

**VQA ONTARIO**  
**Ontario's Wine Appellation Authority**  
**NEWS & TIPS NOVEMBER 2020**

**HARVEST REMINDERS – DEADLINE NOVEMBER 15**  
**ICEWINE – LATE HARVEST – SKIN FERMENTED WHITE**

Please remember to register your intent to make Skin Fermented White wines, Icewine, and Late Harvest wines. Online registrations must be received no later than Nov. 15, 2020.

Don't forget to check minimum brix requirements for appellation labelling before you blend.

Please contact [Katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca](mailto:Katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca) with any questions or if you require assistance.

**LAST TASTING OF 2020** – Good news, tastings will be available in December if volumes warrant. Regular weekly tastings will be held if there are at least 15 samples to evaluate. The last tasting will be scheduled for Wednesday, December 16 and tastings will resume on January 6, 2021.

**LAST LAB INTAKE OF 2020** – The LCBO laboratory will shut down for a period during December. The last intake for samples into the lab will be December 2 for results before year end.

**PLEASE UPLOAD YOUR LABELS** – There are a large number of in-process wine approval applications where tasting and laboratory testing has been completed but no labels have been uploaded. Please upload your labels when you have a moment. This will keep the system running smoothly and reduce your risk of releasing or advertising a wine before approval.

**VQA INVOICES – PLEASE COPY TO YOUR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

We continue to make progress towards automating our invoicing and payment system.

Here are a few user hints to get the most out of the system:

- Review your invoices at any time by going to the "Invoices & Payments" page
- Make sure whomever pays your bills and issues cheques can access this page (Note: their UserID must be assigned the role of "Finance")
- Outstanding unpaid invoices can be selected for payment by checking the adjacent box (you can select one or more to pay in a lump sum)
- If you are paying multiple invoices by cheque, please use the selection feature – select the invoices you wish to pay and click on "Choose Payment Method". This will generate an aggregated invoice with the correct total, and all the details including HST. Find your aggregate invoice by toggling to the "Aggregate (Bulk) Invoices" tab at the top of the grid.
- Older unpaid invoices tend to disappear off the bottom of the page (or be filtered out by default date settings). A new box has been added at the top of the page indicating the number of outstanding invoices. If this is not zero, you owe VQA Ontario money.

- If we owe you money and have issued a credit – it will appear on the invoices page as an administrative invoice with a negative balance Apply your credit by selecting it together with any invoice(s) owing that is greater than the credit and pay the remaining amount shown on the aggregate invoice.
- Use the filters at the top of the page to de-clutter your invoice grid: filter by time range, calendar year, invoice# or wine approval ID.
- Use the field at the bottom of the page to increase the number of rows shown. Be aware that if you “select all” it will select only invoices that are visible on the page at that time.

## USE OF VQA TERMS BEFORE A WINE IS RELEASED

The use of VQA terms for pre-release advertising is acceptable when the wine is not yet approved if it is clearly eligible for approval and the use of terms is accompanied by a disclaimer. The following standardized disclaimer must be used:

***Disclaimer - This wine has not yet been approved by VQA Ontario. The use of certain descriptive terms that are regulated under the VQA Act is subject to final testing and approval by the wine authority.***

The disclaimer must appear in printed or electronic documents and media that describe a particular wine that is not yet approved. It must appear in a legible fashion in a location that is reasonably close to where the VQA terms are used. VQA terms may never be used on the labels or packaging of a wine that is not approved and, in the event that the wine has been submitted and not approved, all references to VQA terms must be immediately discontinued in promotional materials.

Also – don't forget that all the rules that apply to use of terms on wine labels also apply to signage, advertising, websites and even social media! If you can't say it on the bottle, you can't say it on your website.

If you have any questions or are unsure please contact [katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca](mailto:katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca)