

FIRST IN LINE

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THE BEST RELEASES IN ONTARIO FROM VINTAGES, THE LCBO, IMPORTERS AND ONTARIO WINERIES BY DAVID LAWRASON WITH JEFF DAVIS

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ONTARIO WINE:

by David Lawrason



Prince Edward County's DVA Coming Out Party

On Monday, June 11 Ontario Economic Development Minister Gerry Phillips made it official – Prince Edward County is now a legal Designated Viticultural Area, joining other VQA regions like Niagara Peninsula and Lake Erie North Shore. Under Ontario law wines saying Prince Edward County on the label will now

contain a minimum of 85% County fruit. Thus endeth the confusion surrounding this region on the north shore of Lake Ontario, where expectation and hype have run ahead of its ability to produce sufficient quantity of County grapes.

By co-incidence some of the best wines of the County were featured June 8 and 9th at Artevino, the annual fundraiser for the Quinte Arts Council, that incorporates a County wine competition. So the Friday tasting and Saturday medal dinner became the logical platform to toast the historic occasion. Over 125 people attended the County Medal winner dinner and art and wine auction hosted by Capers Wine Bar & Brassiere in Belleville and the Quinte Arts Council. Stephen Ranger, CEO of Ritchie's Auctioneers in Toronto presided over the evening. Chefs from seven Belleville restaurants collaborated on the dinner, each preparing a course matched to an award-winning wine.

Here are the wines that showed up at the dinner, plus a couple of others that scored well at Artevino. The ratings are my personal ratings; not necessarily reflecting the official ratings of the competition. (DL)

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BLACK PRINCE WINERY **1/2 NV VIDAL

Ontario
ON \$13.95

A silver medalist at Artevino and double gold winner at the All Canada Wine Championships. Perhaps the best Vidal table wine I have tasted to date, with terrific poise, minerality and balance. A touch of youthful sulphur should dissipate. Lovely pristine feel and apple fruit on the finish. Very good length. (DL)

