

TO: All Ohio Commercial Wineries

FROM: Todd Steiner, Enology Program Manager and Outreach Specialist

DATE: December 11, 2007

SUBJECT: January 2008 Ohio Quality Assurance Program Sensory Evaluation

After a successful completion of the 2007 Ohio Wine Competition that included wines entered into the first inaugural evaluation of wines submitted under the Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program in addition to the August 2007 OQW sensory evaluation, we are offering a third sensory evaluation submittal time set for January 15, 2008 for seal designation. We would like to cordially invite you to participate and contribute to the progress of our industry through identifying wines of consistent quality throughout the Ohio commercial wine industry.

A previous mailing from the Ohio Grape Industries Committee has been sent indicating the guidelines of this program. If you have not received this information please contact Christy Eckstein at the Ohio Grape Industries Committee for a copy of the rules and regulations. All Ohio Commercial Wines entered:

- Scoring high enough (15 points or above) as rated by our panel of five experienced judges are eligible for seal designation assuming all other parameters have been met according to the rules and regulations under the Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program.
- Are randomly coded, presented in the proper category and flight order to be evaluated blindly on a standard twenty point scale used in most competitions throughout the United States.

This is the last sensory evaluation being held prior to the main evaluation utilizing the 2008 Ohio Wine Competition that will be held in May of 2008. Sensory evaluation will occur under the same judging format as the Ohio Wine Competition in providing organoleptic consistency. Many of the judge's chosen will have had previous experience judging in the Ohio Wine Competition. The additional submittal times designated help to answer bottling of specific release dates during the calendar year. Check with the guidelines released from the Ohio Grape Industries Committee regarding the other submittal times. In addition, submittal of wine entries evaluated during the August 2007 OQW submittal which did not score enough points for seal designation will be allowed to enter the January evaluation at no extra charge.

As a second standard of quality, chemical analysis will be performed for each wine entry submitted into the seal program relating to Federal (TTB) limits on alcohol, volatile acidity and

total sulfur dioxide levels. As seen through the chemical analysis of wines entered into the Ohio Wine Competition, analytical results have correlated nicely with judge's comments regarding quality parameters and also provide a check on judging competence and accuracy.

Your wines are as precious to us as they are to you, which are reflected in our careful selection of experienced judges and our sincere efforts to provide as objective an evaluation as possible. In this spirit, we are looking forward to assessing wines to be entered into the August submittal of the Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program.

- The sensory evaluation will be held on January 15, 2008, at OARDC.
- A minimum of 10 wines is required for the sensory evaluation to be performed. In the event that we do not achieve the minimum amount of wines necessary to perform the sensory evaluation, the wines entered will be evaluated in the next submittal time according to the Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program guidelines.

As is the process for entering the Ohio Wine Competition, in order to comply with the Ohio Department of Liquor Control regulations, we must again adhere to the following procedures: We must buy 3 bottles of each wine to be entered into the competition at retail price (incl. sales tax).

- **The entry fee for each wine entered into the Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program is \$50 plus the retail price of 3 bottles of each wine (including sales tax.)**
- **Entry of a wine that was previously submitted in the August 2007 OQW sensory evaluation that did not receive a sensory score high enough for seal designation can enter the same wine again for a one time entry at no cost.**
- **The entry fee covers expenses for staff, facilities, chemical analysis and judge's expenses.**

The first step of the participating winery is to send the entry form and entry fee (including the retail price of three bottles per entry) as soon as possible, along with an invoice for the wines being submitted. Please do not ship the wines at this time, but wait until you receive payment for the wines from the OARDC. After you have received payment, please ship the wines to us as soon as possible.

This procedure provides us the proper paperwork necessary for confirmation of the purchased wines including sales tax. We have initiated the process of proposing legislation to include a research and extension exemption through the Ohio Department of Liquor Control for the Viticulture and Enology program at The Ohio State University/OARDC. Hopefully, this proposed legislation would enable our commercial wineries the ability to donate their wines in future submittals into the Ohio Wine Competition and Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program. We appreciate your patience, understanding and commitment to the Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program in going through this procedure once again.

Entry forms for the 2008 Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program will be posted online at the Ohio Grape Web with the following link, <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/grapeweb/> for printing of

entries done by computer. The entry forms and entry fees should be sent to the address listed on the entry form literature.

We would appreciate if you sent the entry forms, entry fees and the invoices as soon as possible, so we can start the process of organization. Thank you! Entry deadline is January 8, 2008. **Entry deadlines will be strict in helping determine the number of wines necessary to perform the sensory evaluation.**

We would also especially like to recognize the Ohio Grape Industries Committee for their support, marketing efforts and assistance with the implementation of the Ohio Quality Wine Assurance Program for the betterment of the commercial Ohio grape and wine industry.

cc: Christy Eckstein
Dr. Clay Sneller