Grape Growers of Ontario
Cuveé Award of Excellence in Viticulture

Nominations are now being accepted for the **Grape Growers of Ontario Cuvée Award of Excellence in Viticulture.** The award will be presented at the Cuvée Gala where we showcase the best Ontario VQA wines. It is in that same spirit we take the opportunity to recognize a grower who promotes excellence in their vineyard practices.

Nomination Guidelines:

- Nominations will open: June 10, 2012 and remain open until June 30, 2012.
- Application/Nominations are limited to the first ten (10) nominees.
- The Nominator must NOT be an immediate family relative of the nominee.
- No nominations by employee or employer of nominee.
- Nominator is not made public only to the nominee and judges.
- The Nominator can only put forward one Nominee in any given year and should only nominate within the specified "Award Category" of that year (see application form for category specified).
- The Nominee must be a member of the Grape Growers of Ontario.
- Nominations are to be directed to the Niagara Community Foundation (NCF) (see application form). The ten successful nominees will be confirmed in writing by the NCF. All others will also be notified by the NCF.
- The award winner will be notified by the NCF and receive two complementary tickets to attend the Cuvée Gala to accept the award. The NCF will contact the award recipient for further details.

Award Categories:

- One (1) award will be given annually on a rotating basis: **Cuvée 2013 Award Category is Best White Vinifera**

Selection Criteria:

- Only one (1) block may be nominated per grower/owner each year. One (1) block is considered to be a minimum of 0.5 contiguous hectare within a business that is six (6) commercial hectares (minimum) in size.
- Vineyard management must be under direction of the nominee or direct employee of the nominee (no vineyards custom managed by a 3rd party paid strictly to manage the vineyard will be allowed – however true share cropping agreements are acceptable).

Evaluation Process:

- Vineyard Evaluation will take place three times. The Grower Nominee will not know the specific date for Site Visits One and Two but will be contacted prior to the visit for permission and safety reasons. The Nominee must notify the Evaluation Team coordinator at least 3 days prior to harvest to allow for judging of Site Visit #3 – Harvest Evaluation. Failure to notify the Evaluation Team Coordinator will void the applicant from the competition.

Vineyard Evaluation Procedure Process:

- **Site Visit #1 -** Confirmation and "Tagging". After the Grower Nominee has been confirmed the one hectare vineyard lot will be mapped and "tagged" by the evaluation team in accordance with the nominee. The Evaluation Team will assess the vineyard cultural practices employed using a Cultural Management Scorecard (CMS). **Timeline**: 2nd to 3rd week of July
- **Site Visit #2 -** Veraison Evaluation. Two scorecards will assess the vineyard – 1) Vineyard Scorecard and 2) CMS. Evaluation will respect cultivar specific attributes that will allow for cross cultivar comparisons. **Timeline**: 3rd week of August
- **Site Visit #3 -** Harvest Evaluation. The third evaluation will take place three days prior to harvest (based on nominees notification to the Evaluation Team). It will assess crop balance, fruit exposure and fruit integrity. A berry sample will be taken at this time for fruit quality evaluation using grape maturity assessment through berry sensory analysis. An analysis of soluble solids will also be completed to ensure fruit meets the minimum VQA standards. VA concentrations will only be determined if there is a question of fruit integrity. All vineyards will be evaluated using a statistically sound sampling pattern.

- Each phase within the Evaluation Process will use numerical scorecards - scores will be tabulated by the NCF.

Evaluation Team:

- A minimum of three (3) experts judges from, or affiliated with, the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) at Brock University. Judges can include: CCOVI researchers, Department of Biological Sciences faculty members, lecturers or experienced staff, CCOVI Fellows and CCOVI Professional Affiliates. One team member must be a Viticulturalist who can perform any analyses associated with Site Visit #3.
- A maximum of three (3) senior level or graduate Oenology & Viticulture students from Brock University (as CCOVI is dedicated to academic training and research this award adjudication should be looked upon as a valuable learning experience, however, the student scoring will not be weighted in as part of final evaluation.)

Application/Nomination Form
2013 Award Category: Best White Vinifera

Name of Nominee:	
Please circle off the most appropriate answer – Nominee is: a) OWNER b) OWNER/MANAGER c) SHARE CROPPING	
○ Yes, nominee is a member of the Grape Growers of Ontario (NCF to verify)	
Address:	
Postal Code:	Telephone:
Email:	
Site is being managed for what producer:	
Nominated by: Nominator Telephone: Nominator Email: Nominator Signature:	

Nominations Open: **June 10, 2012**
Nominations Close: **June 30, 2012**
Notification to Vineyard Nominee: **July 30, 2012**

Winner will be notified in advance of the *Cuvée* and will receive an invitation to attend the Cuvee Gala to receive his/her plaque of recognition.

Date of the Cuvée Gala 2013: ***Friday March 1, 2013***

Nominations will be held in confidence. Please direct your Nomination via E-mail or Fax to:
JoAnne Krick, Niagara Community Foundation
E-mail: joanne.krick@niagaracommunityfoundation.org
Tel: 905-684-8688 Fax: 905-684-2337

Please copy form as necessary.