

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2017



WINTER WINEFEST: JANUARY 12TH-14TH, 2018

Setting the stage for Icewine Harvest Celebrations

Lincoln, Ontario – Niagara's Twenty Valley is thrilled to announce **Celebrity Chef Susur Lee** as host of the **2018 Winter WineFest**. Chef Lee is a Hong Kong-Canadian chef based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Lee owns several Toronto Restaurants and is a seasoned judge on Chopped Canada and Top Chef Canada.

This is Chef Lee's first appearance at Winter WineFest. He will be hosting the popular 'Sparkling Dinner' on January 13th and the 'Icewine Brunch' on January 14th, bringing his flair for authentic culinary flavours to create menus that focus on beautiful wines from Niagara's Twenty Valley. Both events are hosted in the panoramic Windows Room at On the Twenty Restaurant.

The Sparkling Dinner features a four-course dinner, inspired and curated by Chef Lee. Each delectable course is paired beautifully with VQA Wines. Dinner tickets are sold out; however, we still have brunch tickets available. The Icewine Brunch, also inspired by Chef Lee, features aromatic wines paired with a three-course menu fit for any foodie! Brunch tickets are \$75 plus HST with limited seating. Tickets are on sale now.

In addition to the Celebrity Chef, we have a weekend filled with stellar live entertainment. We are equally excited to announce that on the evening of Saturday, January 13th, the Canadian singersong-writer, **Royal Wood** will be gracing the Winter Winefest stage. Local bands from Niagara and beyond will be heating up the festival stage while you make your way around the event.

Annually, Winter WineFest kicks off the month-long Icewine celebrations throughout the region. The event showcases over thirty-five premium food and craft beverage producers from the region for a truly-unique winter experience. The outdoor European-styled market highlights the beauty of the season and the charm of Jordan Village with warm cozy fire pits and outdoor art installations from local artist Floyd Elzinga surrounded by thousands of twinkle lights. In addition to seasonal celebrations and healthy competitions, the Celebrity Chef also hosts and judges the One-Pot Challenge Saturday afternoon, offering all guests the opportunity to meet him in person.

"We take pride in showcasing our local businesses to guests from all over Canada and the US" said Kristene Smith, Executive Director, "Winter WineFest celebrates all things Canadian; from our Headliner and Celebrity Chef to our competitive winter spirit, and finally, the authentic Icewine Harvest which can only happen as a result of our beautiful winter climate."

New this Year - Grape Growers of Ontario's 8 Below Series: From Grape to Glass to Pairing – Come explore the entire Icewine process from growing the fruit to picking the frozen berries and pressing them into the sweet nectar that produces our world-famous Icewines. This produced one of the most iconic wines that can be paired beautifully with your favourite savoury or sweet dishes. This new program is brought to you by the Grape Growers of Ontario and Celebrate Ontario. The 25-minute interactive seminar takes place Saturday, January 13th at 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm and Sunday, January 14th at 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

Popular returning programs

- * FREE ADMISSION to the Street Festival all weekend long & Free Shuttle Service from the Jordan Fire Hall on 19th Street and the Lions Park on 4th Avenue in Jordan: sponsored by Reliance Home Comfort
- * Dillon's Small Batch Distillers Speakeasy presented by 97.7HTZ-FM in the barrel cellar of historic Cave Spring Cellars Friday, January 12th at 9:30 featuring Soul Jam. Space is limited. Tickets are \$20
- * Vogue in the Valley Fashion Show – brought to you by the Jordan Village Merchants. Saturday, January 13th at 2:00 pm and Sunday, January 14th at 2:00 pm

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- ★ Winemaker's Barrel Challenge – Cheer on Twenty Valley Winemaker's and see if Creekside's Yvonne Irvine can defend her title as they compete for the Golden Blunnies. Saturday, January 13th at 3:30 pm
- ★ Saturday Night Concert – featuring Canadian singer-songwriter Royal Wood, Saturday January 13th at 7:30 pm
- ★ Bench Brewing Underground After Party talks place Saturday, January 13th at 9:30 pm featuring the talented Mel Monaco. Space is limited. Tickets are \$20
- ★ Chef Susur Lee Sparkling Dinner – January 13th at 6:30 pm has now SOLD OUT. This popular Dinner includes a four-course meal featuring VQA Wines paired perfectly with the menu created by the evening's host and chef, Susur Lee
- ★ Chef Susur Lee Icewine Brunch – January 14th at 10:30 am

The brunch includes a three-course meal featuring an Icewine infused menu created by the morning's host and chef, Susur Lee. This event will take place in the stunning Windows Room of On the Twenty Restaurant, which features spectacular views of the Jordan Valley. Limited tickets available (\$75 pp +tax)

- ★ Icewine Puck Shoot Out Challenge - You may wonder, what on earth is an Icewine Puck... Well, we freeze the freshly pressed skins from the current year's Icewine Harvest and incorporate them into the best sport ever! This event is open to anyone who wants to take on Mr. Louis Butko from TSN1150 for the prestigious Icewine Glass... errr Cup! Come sign up, and put your stick handling to the test. Anyone who can get the Icewine Pucks in all five pockets - takes home the cup!

Festival hours are: Friday, January 12th: 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm, Saturday, January 13th: 12:00 pm – 10:00pm and Sunday, January 14th: 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

For news and tickets visit: <http://www.20valley.ca/site/winter-winefest>.

Niagara's Twenty Valley approved images are credited to Carole and Roy Timm Photography

Niagara's Twenty Valley is a premium wine country destination, with breathtaking landscapes that are rich in culture. Annually the tourism association hosts its Winter WineFest as a celebration of the Icewine harvest. The valley spans from West St. Catharines to Grimsby. Twenty Valley Tourism Association hosts events year-round including "Roots on the Twenty", "Get Fresh in the Valley", "Wrapped Up in the Valley", and "Winter WineFest."

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