



**Canada's Le Clos Jordanne Mimics the Movie 'Bottle Shock'**

*Winery shocks the panel in the "Judgement of Montreal";  
Thomas Bachelder named Ontario's Winemaker of the Year*



*Thomas Bachelder,  
Viniculture Manager*

**In short:**

Le Clos Jordanne winery, of Jordan Village on the Niagara Peninsula, Ontario has received critical acclaim since its launch in 2006. With select wines exclusively available for purchase online, wine lovers covet Le Clos Jordanne wines. In the past week, Le Clos Jordanne has created an audible buzz in the wine world. First, its 2005 Claystone Terrace Chardonnay captured the top spot for Chardonnay in the "Judgement of Montreal" experts' tasting; now, at the recent Ontario Wine Awards, Le Clos Jordanne Winemaker Thomas Bachelder was named Winemaker of the Year. Exclusive library vintages and current releases of Le Clos Jordanne wines can be purchased at [www.leclosjordanne.com](http://www.leclosjordanne.com).

**More detail:**

Since its launch in 2006, Le Clos Jordanne has had the unwavering goal to create Ontario wines of unparalleled quality that will rank amongst the world's finest. The wines – produced under the direction of viniculture manager Thomas Bachelder (responsible for both the grape growing and winemaking) – are crafted with exacting organic viticulture practices. In the cellar, innovative New World practices are combined with time-honoured Burgundian techniques, such as harvesting and sorting the grapes by hand. Every step of the process receives careful consideration, and the continuous accolades for Le Clos Jordanne wines cement the team's efforts.

Of most recent note, Le Clos Jordanne has caught the attention of the wine community resulting from a blind tasting held in Quebec for *Cellier* magazine. Thirty-three years after the "Judgment of Paris" - the famous tasting that revolutionized the reputation of New World wines, and inspired the movie 'Bottle Shock' - *Cellier* magazine organized a blind tasting in Montreal based on the Judgment of Paris. In the "Judgement of Montreal" 10 judges at the *Cellier* tasting assessed 16 red and 14 white wines, primarily from France and California.

The Judgement of Montreal panel was a who's who of Quebec wine writers: Marc Chapleau (tasting organizer), Jean Aubry (*Le Devoir*), Gilles Magny (SAQ wine advisor), Patrick Désy (*Cellier*), Don Jean Léandri (École Hôtelière de Laval), Nadia Fournier (*Le Guide du vin*), Marc Lepage (SAQ wine advisor), Véronique Rivest (*Châteline*), Jacques Benoit (*La Presse*), Claude Langlois (*Le Journal de Montréal*) and Bill Zacharkiw (*the Gazette*).



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Among the whites, Le Clos Jordanne's 2005 Claystone Terrace Chardonnay, an "outsider" wine that was included in the tasting unbeknownst to the panel, beat out all the wines from France and the United States. "Good, well-contained opulence, lots of freshness and volume" was a typical assessment from the panel. (A 2004 Château Mouton Rothschild, a Bordeaux Premier Cru, took top honours among the red wines.)

"Like the judges, we did not even know we were a part of this tasting," says Le Clos Jordanne viniculture manager Thomas Bachelder, who happened to be in Quebec when the surprise tasting results were announced. "For a Le Clos Jordanne wine, an Ontario wine, to capture the top spot in the Chardonnay flight is both flattering and exciting," he continues. "The judges could have selected our wine because the Claystone Terrace Chardonnay possesses attributes found in both American and French Wines, with minerality, floral notes and spice," he adds. "I hope this tasting result inspires Canadians to clamour for Ontario's wines, much in the way Californians embraced their wines after the 1976 France event."

Additionally, by coincidence, and separate from the Judgment of Montreal, industry peers honoured Thomas Bachelder publicly last week, when he was named Winemaker of the Year at the Ontario Wine Awards. In 1995, Tony Aspler, acclaimed wine critic, founded the Ontario Wine Awards as a tribute event to pay homage to home grown excellence. Aspler's vision was to recognize VQA wines for their quality, distinction and brilliance, distinguishing them among the most successful and revered wines available on the market today. The awards were presented to wineries and winemakers at a Gala event held at Queen's Landing in Niagara on May 8.

The Winemaker of the Year award is the most honoured award of the evening, and is presented by Tony Aspler himself. Bachelder captured the award for his consistent quality production, and the winery's success as demonstrated by additional accolades, and contributions to the wine industry.

"Thomas Bachelder's success with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay has inspired other Ontario winemakers to explore their terroir," says Aspler. "He has shared his knowledge unselfishly with his peers and raised the bar for the industry as a whole."

Since Bachelder was in Quebec to host dinners and tastings and unable to attend the award ceremony, his wife, Mary Delaney, along with his Le Clos Jordanne colleague and assistant winemaker Sébastien Jacquy, attended the gala with Del Rollo, the winery's hospitality director. Aspler presented the award, which they accepted on Bachelder's behalf, while a video aired with Bachelder offering a short acceptance speech.

"I was shocked, humbled and really, really surprised to hear of this great honour," said Bachelder. "I would like to thank the Executive of the Ontario Wine Society as well as the judges of the Ontario Wine Awards, and of course Tony Aspler for this recognition."

"When I came six years ago from Oregon via Burgundy," he continued, "I already believed in the Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays that were being produced in Ontario, but little did I know how different the terroirs were. I consider myself more an 'interpreter of terroir', than a winemaker, per se," he remarked. "And it is a great honour to be able to work with a fifty-six hectare certified organic estate that uses Burgundian techniques here in Ontario, to try to make the terroir sing."

Bachelder also recognized that he is only one member of an important team. "This kind of thing is not done by me alone," he remarked. "I would like to thank the team at Le Clos Jordanne who has worked with me all these years as well as the teams at Vincor and Boisset who had the dream."

Reached from Burgundy, Le Clos Jordanne partner Jean-Charles Boisset, president of Boisset, La Famille des Grands Vins, had words of congratulations for his Canadian partner, his Burgundy team involved, and the Le Clos Jordanne team in Niagara including head winemaker Bachelder, for these incredible accomplishments. “We created these vineyards in 1998 with the vision to craft exceptional terroir-oriented wines,” he says. “The efforts from Thomas and the Le Clos Jordanne team have contributed to our common passion, absolutely surpassed expectations and continue to make our dream a reality.”

### **About Le Clos Jordanne**

Le Clos Jordanne is a remarkable collaboration between Vincor Canada and Boisset, La Famille des Grands Vins, in France. It symbolizes the extraordinary vision of fusing tradition and innovation with passion and expertise. Using traditional Burgundian methods, wines are crafted to exemplify the distinct Niagara terroir. Located in the town of Jordan Station on the Niagara Escarpment in Ontario, the winery owns four distinct vineyards – Le Clos Jordanne, Claystone, La Petite and Talon – totalling 75 acres. Exclusively planted to Burgundian varietals Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the vineyards are farmed using organic and biodynamic techniques.

Viniculturist Thomas Bachelder and his assistant Sebastien Jacquy play an integral role in the development of Le Clos Jordanne wines from vineyard to cellar. Their enthusiasm, skill, and insight into the area’s terroir are evident in each bottle. The wines are presented in three tiers: Village Reserve; Single Vineyard; and the luxury Le Grand Clos, crafted from the vineyard’s best parcels. The wines can be purchased online.

Following its début both in Canada and the international marketplace, the wines of Le Clos Jordanne have taken everyone by surprise and have introduced the Canadian wine industry to an entirely new level of quality and expectation. For more information, visit [www.leclosjordanne.com](http://www.leclosjordanne.com).

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### **Notes to editors:**

Le Clos Jordanne wines, both current and special vintage releases, are available for purchase online at [www.leclosjordanne.com](http://www.leclosjordanne.com)

Photos of Thomas Bachelder, and the Le Clos Jordanne vineyards and wines are available

The following wines are available in limited supply via the winery website: [www.leclosjordanne.com](http://www.leclosjordanne.com)  
(cost per 6 x 750ml bottle case listed)

987446 Village Reserve Pinot Noir \$ 180  
985879 Village Reserve Chardonnay \$ 180  
985887 La Petite Vineyard Pinot Noir \$ 240  
987495 Claystone Terrace Pinot Noir \$ 240  
987438 Claystone Terrace Chardonnay 2006 \$ 240  
985895 Le Clos Jordanne Vineyard Pinot Noir \$ 240  
987487 Le Clos Jordanne Vineyard Chardonnay 2005 \$210  
987847 Le Clos Jordanne Vineyard Chardonnay \$ 240  
987461 Le Grand Clos Chardonnay \$ 390

### **For more information, contact:**

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