

BROCK UNIVERSITY MEDIA RELEASE

R00051

May 28, 2010

Cool Climate Oenology & Viticulture Institute, Brock University
905-688-5550 x4471

Ontario Chardonnays win praise at UK tasting

Move over, Icewine, and make room on the world stage for Ontario Chardonnay.

At a major event in the UK on May 17, some 22 Ontario wineries showcased their cool climate Chardonnays before the world's most notorious critics – British wine writers. And the jury came away with a new perspective on what they tasted.

"Ontario can now be taken seriously as a world-class wine producer," said British wine writer Jancis Robinson.

Canadian wine writer Tony Aspler, who co-organized the event, wrote that critics such as Robinson, Oz Clarke, Steven Spurrier and Stephen Brook "all had complimentary things to say" about the wines presented. "This could be a historic tasting in changing UK perceptions about Ontario wine."

The event – *Ontario Chardonnay: seriously cool* – was held at Canada House in London, one day before the London International Wine Fair. It was the brainchild of Bill Redelmeier of Southbrook Vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake, who was joined at the tasting by more than 30 other Ontario winery owners and winemakers.

Chardonnay was chosen for the UK tasting event as it is the most widely planted white grape variety in the province. Wines showcased at the London affair represented the four growing regions of the province – Niagara Peninsula, Lake Erie North Shore, Pelee Island and Prince Edward County.

The London event was aided by wine industry supporters, including Barb Tatarnic from Brock University's Cool Climate Viticulture and Oenology Institute (CCOVI), who helped put 40 Ontario vintages before the discerning critics.

Many of the wineries at the event have Brock graduates as winemakers, vineyard and retail managers or have partnered with Brock in a variety of ways. Since Brock's oenology and viticulture program was created in 1997, graduates have made a significant impact on the province's grape and wine industry by applying their knowledge gained through CCOVI.

For more info: Nathalie Dreifelds, Marketing and Communications Officer, CCOVI, Brock University, 905-688-5550 x4471; ndreifelds@brocku.ca