

**December 13, 2010**

**Happy Holidays!**

We would like to wish everyone a very happy Holiday Season and all the best for the coming New Year. Please be advised that the Wine Council of Ontario office will be closing at 12:00pm on Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will reopen on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

**London Wine and Food Show**

There are still a few pods available for the London Wine and Food Show, January 14-16, 2011. Contact Linda Watts for information.

**Cool Climate Chardonnay Tasting in New York**

There has been great interest in taking on the Big Apple! In addition to solid support from BC and ON, we have had our first response from NS.

The entry forms are attached. If you have any problems opening them, please contact Bill Redelmeier.

The judging will take place on January 16 in Toronto. This means that all of the entries must be in by Jan 11 2011, with the wines at Southbrook to be collated and flighted for the tastings.

The invitations for the judges to take part have gone out. So far David Lawrason, John Szabo, Michael Pinkus and of course Head Judge Tony Aspler are already confirmed.

If you are interested in taking part in this tasting, could you please respond to this email, without committing yourself; likewise if you would like to be taken off of this distribution list, please contact Bill Redelmeier at Southbrook Vineyards at: [bill@southbrook.com](mailto:bill@southbrook.com) or 905 641 2548

**Top 30 Under 30**

A reminder that nominations for the Top 30 Under 30 close on December 15, 2010.

It is that time of year again to celebrate the great young stars of Ontario's Hospitality Industry. For the past five years the Ontario Hospitality Institute (OHI) has recognized some of our great young performers through our Top 30 under 30 program. We are looking for YOU to nominate exceptional individuals working in *any* aspect of the hospitality industry that have a significant positive impact including front line employees, managers, small business owners, suppliers, marketers, media and any other aspect of this business that supports and fuels our great industry.

Please help support this cause by nominating someone that you know is deserving of this recognition. Those eligible must be under the age of 30 on December 31 of this year. They should have proven to be dedicated hospitality professionals who are leaders in their respective field. We welcome nominees from tourism and resorts, golf clubs,

restaurants, hotels, educators and students, sommeliers, event management, contract services, attractions and suppliers in all aspects of the industry including beer, wine, grapes, dry goods, equipment and fresh foods.

Nomination Forms will be found on the OHI web-site: [www.theohi.ca](http://www.theohi.ca) after September 15<sup>th</sup>, each year. The form can be downloaded, completed and faxed to the OHI, or it can be completed on-line and e-mailed to the OHI.

The nominations period will be from September 15<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2010.

Nominees will hear back by early January 2011 with information that will permit them to complete applications and provide any necessary documentation. This application and portfolio package must be returned to the Ontario Hospitality Institute Office located at 300 Adelaide St., East – Suite # 339, TORONTO, ON M5A 1N1 - Not later than January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### **WCO Member's Site**

We have launched the new member-only site which gives WCO Members an easy-to-use source for all your member needs. Topics will include: meeting notices, marketing programs, member benefits, industry statistics and sales data, government updates and much more. Meeting notices and minutes, upcoming events, past weekly e-blasts will all be available. Be assured, this site will not replace any of the current WCO communications but be an easy-to-access portal to find misplaced emails, documents etc.

To ensure you, as a member, have access please follow the link below to create your account. Once your application is complete – you will be sent a confirmation, within a day, to your email address to indicate your account is created.

Create your account today! Go to: <http://members.winesofontario.org/login.php> - Click on "Don't have an account? Apply Now!"

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Regina.

### **WCO Social Media campaign**

Be sure to submit your winery's event to [www.winesofontario.org/submit-event](http://www.winesofontario.org/submit-event) for posting on the website. Content for the WCO social Media campaign will be pulling events from that site.

**Blog** is launched – check out the newly launched Wine Country Ontario BLOG at <http://blog.winesofontario.org>

### **MPP Challenge to increase VQA Restaurant Award of Excellence Winners**

On December 2, 2010 we successfully launched a challenge to MPPs to help grow the list for VQA Award of Excellence Winners. Over 90 people attended including 33 MPPs in person plus several members of the Press Gallery.

Part of the toolkit to MPPs was “VQA Calling Cards” that they can use to hand out to restaurants that might be eligible for the award. We encourage wineries to help support this program by asking your sales team to talk about this program when visiting licensees. For additional information and if you would like to receive “VQA Calling Cards” for your sales staff please contact Linda Watts.

**Thompson, Ahern and Co. International Trade and Logistics Services**

Attached is a presentation from Andrew Stuart of Thompson, Ahern & Co. Contact Andrew directly for more information and quotes for international ocean freight shipments.