Inniskillin Wines fonds
RG 489
Brock University Archives

Creator: Inniskillin Wines

Extent: 2.8 metres of textual records (10 boxes)
2327 photographs
721 slides
550 negatives
292 medals
c. 250 wine labels
163 VHS tapes
70 plaques
40 contact sheets
5 3D glass awards
3 compact disks
2 floppy disks
2 engraved stamps (dies)

Abstract: Fonds contains material relating to the Inniskillin winery. Most of the materials are awards, news clippings, videos, photographs, product information and wine labels.

Materials: Awards, news clippings, video cassettes, photographs, programs, promotional material, product information and wine labels.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Chantal Cameron

Finding aid: Chantal Cameron

Last updated: April 2016
**Administrative History:**

Inniskillin Wines was founded by Karl Kaiser and Donald Ziraldo in 1975 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. They had met the previous year, when Karl Kaiser, a winemaker and chemist, purchased some grapes from Donald Ziraldo, who owned and operated Ziraldo Nurseries. The two shared a vision of producing better quality Canadian wines and formed a partnership, with Kaiser making the wine and Ziraldo serving as company President. In 1975, they were granted a winery license by the LCBO, the first one granted since 1929. The company name Inniskillin was derived from the Inniskilling Fusilliers, an Irish regiment whose Colonel once owned the land that Ziraldo Nurseries occupied. This was the original site of the winery, although in 1978 the winery moved to the Brae Burn Estate, their current location. In 1982 the winery expanded by 50 acres with the addition of the Montague Vineyard, and another 50 acres was acquired in 1991. The Niagara-on-the-Lake vineyard produces single vineyards bottlings of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Pinot Grigio/Pinot Gris.

In 1984, Karl Kaiser began producing icewine from Vidal grapes frozen naturally on the vine. Inniskillin garnered international acclaim for the quality of their icewines, receiving the prestigious Grand Prix d’Honneur at VinExpo in 1991, for their 1989 Vidal icewine. This established Inniskillin as a producer of world class wines, while also raising the profile of Canadian wines in general. The company branched out their operations, first acquiring vineyards in the Napa Valley in 1989 to form Inniskillin Napa (producing wines under the Terra label), and in 1994 establishing Inniskillin Okanagan in the Okanagan Valley in British
Columbia. The Napa valley venture ceased in the mid 90’s, while Inniskillin Okanagan continues to operate. In 2006, Karl Kaiser and Donald Ziraldo left Inniskillin. Kaiser retired, while Ziraldo became chair of the Vineland Research and Innovation Center (2006-2011), and remains involved in the wine industry. In 2007, Bruce Nicholson joined Inniskillin as winemaker. Nicholson continues to produce award-winning wines under the Inniskillin label, receiving the top award, the Premio Speciale Gran Award, at Vinitaly 2009 for his 2006 Gold Vidal and his 2006 Sparkling Vidal Icewine. In 2012, he received several awards for the 2008 Riesling Icewine, including gold at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in London, UK, the San Francisco International Wine Championships, and Selections Mondials des Vins Canada.

Source: [http://www.inniskillin.com/Niagara/About-Us/Timeline](http://www.inniskillin.com/Niagara/About-Us/Timeline)
Retrieved: 2013/12/19

**Scope and Content:**

Fonds contains materials relating to the Inniskillin winery. The majority of the materials are awards (including certificates, medals, plaques, 3D glass awards), and news clippings. There are also videos, photographs, wine labels, product information, programs and menus (featuring Inniskillin wines), media releases, brochures, and some administrative material. Where possible, the original order of the folder headings has been retained, including the photograph and product information files, wine label files, and news clipping files by author and subject. The remaining news clippings were sorted by date. The product information files include product sheets containing harvest date, vinification, analysis, and tasting notes for various wines, as well as labels and label proofs, wine reviews, purchase orders, some photos (product shots), and media releases. Some news clipping files also include brief reports on television and radio clips related to Inniskillin and are interfiled by date. Within folders, material is arranged chronologically.

**Organization:**

The records were arranged into five series:

**Series I: Recognition, 1979-2014.**
Sub-series A: Awards
Sub-series B: Programs & Menus
Series II: Promotional material, 1975-2014.
   Sub-series A: News clippings
   Sub-series B: Media releases
   Sub-series C: Brochures & flyers
   Sub-series D: Newsletters
   Sub-series E: Monographs

   Sub-series A: Photographs
   Sub-series B: Videos

   Sub-series A: Product information
   Sub-series B: Wine Labels

   Sub-series A: Projects
   Sub-series B: Correspondence
   Sub-series C: Reports
   Sub-series D: Statistics
   Sub-series E: Vintners Quality Alliance Act, 1999

Inventory:

Series I: Recognition, 1979-2012

Sub-series A: Awards, 1979-2012

1.1 List of Awards, 1979-2007. Includes lists of awards given to Inniskillin wines, as well as other Ontario wines.


1.3 All Canada Wine Championships (Le Bec Fin) certificates, 1990-1999.

1.4 Asia Pacific Wine Challenge certificates, 1997.

1.5 CAN-NY Wine Festival certificates, 1998-1999.

O.1 Canadian Olympic Team Sponsor framed certificates, n.d.
O.1 Canadian Wine Awards framed certificate, 2002.
1.6 Canadian Wine Awards certificates, 2006.
O.2 Cuvee certificate, 2009.
1.8 Decanter World Wine Awards certificates, 2009-2010.
O.2 Decanter World Wine Awards certificates, 2011.
1.15 Selections Mondiales des Vins Canada certificates, 1994-2013.
1.19 Certificates—Other, 1990-2012, n.d.
1.21-1.27 All Canadian Wine Championships medals, 2004-2014, n.d.

1.28 Atlanta International Wine Festival medals, n.d.

1.29-2.4 Canadian Wine Awards medals, 2003-2012, n.d.

2.5 Concours Mondial Bruxelles medals, 1999-2009.

2.6 Dallas Morning News Wine Competition medals, 2002.


2.12 Finger Lakes International Wine Competition medals, n.d.


2.16 National Wine Awards of Canada (Wine Align), 2013.


2.24 Vino Challenge International medals, n.d.


3.1 Air Canada Canadian Wine Awards plaque, 2002.

3.2 CIBC Run for the Cure sponsor plaque, 2002.

3.3-3.7 Cuvee Winemakers’ Selection plaques, 2001-2010, n.d.


3.11 International Horticultural Congress plaque, 2002.

3.12-5.5 Intervin plaques, 2009-2014.

5.7 Now, 1st Annual Readers Poll plaque, 1995.

5.8--5.17 Ontario Wine Awards plaques, 2002-2012.


O.3 Tastes of Niagara plaque, 1999.


6.4 Wine Spectator’s Critics Choice Award plaque, 2011.

6.5/O.3 Banners, n.d.

O.3 Air Canada Canadian Wine Awards, 3D glass awards, 2001-2002.

O.3 Atlanta International Wine Festival, 1990 Peachtree Award, 3D glass award.

O.3 Challenge International du Vin, Prix D’Excellence 1999, 3D glass award.


6.6-6.9 Programs & Menus, 1985-2005, n.d. Includes programs of events attended by Donald Ziraldo and menus featuring wines by Inniskillin.


6.10-6.47 News clippings by name (mostly wine writers), 1989-2001, n.d. Names include Tony Aspler; Malcolm Anderson; Frank Baldock; Brian Bannon; Marlene Bergsma; Michael Botner; Linda Bramble; Brad Copping; Alex Eberspaecher; Alan Daneils; Shari Darling; Satya Das; Edward Finstein; Konrad Ejbich; Dave Gamble; Anthony Gismondi; Jurgen Gothe; Hugh Johnston; Dan Kislenko; David Lawrason; Bill Munnelly; Tim Pawsey; Darryl Roberts; Andrew Sharp; Steven Spurrier; Tom Stevenson; Anita Stewart; Gordon Stimmell; Margaret Swaine; Colleen Turner; Michael Vaughan; Joseph Ward; Memory Walsh; Peter Ward; Jarvis Whitney and Irvine Wolkoff.
News clippings by subject, 1974-2005, n.d. Some folders also contain media releases, correspondence, brochures, programs and periodicals. Subjects include AG Canada Industry Experience Program; Airlines; American Wine Society; Farmland protection; Golden Horseshoe; Gorbachev; Inniskillin Okanagan; Intervin; British Columbia, Inniskillin events; Inniskillin product mentions; Icewine; Icewine Glass; Izabela Kalabis; Karl Kaiser; Moratorium (Greenbelt); Niagara (Local) and USA clippings; Niagara Tourism and Inniskillin; Ottawa clippings; Political; Vinitaly; Viticulture; Wine Business; Winery profile; Wines International; Donald Ziraldo and 25th Anniversary.


News clippings, n.d.


USA news clippings, Icewine National Pastry Team Championship, 2003.

USA news clippings, 2001-2006. Clippings taken from American publications about Inniskillin, by press clipping services.


Sub-series B: Media Releases, 1980-2009


Assorted brochures and flyers, n.d. Also includes material used in displays, signs and posters.

13.8 Endorsements/Quotes, n.d. Contains quotes about Inniskillin and Icewine from Donald Ziraldo, Karl Kaiser, Bruce Nicholson, Tony Aspler, and others.


**Sub-series D: Newsletters, 1980-2000**

13.10 Newsletters by Inniskillin, 1980-1999 [non-inclusive].


**Sub-series E: Monographs, 1995**

13.13 Ziraldo, Donald J.P. *Anatomy of a Winery: The Art of Wine at Inniskillin.* Toronto: Key Porter Books, 1995. There are two copies of this title included, one inscribed by Donald Ziraldo and the other by Debi Pratt.


**Series III: Audio-Visual material, 1975-2005, n.d.**

**Sub-series A: Photographs, 1975-2004, n.d.**


13.18-13.19 Alliance, n.d. Also includes some wine labels, news clippings and promotional material.


13.21 Awards, Italian Award, 1999.


14.3 Jimmy Carter’s visit to Inniskillin, July 1996. Includes some negatives.

14.4-14.5 CCOVI, 1999, n.d. Contains photographs and slides of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute at Brock University (named Inniskillin Hall).

14.6 China Icewine Launch, 1996.


14.9 Food, n.d.


14.12 Ice Hotel, 2001. Contains a photo of Inniskillin Wine taken in the Ice Hotel, as well as a news release about a collaboration between Inniskillin and the Ice Hotel.


14.19 Icewine, Celebrity Picking (Roots), n.d.


14.22 Izabela Kalabis [Inniskillin’s resident chef], n.d.


14.25 Karl Kaiser and Donald Ziraldo, n.d. Contains mostly negatives, with some contact sheets and slides.


14.29 Mural-Davenport, n.d. Contains photographs and negatives of an Inniskillin mural on Davenport Rd. in Toronto.

14.30 Negatives, assorted, n.d.


14.32 OHI dinner, n.d.


14.35 People, n.d. Some of the people photographed include Robin Leach, Yves Baril, Peter Jennings, Prince Takamado, Prince Von Metternich of Germany, Isabelle Mommessin, Paul Schaefer, and Rick Mercer.

15.1 PFV visit [to Brock University], n.d. Contains photographs of a visit by Donald Ziraldo and others to Inniskillin Hall (Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute) at Brock University.

15.2 Picking, 1999. Contains photographs, negatives, and slides of icewine grape picking.


15.6 Bernard Repolt, n.d.

15.7 Jancis Robinson, n.d.

15.8 Ross Rebagliati, 1998. Contains photographs of Donald Ziraldo, Michael Budman, Don Green (co-owners of Roots Canada) and Ross Rebagliati (Olympic Snowboard Gold Medalist).

15.9 Sommelier of the World Contest, Queen’s Landing, n.d.

15.10 Staff, 1995-2000, n.d.

15.11 Stores, n.d. Contains photographs and slides of Inniskillin stores.

15.12 Tastings, n.d.

15.13 Pierre Trudeau’s visit to Inniskillin, 1983.


15.15 Vinitaly, n.d.

15.16 Wine shows, 1995, n.d.


15.20 Donald Ziraldo at the Great Wall of China, n.d.
15.21 Donald Ziraldo with the President of China and Prime Minister Jean Chretien, n.d.
15.22 Donald Ziraldo skiing, 1999.
O.2 Products shots and photographs of grape harvesting and processing, 1978, n.d.
O.3 Photograph of Karl Kaiser and Donald Ziraldo mounted on plaque, n.d.

**Sub-series B: Videos, 1989-2005, n.d.**


**Series IV: Products, 1970-2010, n.d.**

**Sub-series A: Product information, 1977-2003, n.d.**

15.25 L’Allemand, n.d.
15.30 Blancs de Blanc, 1981, n.d.
15.33 Brae Burn, 1984-1997, n.d.
15.37  Cabernet, Proprietor’s Reserve, n.d.
16.7   De Chaunac, 1979, n.d.

**Sub-series B: Wine Labels, 1970-2010, n.d.**

16.30 Sparkling, n.d.
16.31 Wine & Food Adventure card series, n.d.
16.34 White & Red, 1970s.
16.35 White, 1980s.
16.36 Red, 1980s.

17.3 Inniskillin Okanagan Whites, 1994-2010

17.4 Ski Logo, n.d.


O.2 Material related to the engraving of the Brae Burn Barn by Yves Baril, master engraver, Canadian Bank Note Group, and featured on Inniskillin wine labels.


17.6-17.7 Ice Sculptures, 1992-1997. Contains correspondence and news releases about artist Brad Copping’s ice sculpture glass bottles that were commissioned for Inniskillin icewine.


17.9 Ice Sculpture Photographs, n.d. Contains photographs and negatives of Ice Sculpture bottles, as well as the tags that accompanied the bottles and certificates of authenticity.

17.10 Millennium project, n.d. Contains an overview of planned renovations at Inniskillin.

17.11 Olympic Sponsorship, 2004. Contains brochures, media releases, and correspondence about Inniskillin’s sponsorship of the 2004 Olympics through the Canadian Olympic Team Vine Planting program.

O.4 Framed selection of pins commemorating Inniskillin’s sponsorship of the Canadian Olympic Team.

17.12 Olympics, 2010. Contains information about artist Gordon Halloran’s ice paintings, and his collaborations with Inniskillin and the Olympics. Also includes a media release about Vincor Canada’s sponsorship rights for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

17.14  Winery Project, 1999-2006, n.d.  Contains correspondence, diagrams and sketches, the Inniskillin Captial Plan (2003), and meeting minutes.

Sub-series B:  Correspondence, 1989-2006, n.d.


17.18  Export Report, 1996.  Contains a report by David Pearen that includes export sales by country; embassy sales by country; duty free sales to the LCBO; sales to Canadian Airlines Inc.; profiles of export markets; and an analysis of Canadian wine sales.


17.21  Vintners Quality Alliance Act, 1999.  Contains rules of Vintners Quality Alliance Ontario, under clauses 5(1) (a), (b) and (c) of the Act relating to terms, descriptions and designations for VQA wine.

17.22  Engraved stamps (dies), n.d.  Two stamps, one of which contains the VQA logo.
Removed materials:


Related materials:


