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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR HONORS TOP OHIO WINES**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (May 23, 2013) – Ohio Agriculture Director David T. Daniels honored three Ohio Quality Wines as Director’s Choice recipients at an Ohio Wine Month kickoff event held at the Statehouse for retailers, distributors, restaurateurs and winery owners.

More than 20 wines were evaluated by a panel of judges, on behalf of Director Daniels, for the highly coveted award. The 2013 award recipients are:

- White Wine :** 2012 Ferrante Signature Series Golden Bunches Dry Riesling  
Ferrante Winery & Ristorante, Geneva
- Red Wine :** Terra Cotta Chambourcin  
Terra Cotta Vineyards, New Concord
- Specialty Wine:** 2011 Debonné Vidal Blanc Ice Wine  
Debonné Vineyards, Madison

All of the Director’s Choice award recipients have already received the Ohio Quality Wine designation. It was created in 2007 by the Ohio Grape Industries Committee and is assigned to wines made from at least 90 percent Ohio-grown grapes. These wines must also achieve at least 15 of 20 points on a sensory evaluation and pass a chemical analysis before receiving the quality seal.

The Ohio Grape Industries Committee is housed at the Ohio Department of Agriculture and provides wineries a means to market their top-quality wines against well-known California and European wines. To learn more about the program or for a complete list of Ohio Quality Wines, visit [www.tasteohiowines.com](http://www.tasteohiowines.com).

Ohio’s grape and wine production is an integral component of Ohio’s agriculture industry. It contributes nearly a half billion dollars to Ohio’s economy and accounts for more than 4,100 full-time jobs.

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*Ferrante Winery & Ristorante receives the Director's Choice Award for white wine. Pictured left to right: State Representative John Patterson, State Senator Capri Cafaro, Director Daniels, and Nick Ferrante.*



*Director David Daniels (left) presents Terra Cotta Vineyards with the Director's Choice Award for red wine. Pictured left to right: Director Daniels, Paul Roberts, Donna Roberts, State Senator Troy Balderson, and State Representative Brian Hill.*



*Director Daniels (left) presents Ed Trebets of Debonné Vineyards with the Director's Choice Award for specialty wine.*

