

## 2015 Official VQA Wines of Ontario's Legislative Assembly

**St. Catharines, ON (Wednesday, November 5, 2014):** The Grape Growers of Ontario, with the Honourable Speaker of the Legislature, Dave Levac of Brant County, hosted the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting event at Queen's Park on Tuesday, November 4. Bill George, Chair of the Grape Growers of Ontario, along with Debbie Zimmerman, CEO, are pleased to announce that the following have been chosen as the official wines of Ontario's Legislative Assembly for 2015:

**Red Wine: Burning Kiln Winery 2013 Strip Room**  
**White Wine: Fielding Estate Winery 2013 Pinot Grigio**

"This event to select the official VQA wines continues to grow in popularity and the Grape Growers of Ontario are pleased to have so many Members of Provincial Parliament attend the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Wine Tasting," said Bill George, Chair.

"The wines showcased at the wine tasting reflect the connection between 100% Ontario grown grapes and the winemakers who craft them. We thank all participating wineries," said Debbie Zimmerman, CEO.



**Mike McArthur, President of Burning Kiln Winery, with Patti Fixter, Bill George, Debbie Zimmerman and Karen Matthews.**



**Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the House, Heidi Fielding and 2014 Grape King, Kevin Buis.**

"We are honoured to have our Strip Room 2013 chosen as the official red wine of the Ontario Legislature. As we move closer to becoming our own designated viticulture area, this award helps shine the spotlight on Ontario's South Coast Wine and Growers Association and our Norfolk County home," said Karen Matthews, Director of Winery Operations at Burning Kiln Winery.

"On behalf of the Fielding family and winemaking team, we are thrilled and honoured to have our new 2013 Pinot Grigio selected as the official white wine served and sold at Queen's Park. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary at Fielding Estate Winery in 2015 and there is no better way to celebrate this milestone than knowing that our VQA wine will be enjoyed by Queen's Park all year long," said Heidi Fielding. "Over the years we have received numerous accolades including being named one of Canada's Top 10 Wineries twice and receiving a collection of awards and medals for our red, white and sparkling wines. This opportunity to once again represent Niagara as the official white wine in Queen's Park is certainly one of the greatest honours for our entire team. Thank you from all of us at Fielding and enjoy!"

Members of Provincial Parliament gathered to select the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's official red and white VQA wine to be served at legislative functions throughout 2015. Participants tasted and marked their preferences on a voting ballot to determine which wines would be selected from six Ontario VQA wineries. The Grape Growers of Ontario thank the Honourable Speaker Dave Levac and look forward to continuing the tradition of the Legislative Wine Tasting with him in the future.

The Grape Growers of Ontario is the official organization that represents over 500 actively producing grape growers of 17,000 acres in the province's three viticulture areas: Niagara Peninsula, Lake Erie North Shore and Prince Edward County, and the emerging Norfolk County.

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