

News Release



Ontario Imported Wine-Spirit-Beer Association

OIWSBA Celebrates 30th Annual Awards Dinner

TORONTO/ - The Ontario Imported Wine-Spirit-Beer Association (OIWSBA) held its 30th annual Awards Dinner last Friday evening (February 13), honouring parties who have helped over the past year to enhance Ontario consumers' knowledge of and appreciation for imported beverage alcohol products. Spain and Portugal were the host countries of this year's gala Dinner, held at the National Club. Guests from across the industry enjoyed thematic gourmet cuisine prepared by Executive Chef James Stewart, paired with premium products from Spain and Portugal.

After dinner, the following individuals were recognized by OIWSBA:

- **OIWSBA Achievement Award** -- John Swan (PMA Canada) in recognition of his contributions to the industry and to OIWSBA over the past 25 years;
- **OIWSBA Hospitality Award** -- Jean-Jacques Quinsac (Co-Owner, Le Sélect Bistro) in recognition of his establishment's success in enhancing the profile and appeal of imported beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace;
- **OIWSBA Industry Partnership Award** -- Dr. George Soleas (Vice President, LCBO Quality Assurance and Specialty Services) in recognition of his partnering with OIWSBA Members to resolve industry issues over the past year;
- **Jack Ackroyd Memorial Scholarship Award** -- honouring top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust students Sean Adams (Intermediate Certificate) and Nelson Abreu (Advanced Certificate);
- **Brian Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship Award** -- honouring top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student Nancy Reynolds (Diploma Program); and
- **Tony Aspler Blind Tasting Award** -- Andrew von Teichman (Vincor Canada).

"These award recipients have helped to raise the profile of imported beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace and we are very pleased to recognize their efforts" said Christopher Churchill, OIWSBA President (and President, Churchill Cellars Ltd.).

OIWSBA congratulates nominees in all Awards categories.

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Established in 1958, the Ontario Imported Wine-Spirit-Beer Association (OIWSBA) is the provincial trade association representing manufacturers, agents, importers, marketing groups and distributors of imported beverage alcohol products in Ontario. Membership also includes a number of international trade offices. OIWSBA members represent more than 90 per cent of all imported beverage alcohol products sold in Ontario. Imported beverage alcohol products continue to contribute significantly to the LCBO's record transfers to the Government and taxpayers of Ontario. In fiscal 2006-07, imported beverage alcohol products accounted for more than 58 per cent of LCBO net sales on a value basis (\$2.26 billion on LCBO net sales of \$3.895 billion) and almost 55.7 per cent of LCBO net sales on a volume basis (225.4 million litres on LCBO net sales of 404.7 million litres).

OIWSBA members are Ontario-owned businesses that provide direct and indirect employment to more than 1,700 people across the province. Profits from the sale of imported beverage alcohol products are used to support capital projects and social programs right across Ontario.

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