

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

HARVEST REMINDERS – LATE HARVEST – ICEWINE – SKIN FERMENTED WHITE

Remember to register your intent to make Skin Fermented White wines, Icewines, and Late Harvest wines. Online registrations must be received no later than November 15, 2020.

Please note that if we have not received payment for your Icewine testing from the past vintage, you will not be able to register any late harvest or Icewine grapes for this vintage.

Please contact kaitin.wilson@vqaontario.ca with any questions or if you require assistance.

MINIMUM AVERAGE BRIX FOR VQA – BY GRAPE VARIETY*

Make sure all your grapes meet the required minimum average brix for VQA and for the appellation you want to use on the label.

Please keep this chart handy during harvest! Print a free-standing copy from [here](#) and post it at the crush pad.

If you have questions, please contact katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca

Vitis Vinifera Varieties	MINIMUM for VQA ONTARIO	MINIMUM for VQA APPELLATION
Cabernet Franc	18.0	20.0
Cabernet Sauvignon	19.0	20.0
Chardonnay	18.0	20.0
Chardonnay Musque	18.0	18.0
Gamay Noir	18.0	19.0
Gewurztraminer	18.0	19.0
Merlot	19.0	20.5
Muscats	17.0	17.0
Pinot Blanc	17.5	18.0
Pinot Gris/Grigio	17.5	18.5
Pinot Noir	18.5	19.5
Riesling	17.0	17.0
Sauvignon Blanc	17.0	18.0
Syrah/Shiraz	18.0	19.5
Viognier	18.0	19.0
All others	17.0	18.0

HYBRID VARIETIES	Eligible for VQA ONTARIO ONLY
Baco Noir	19.5
Chambourcin	18.0

Marechal Foch	19.0
Marquette	19.5
Vidal Blanc	18.0
Others	17.0

***This is a sampling of commonly used grapes. For the full table and all requirements please see Reg. 406 at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/000406>**

SKIN FERMENTED WHITE – CATEGORY REFRESHER

In July 2016, VQA Ontario became the first wine region to regulate white wines fermented in contact with their skins. We call this category Skin Fermented White wines and the rules for the production of these wines in Ontario can be found in Reg. 406 here: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/000406>

Registration of Intent: at harvest wineries must register their grapes for Skin Fermented White wines using our online registration system. Registrations must be received by Nov. 15th of the harvest year.

***We cannot register grapes for this category retroactively* You must notify us of your intent, not after the fact.**

To qualify for the category, a Skin Fermented White wine must also meet these criteria:

- Be 100% fermented on the skins for at least 10 days
- Be produced from fresh white or pink grapes from the approved grapes list

Labelling Terms: the term SKIN FERMENTED WHITE must appear on the front label, at least as large as the grape variety. If no grape variety appears, Skin Fermented White must be at least 3.2 mm. Other terms like amber wine, orange wine, etc. may be used, but only in addition to the regulated term Skin Fermented White.

Wines that do not qualify for the category may not use the term Skin Fermented White or any synonym (amber, orange, etc.).

Other Terms: the labelling rules for Unfiltered or Bottled with Lees apply to this category. If a wine is Unfiltered or Bottled with Lees, turbidity limits are relaxed but the appropriate term must appear on the label.

Please contact katherina.radcliffe@vqaontario.ca with any questions you might have.

VIN DE CURE / APPASSIMENTO RULE CHANGES FOR COMMENT

A Proposal for Rule Change for the Vin De Cure category has been circulated to all members for comment. If you make these wines or intend to make these wine, please take the time to review this proposal and send any comments you may have to laurie.macdonald@vqaontario.ca no later than Sept. 30, 2020.

YOUR INPUT IS STILL NEEDED: INDUSTRY SURVEY: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON YOUR WINERY BUSINESS

*Forwarded on behalf of Ontario Craft Wineries and the Wine Growers Ontario. If you have received this request through other correspondence, please ensure only one survey is completed per winery.

OCW and WGO asks all wineries to complete this survey to ensure they have a fair representation of Ontario's VQA wineries when advocating to all levels of government during these challenging times. Of note, this is the second joint industry survey between the Ontario Craft Wineries and Wine Growers Ontario to assess ongoing COVID-19 impacts on our sector. **The deadline has been extended to September 4 to ensure full participation.** Please note that the data collected will be kept anonymous and will **NOT** include identifying information, such as your company name. Here is a [link](#) to the industry survey.