

STORY OF THE i4C:

In the summer 2009, A handful of winemakers lounged in lawn chairs around a summer fire celebrating the success of one of their own. They gathered to raise a toast to the Canadian wine that had just triumphed at the 2009 Cellier Wine Awards in Montreal. In Canada's own version of Bottle Shock – a Niagara wine won the prestigious award, surpassing Burgundian and California Chardonnays in a blind taste test. (The wine: Claystone Terrace Chardonnay 2005 from Le Clos Jordanne.)

These winemakers have long believed that Chardonnay – one of the most widely cultivated varieties in Ontario – is deserving of a renaissance. It expresses terroir better than any other grape we grow. And when Chardonnay is complemented with a bit of cool – cool by altitude, by latitude, by marine influence or by climatic conditions – and can create magical wines that can easily refute the already waning “ABC – Anything but Chardonnay” movement.

The outcome of that impromptu backyard celebration is a much bigger one – the International Cool Climate Chardonnay Celebration (the “i4C”). The first celebration was held in 2011 with 28 Ontario wineries . Over the past seven years, this group has invited premium cool climate Chardonnay producers from across the globe to join the cause, presenting some of the finest examples of cool climate Chardonnay in the world at the annual event. The i4C has created a home for excellence in Chardonnay – a casual but in-depth weekend celebration of wine, food and learning, with an eye to reinvigorating a seriously cool wine.