

NIAGARA NEW VINTAGE *festival*

PRESS RELEASE

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A New Vintage from Vine to Wine

St. Catharines, ON- Join the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival for the 17th Annual New Vintage Festival this June.

Enjoy this year's summer solstice with the Discovery Pass Program, taking place weekends; June 16th through 24th, 2012. The Discovery Pass is your ticket to 6 wineries for two weekends of wine and culinary adventures at participating wineries across Niagara. This year's New Vintage Festival is a showcase of the best in winemaking from over 30 wineries and Farm-to-Table cuisine prepared by Niagara's most celebrated chefs.

Also, Deborah Levy from Dairy Farmers of Canada will be working closely with participating wineries to provide New Vintage visitors with the opportunity to explore incredible artisanal cheeses with Wine and Cheese Seminars. The cheese selections will compliment the various winemakers' styles and tastes.

The Niagara Grape and Wine Festival would like to welcome back TD as the Title Sponsor of the much talked about New Vintage Tailgate Party. TD has been a cherished partner of the Festival for several years, and look forward to hosting another successful event together.

The Tailgate Party showcases the best in local flavours and chefs. Ross Midgley, Executive Chef of WINDOWS by Jamie Kennedy says: **'The best advice I was given upon starting university was 'to never miss a Tailgate party' - good advice, and words I have lived by. How lucky, therefore, to be once again on the roster of food partners for this year's New Vintage Tailgate - WINDOWS by Jamie Kennedy is so thrilled to be involved with this, Niagara's most exciting food and wine event! Celebrating the natural bounty of Niagara with exquisite farm-to-table cuisine and world class cool-climate wines. From the food to the wine to the music to the people to the vintage farm trucks to the breathtaking vineyards - one could not have more fun.'**

Grape Grower of the Year and Grape King Ed Hughes will be hosting the third annual TD Tailgate Party at Hughes Vineyards in Beamsville on Saturday June 16th, 2012 from 5:30 – 9:30pm. This casual kick off to summer will feature over 30 wineries and many of the winemakers, 8 of Niagara's most talented chefs and also feature delicious Canadian cheeses sponsored by Dairy Farmers of Canada.

The TD Tailgate Party entertains with live country- rock by the Black Spurs, a "Country Fair" auction, and a complete green theme to reflect the efforts in our community. The eve of our summer's solstice is sure to be an evening to remember.

Discovery Passes are \$30, Tailgate Party tickets are \$85, and Wine Seminars are \$20 each (plus HST). All are available by ordering online at www.niagarawinefestival.com or calling the Festival office at 905-688-0212.

For more information please contact Kimberly Hundertmark, Executive Director, Niagara Grape and Wine Festival at kimberlyh@niagarawinefestival.com or by calling 905-688-0212 x 117.