

**Jackson-Triggs Okanagan Named Canada's Best Winery
As Wine Access Unveils 2004 Canadian Wine Award Winners**

November 25, 2004 (Calgary, AB) – Canada's most authoritative wine magazine, *Wine Access*, revealed the winners of its 4th Annual Canadian Wine Awards today, naming Jackson-Triggs Okanagan Estate (JTO) Canada's **Winery of the Year** for the second consecutive year.

The awards program is open to all domestically produced wines that are certified 100 per cent Canadian grown, fermented and bottled. A record 716 table and fruit wines from 97 wineries in five different provinces were entered, representing a substantial increase from 2003 when 533 wines were entered from 82 wineries.

"This was the largest, most important Canadian Wine Awards (CWA) judging to date with a record number of wines entered," said David Lawrason, editor-in-chief, *Wine Access* Magazine.

"What's particularly impressive about Jackson-Triggs Okanagan winning the Winery of the Year award is that they won medals across a wide array of wine styles," said Lawrason. "And, with a medal ratio of 87.5 per cent (medals to wines entered) their consistency is quite obvious".

Quails' Gate of British Columbia gave JTO a real challenge, entering the same number of wines and earning only one less medal...although fewer gold. Like JTO, Quails' Gate is showing fine quality across several styles and varieties, really leaping a quality notch or two with its 2002 reds.

A three-way tie emerged for **Red Wine of the Year** between Quails' Gate 2002 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$35), Quails' Gate 2002 Family Reserve Merlot (\$40) and Sandhill 2002 Small Lots Syrah Phantom Creek Vineyard (\$29.99).

"The real message from our winners is that 2002 was a great vintage for red wine in British Columbia and Ontario," said Lawrason. "Every red finalist earned gold – a first for the Canadian Wine Awards."

Jackson-Triggs Okanagan 2003 Proprietors' Grand Reserve White Meritage (\$18.99) won top honour as **White Wine of the Year**. This is the first time a barrel-aged, Sauvignon-Semillon blend (the white Bordeaux formula) has won top spot.

Magnotta Winery's 2003 Vidal Sparkling Icewine from Ontario was awarded the **Dessert Wine of the Year** representing the first time a sparkling icewine has won the prestigious dessert wine category.

"Magnotta has proven that sparkling icewine is not just a gimmick and that it's possible to create a fine icewine behind the bubbles," Lawrason says.

In the best value categories, Hawthorne Mountain Vineyards 2003 Pinot Gris (\$14.99) won **Best Value White – Under \$15**; Magnotta Winery 2003 Trionfo received **Best Value Red – Under \$15**; and Lang Vineyards 2003 Late Harvest Riesling Select (\$19.40) was recognized as **Best Value Dessert Wine – Under \$30**.

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The wines were tasted blind in late August at The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise by an eleven-member panel of independent Canadian wine journalists and educators. As well as presenting gold, silver and bronze medals, the Canadian Wine Awards is one of few competitions to give each winner a numerical rating, to help consumers compare quality by an international standard.

For a complete list of results, visit www.wineaccess.ca or a newsstand near you for the December 2004 issue of *Wine Access*, Canada's leading wine magazine.

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