



NEWS RELEASE

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**Niagara-on-the-Lake Celebrates 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Icewine Festival with an entire month of activities!**

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON**

**The Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival returns January 1 to 31, 2016.**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival is a celebration of all things Icewine and one-of-a-kind experiences in the heart of wine country. Back by popular demand, **Niagara's largest Outdoor Icewine Bar** at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Village and Icewine Cocktail Competition on Saturday, January 23 and Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The most iconic event of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival, when historic Queen Street is transformed into an icy winter wonderland featuring extraordinary Icewines from 22 local wineries and Icewine inspired culinary creations from the Signature Kitchens of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Flash & Panache: Icewine Cocktail Competition also returns for its seventh year from 9 pm to 11pm Saturday evening offering signature Icewine cocktails for guests to taste as the judges muddle over which drink will win top honours.

Returning this year at the mid-month point of the celebrations, an evening of **'Sparkle and Ice'** on Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> hosted in the historic Courthouse on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A celebration with our Icewinemakers sharing their favourite VQA wines paired with Icewine inspired dishes by Signature Kitchen Chefs. Live musical entertainment throughout the evening plus a welcome Icewine Cocktail with one authentic **Sparkling 21st Anniversary Diamond (appraised value \$5000)** to be won. Tickets are \$95.

"Winter is a unique and magical time to discover Niagara's wine country and showcase one of our most cherished products, Icewine," remarks the Co-Chair of Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival committee Andrea Kaiser, "and we are excited to see the Sparkle and Ice reception returning for a third year, a must do event in the new year!"

Also featured in the Grand Hall at the Courthouse during the Sparkle & Ice weekend, is Bravo Niagara's concert presentation with Dominic Mancuso. Dynamic musical performances complemented by VQA vintages, icewine and desserts will make this a fantastic evening, Saturday January 16. Tickets, \$75, at [www.niagaraonthelake.com](http://www.niagaraonthelake.com).

In true Niagara-on-the-Lake fashion, the chefs of the Signature Kitchens are embracing Winter by hosting a unique dinner, White on Ice – outdoors in the Icewine Village – on Thursday January 28. Limited to 150 attendees, this will be another memorable culinary adventure in the Heritage District, amidst the setting of beautiful ice sculptures and enhanced by VQA wines from the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake – tickets are \$100 per person, available at [www.niagaraonthelake.com](http://www.niagaraonthelake.com).

But the festivities don't stop there according to Co-Chair Paul Harber, "We are closing out the celebrations again this year on the last weekend of the month with Shop, Sip, Sample and Savour for two days of culinary and Icewine delights outdoors at the Icewine Village, with side trips inside the warm and welcoming shops," he continues, "plus the Icebreakers Comedy Festival from Thursday to Saturday evening will be a lot of laughs featuring local talent from the region."

Step out of the cold January 30 and Sunday January 31 to **Shop, Sip, Sample and Savour: Niagara-on-the-Lake Insider's Tasting Pass** in the Heritage District. Our Signature Kitchen chefs have selected their favourite Icewine pairings for you to taste with Canada's gift of nature. We can't wait to welcome you inside! Passes are \$20 per person. We know you will leave with a smile after attending the new 'Icebreakers' Comedy Festival, featuring local comedians and VQA wines and signature Icewine cocktails of course!

For detailed information on events or to purchase tickets call Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake at 905-468-1950 or visit [www.originalicewinefestival.com](http://www.originalicewinefestival.com).

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Media are welcome to take part in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival.

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