

Spring Newsletter

MARCH - APRIL

UPCOMING EVENTS IN KINGSVILLE:

- June 6&7 Sip into Summer
- July 3-5 Festival Epicure
- Aug 1-3 Fine Art Fine Wine
- Aug 9 Vintage Tasting at Sprucewood 1-4pm
- Sept 10-13 Erie Shores Wines Festival
- Oct 17 Wild Game Dinner
- Nov 28, 29 Kingsville Open House

UPCOMING EVENTS ON PELEE ISLAND

- May 9 Springsong
- May 15 Opening Day on the Island
- May 16 Season Opening and Victoria Day Celebrations
- June 20 Total Recall
- July 24 Dinner and Wine Series
- Aug 1&2 Civic Holiday Celebrations
- Aug 8&9 Pelee Fest
- Sept 19 Harvest Dinner

New to Pelee Island Winery

This year Pelee Island Winery is proud to be introducing 2 new wines to our extensive wine list, Monarch, and Umbrella, a Gewurztraminer Riesling Blend.

Monarch is a light red wine with a touch of sweetness that is impossible to pass up! Since its introduction in February, it is difficult to keep in the store! This red wine is lively with a ripe jam fruit flavour and a welcoming aroma of cherry and violets that give way to a balanced finish with robust tannins.

Umbrella is a complimentary blend of Gewurztraminer and Riesling. This wine is imparted with the best from both! It is a pale straw colour and shows an abundance of flavours and aromas while still having a crisp lingering finish.



Best Harvest in 10 years

Submitted by Melissa Strickler, Pavilion Supervisor

Did the rain we had the other day affect the grapes at all? A better question is did all the sunshine we had today affect the grapes? People are always curious to know if rain has played a role in the development of grapes and it does to some extent but being that Pelee Island is in the middle of Lake Erie, one of the shallowest lakes in the great lake system, it is protected by the warm air created by the lake. This "hot water bottle" effect gives Pelee Island an extended growing season with more frost-free days per year when compared to the Ontario mainland. The reason for this is when a weather system approaches Lake Erie; the temperature of the lake breaks the system apart and forces it to follow the shoreline. With Pelee Island being located about 25 kilometers from the shores of the mainland; this creates a buffer zone where one can see a weather system approaching but nothing becomes of it since the island is too far from shore. However, the spring of 2008 was rather damp, with enough precipitation to encourage growth in the plants sooner than one could prune. However, later in the season Pelee Island experienced 7 weeks without rain during the month of August

and half of September. The plants responded positively to the warm, dry weather by developing the sugars in the plants. Nevertheless, harvest was delayed by a week compared to 2007 because without water, it was difficult for the plant to transfer the sugars into the grapes. In spite of the lack of moisture, Mother Nature smiled on the region and brought Hurricane Ike up from the Gulf Coast and enough rain fell to cause the sugars to move within the plant, creating the sugar levels desired to begin harvest. 2008 is a great year with not only desired sugar levels but also in the tonnage per acre of the grapes; it is both a quality and quantity year for Pelee Island Winery. We are expecting a great crop from all 40 varieties of grapes that are grown but some of those worth mentioning are Gewürztraminer, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Gamay Noir, Zweigelt, Select Late Harvest Riesling, and Late Harvest Pinot Grigio, with their great colours, respectable bunch formation, high sugar contents, and proper tannin levels.

For More Information
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