



## Niagara College News Release – November 2008

**Jordan Harris, Graduate of Niagara College's Winery and Viticulture Technician program (2004), has been selected to receive a prestigious Premier's Award.**

The Premier's Awards for Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology honour the important social and economic contributions made by college graduates to the province and the world. The awards were established in 1992 to mark the 25th anniversary of Ontario's colleges.

Presented annually in six categories, the recipients are chosen from nominations submitted by Ontario's 25 colleges. Nominees must demonstrate outstanding career success related to their college experience and have made a significant contribution to their community.

Starting his working life as a restaurant bus boy, Jordan moved up to become manager of day-to-day operations. Following a year studying Culinary Arts at Georgian College, he worked with a lifelong friend in a fine Italian restaurant, which inspired him to pursue formal training in the Winery and Viticulture Technician program at Niagara College.

Jordan worked as a cellar hand as a practicum at the Niagara College Teaching Winery, became Assistant Winemaker at graduation and was later promoted to Winemaker. He worked with wineries in the Niagara Region, and held the Winemaker position at Niagara Vinters Inc., which produced the 20 Bees brand, the fastest selling Ontario release in LCBO history.

He served on the Technical Committee that developed the Sustainable Winemaking Ontario: an Environmental Charter for the Wine Industry, a proactive environmental program to help wineries identify and adopt best practice, environmental stewardship.

Jordan was the only winner from the wine industry named to the Top 30 Under 30 by the Ontario Hospitality Institute, which honours excellence in the food and beverage industries. He won first place in the Canadian Student Sommelier Competition and third place in the International Student Sommelier Competition. Jordan was also named one of the Up and Coming Winemakers by Wine Access Magazine, Canada's leading wine publication.

"We're incredibly proud that Jordan will receive this prestigious honour," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson. "He is a great representative of Niagara College, and a shining example of the outstanding contributions made by College graduates."

Jordan will receive his award in Toronto in February 2009. Recipients receive a bronze medal, a framed certificate signed by the Premier of Ontario and a \$5,000 bursary for their graduating college.