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For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

Warner Vineyards Hoping to Avoid Christmas Eve Harvest

Halifax, N.S. – John Warner of Warner Vineyards has about two acres of Vidal Icewine grapes left to harvest. Although the drastic temperature fluctuations have not affected the 2008 harvest, this year has been a bit unusual.

“Usually we work at night and lighting is the biggest issue,” says Warner. “This year we had short spurts of cold weather during the day...that has only ever happened once or twice in the last 12 years.”

In order for Icewine grapes to be taken off the vine, the temperature needs to be between -9 °C and -10 °C. Warner has already picked his Muscat and Ortega grapes and is hoping to bring in the last of the Vidal before Christmas Eve.

“Icewine grapes are more difficult to grow...you risk losing your crop to dehydration and you put extra stress on the vine,” says Warner. “However I really enjoy it and it keeps workers employed right through to Christmas.”

With between six to eight acres, Warner Vineyards is the largest grower of Icewine grapes in the province. The grapes from Warner’s vineyard should produce about 4,000 to 5,000 litres or approximately 20,000 200ml bottles of Nova Scotia Icewine. Warner supplies grapes to Jost Vineyards, Gaspereau Vineyards, Domaine de Grand Pré, Blomidon Estate Winery and Muir Murray Estate Winery.

“So far it has been a great harvest,” says Winery Association of Nova Scotia president and Jost Vineyards owner Hans Christian Jost. “We have already started filtering the Icewine and will have this year’s harvest on the market next summer. There are some great nuances in the grapes and we are hoping to win a few awards with it.”

For more information about the Winery Association of Nova Scotia or the 2009 Winter Icewine Festival, visit www.winesns.ca.

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About the Winery Association of Nova Scotia (WANS)

WANS was formed in 2002 to represent the interests of wine producers in Nova Scotia, to serve as a voice for local industry and to promote the growth and development of Nova Scotia wines. Members include Bear River Vineyards, Blomidon Estate Winery, Domaine de Grand Pré, Gaspereau Vineyards, Sainte-Famille Wines, Lunenburg County Winery, Muir Murray Estate Winery, Petite Riviere Vineyards and Jost Vineyards. The province’s newest winery, L’Acadie Vineyards, opened May 9, 2008.
www.winesns.com

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