

CONSTITUTION

The Ontario Wine Society (OWS)

Version 2.2, September 2008

Revision History

Version number	Date	Reason for revision
1.0	October 2004	To create a Constitution for the Ontario Wine Society
2.0	February 2008	To formally recognize the existence of Chapters of the Ontario Wine Society
2.1	September 2008	To incorporate changes suggested during meetings re the strategic business plan
2.2	September 2008	To incorporate changes suggested at the September 8 th meeting

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- 1) The name of the organization is the Ontario Wine Society.
- 2) The organization is a not-for-profit Ontario wine promotion, education, enjoyment and social club.
- 3) The Purpose of the organization is to provide a forum for Ontario wines for individual and Industry members. This will be accomplished by;
 - i) Promoting the wines of Ontario wineries by activities that may include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Conducting tastings and dinners featuring Ontario wine;
 - (b) Providing joint advertising opportunities with Ontario wineries;
 - (c) Identifying opportunities for promoting Ontario wines by continually seeking the input of Ontario wineries.
 - ii) Providing wine educational, enjoyment and social opportunities for its members and their guests by activities that may include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Producing and distributing promotional material about the Society;
 - (b) Increasing the membership of existing chapters within the Society;
 - (c) Establishing new chapters of the Society, where feasible;
 - (d) Holding regular wine tasting events;
 - (e) Holding special wine tasting events like annual dinners, winemakers' dinners, Icewine weekends and wine tours;
 - (f) Comparing Ontario wines with wines from other regions of Canada and the world;

- (g) Matching Ontario wines with food;
 - (h) Obtaining people knowledgeable about Ontario wines to speak at wine tasting events, for example, winemakers, winery owners, Ontario wine writers, restaurateurs.
- iii) Communicating regularly with Society individual and Industry members and the public at large through activities that may include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Issuing a regular newsletter;
 - (b) Maintaining a web site, and, if appropriate, an internet email inquiry/answer service;
 - (c) Maintaining a telephone wine line;
- iv) Supporting the wine industry of Ontario by activities that many include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Donating funds annually to either a scholarship for winemakers in training and/or the winery and viniculture educational program(s) given by Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute and Niagara College;
 - (b) Sponsoring the Ontario Wine Awards as part of our corporate advertising strategy;
 - (c) Attending industry events, for example, Cuvee, the Ontario Wine Awards presentation ceremony.
- 4) The Purpose of the organization will be carried out on a not-for-profit basis, without intention of financial gain for its members, and any net revenues of the organization will be used only for promoting and/or accomplishing its Purpose.
- 5) The organization consists of Chapters that operate in various geographic areas under a Corporate umbrella. Corporate functions are listed in the Corporate By-Laws and are carried out by the Directors and Volunteers of the Chapters. The founding chapter is the Toronto Chapter which also handles the Corporate funds. The manner in which Corporate funds are distributed to the Chapters is contained in the Corporate By-Laws.
- 6) Chapters may create their own By-Laws or adopt those of another Chapter. These By-Laws will be submitted to the Corporate Board for review and approval prior to implementation. The Corporate Board will ensure that the By-Laws of the Chapters are aligned with the OWS constitution and its intent prior to granting approval.

- 7) On the wind up of the Ontario Wine Society, funds or assets remaining, after all debts have been paid, shall be transferred to a non-profit organization with purposes similar to those of this organization. Or, if this cannot be done, to another charitable institution recognized by Revenue Canada.

Passed by the presidents of the Chapters this __ day of _____, 2009

President – Toronto Chapter

President – Niagara Chapter

President – Oakville Chapter