 2 days cold soak and 27 days total on skins. Drained free run to barrel for aging, 14 months in French oak on lees, 25% new. Barrel selection, bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Alc: 13.0% Sold Out (\$29.95 at release).

### 2012 Syrah, Fielding Estate Winery

4020 Locust Lane, Beamsville, ON LOR 1B2 905-563-0668 Web: fieldingwines.com

Sourced from Lowrey Vineyard, St. David’s Bench, mix of 2000 and 2002 plantings. Hand picked October 16<sup>th</sup> and destemmed, 3 days cold soak and 30 days total on skins. Drained free run to barrel for aging, 18 months in French oak on lees. Barrel selection, bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Alc: 13.5% Sold Out (\$39.95 at release).

### 2018 Syrah, Esk Valley, Hawkes Bay

Supple, spicy syrah with plum, black pepper, dried herb, grape stem and spicy oak flavours. A solidly structured wine, with a backbone of sappy tannins that suggest cellaring potential. Good value at this price. Drink date: 2020-2026.

### 2016, Cabernet Franc Estate, Cave Spring Cellars

3836 Main Street, Jordan, ON 905-562-3581 Web: cavespring.ca

Originating from our Cave Spring Vineyard, nestled on a hillside of the Niagara Escarpment overlooking Lake Ontario, known as the Beamsville Bench. Along these gentle slopes, the combination of limestone-clay soil, elevation and moderating onshore breezes yields a Cabernet Franc of great depth and complexity that will reward years of cellaring. Stony clay till composed primarily of limestone and dolostone mixed with sandstone, shale and traces of granite and gneiss; soils overlie moraine and sandstone/shale bedrock; depth ranges from 4 to 8 m. A 21-day maceration and fermentation using exclusively indigenous yeasts; ageing for 16 months in French oak barriques, 20% new and 80% 2nd–6th fill.

### 2020 Cabernet Franc Picone Vineyard, Fogolar

Located at the edge of the escarpment on Moyer Road, just west of Cherry Avenue in Vineland, this 1.25 acre block of Cabernet Franc is composed of old vines that yield consistent and expressive fruit. Winemaking includes approximately 15% whole cluster, fermentation with commercial yeast strains and a 28 day total maceration time. Aged in new and used French and American oak for 20 months. 100 cases made.

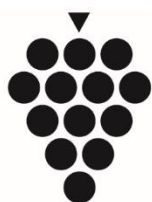
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Experts Tasting 2024

**Date: Thursday June 6, 2024**

**Theme: Then & Now**

**Exploring the Ageability of Ontario VQA wines by tasting current releases and a mature vintage of the same bottling, side-by-side.**



**Cool Climate  
Oenology &  
Viticulture Institute**

*Subscribe to CCOVI's Newsletter:*

*<https://brocku.ca/ccovi/contact-us/#subscribe>*