



## Inniskillin Reserve Cabernet Franc wins Best Red Wine at Cuvée

Inniskillin grower Albrecht Seeger also honoured

The 22nd Annual Cuvée proved a successful evening for both Inniskillin and Inniskillin grower Albrecht Seeger. Inniskillin won Best Overall Red with the 2007 Cabernet Franc Reserve while Albrecht Seeger won Cuvée Award of Excellence in Viticulture.

Billed as the Oscars of the wine industry and held at the prestigious Grand Ball Room of the Fallsview Casino, over 800 guests enjoyed the fine wines and fine foods after an exciting Awards Ceremony.

The awards given out Friday, February 19th at the Gala included:

**Best Red Wine** - Inniskillin 2007 Cabernet Franc Reserve **GOLD**  
**Best Cabernet Franc** - Inniskillin 2007 Cabernet Franc Reserve **GOLD**  
Available at select LCBO stores in Vintages, Winery Boutique  
Price: \$16.95 (will return to \$18.95 in the spring)



### **Cuvée Award of Excellence in Viticulture** Albrecht Seeger

Seeger's win in this category was the second consecutive year for one of Inniskillin's growers. The **Cuvée 2009 Viticulture Award** went to **Martin Schuele**.

Both Albrecht Seeger and Martin Schuele and their families came to Canada in the mid 70s from Germany to pursue the growing of vinifera grapes to provide to wineries interested in producing premium wines. Their skill and expertise started in Germany with strong family traditions. This dedication and commitment led them to be selected by Inniskillin for single vineyard bottlings starting in the early 80s. Here their efforts could be recognized and linked to the quality of the wine, specific to their terroir and vineyard techniques. Their name was proudly profiled on the front label to share in the efforts of their labour.

We have had the following single vineyard bottlings from these two growers:

**Seeger Vineyard:** Chardonnay and Riesling.  
**Schuele Vineyard:** Chardonnay, Riesling and Merlot

Today we continue to utilize their grapes in the Inniskillin Winemaker's Series either as single vineyards or a blend of a few top vineyards as well as in various Vincor products.

Seeger's vineyards are in **Niagara on the Lake** where he predominantly grows Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet Franc and Vidal for Inniskillin Icewine. Seeger purchased the vineyard right across from Inniskillin Winery in 1978 from Inniskillin four years after Donald Ziraldo had planted it to give Inniskillin a source of vinifera grapes which in those days were hard to source.

Schuele's vineyards are next to Lake Ontario in **Beamsville** where he predominantly grows Chardonnay, Riesling, Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc.

### **Background on Cuvée**

The Cuvée Wine Awards are the only awards in Canada where the winning wines are chosen by the winemakers. The judging process upholds strict criteria for the award winners and the wines selected for pouring at the Gala.

Each participating winery enters its three best wines into the competition and can also present two wines distributed through the LCBO to compete in the Best LCBO Red Wine and Best LCBO White Wine categories.

This year, 45 winemakers tasted over 200 wines from 56 wineries to determine the winners. In addition, during the judging process, judges are asked to indicate if wines merit a Cuvée Gold designation, demonstrating international standards for excellence in quality. The Cuvée Award Winners are provided on the attached sheet.

### **For more information, contact:**

Deborah Pratt,  
1.888.466.4754 x 5410 or 905.468.2187 x 5410  
[dpratt@inniskillin.com](mailto:dpratt@inniskillin.com)

[inniskillin.com](http://inniskillin.com)