

News Release

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES CANADIAN WINES TO BE RECOMMENDED FOR USE AT OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, today announced the names of a group of Canadian wines recommended to her by an independent panel of experts for use at Department of External Affairs functions in Canada and at diplomatic missions abroad.

Miss Carney made the announcement at a wine tasting organized for the Department by Andrew Sharp, a recognized wine authority and an expert on Canadian wines. Mr. Sharp chose as judges seven leading wine writers whose articles appear in newspapers and magazines across Canada.

Twenty-four wineries participated in the tasting, and submitted a total of 147 wines. External Affairs will recommend to officials that they feature the chosen wines at Departmental functions over the next year. The Department hopes that this will help raise awareness, in Canada and internationally, of the quality of many Canadian wines.

"Even in Canada, few wine drinkers are aware that the best of our wine is on a par with fine wines produced in the more traditional wine-making countries," Miss Carney said.

She noted that wineries in both the Niagara region of Ontario and the Okanagan/Similkameen region of British Columbia have been attracting attention recently by winning awards at international wine competitions.

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