

NIAGARA WINE *festival*

62 YEARS AND NOW THREE WEEKENDS OF PROGRAMMING!

St. Catharines, ON – Join the Niagara Grape & Wine Festival for its 62nd Annual Niagara Wine Festival taking place September 14th through 29th, 2013.

The Festival wine route programming will launch a week earlier as we invite cycling enthusiasts from across North America to take part in the GranFondo Niagara September 13-15th. Whether you are part of the GranFondo Niagara or simply want to enjoy the Niagara Wine Route for three weekends during harvest, the Niagara Wine Festival Discovery Pass is your ticket to eight incredible wine and culinary experiences at participating wineries.

On weekend two and three the harvest celebration continues in Downtown St. Catharines where historic Montebello Park presents six days of incredible live entertainment, culinary and wine seminars, parades and VQA wines and favourite local restaurants. Starting with the annual RBC Business Awards and Opening Night ceremonies; including a New Award for the Winery with Heart, recognizing a Niagara winery's philanthropic efforts. The awards will be followed by the kick off concert with favourite 80's retro bands *The Spoons* and *Blue Peter*.

For two weekends, the WestJet Centre Stage along with Sun Media and Astral Radio, will host a roster full of incredible Canadian talent. From beginning to end popular local bands and Tribute bands take the stage including: *The Caverners*, *Elton Rohn*, *Desire U2 Tribute* and *Hotel California*. And on Parade Day weekend, breakout band *Crystalyne* will get the party started and Tragically Hip Tribute band; *The Wheat Kings* will close things off on Sunday.

In historic Montebello Park, the Fallsview Casino Resort hosts The Wine and Culinary Food Experience presenting over 100 VQA wines available for tasting along with local culinary favourites. And due to popular demand, a showcase of premium wines will be featured by the glass from your favourite wineries as well as in the All Access Lounge.

On Saturdays; "Educate Your Senses" Culinary and Wine Seminars presented by the Canadian Food and Wine Institute and CCOVI at Brock University and hosted by Best Selling author and wine industry personality, Dr. Linda Bramble, will engage local chefs and winemakers, as well as the Dairy Farmers of Canada, in lively demonstrations, discussions and tastings.

And New to Sunday programming will be the East Vs West; Winemakers Showdown luncheon; where graduate winemakers from both CCOVI and the Niagara College Teaching Winery will team up with Canadian Food and Wine Institute Chefs and Dairy Farmers of Canada to compete for the best wine and foods pairing during this four course culinary showcase. Canadian TV and Radio personality, Terry David Mulligan will moderate the first Sunday's showdown.

And the CIBC Grande Parade takes place on Saturday September 28th and will present "Honouring Our Heroes, Then and Now". As we continue to commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and bridge history with the present day heroes. This toast to the past and our Bi-nationalism will include marching bands, dance troops, floats and amazing performers. Don't forget your non perishable food items for the annual Community Care Food Drive.

For more information, please contact:

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Niagara Grape & Wine Festival

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