

WINE VISITOR + EDUCATION CENTRE

- The Wine Visitor + Education Centre (WVEC) will house the Niagara College Teaching Winery, visitor centre services, research projects and encompass the College's 40-acres of teaching and research vineyards. It will be a state-of-the-art centre for education and applied learning for students and the public in wine and viticulture. The Centre will promote the Ontario and Canadian grape and wine industry, wineries, growers, agriculture and culinary traditions and tourism through providing education, training, information and experiential opportunities for students, industry, our communities and visitors at this new Centre. With a focus on excellence and quality the centre will house applied research in wine business, tourism, oenology and viticulture. All operations within the centre will be self sufficient while promoting environmental sustainability.
- The programs and services at the centre will increase the level of consumer awareness of Ontario grapes, wines, cuisine, and events while training the current and next generation of wine industry professionals.
- The WVEC will serve as a living laboratory for students in Niagara College's wine, culinary and hospitality and tourism students. Niagara College is a leader in wine education and trains more than 1,000 students every year in certificate, diploma and post-graduate programs, along with seminars and conferences related to the grape and wine industry. Niagara College is the largest public educator for Ontario and Canadian wines in the country. Niagara College wine diploma and certificate programs include:
 - Winery and Viticulture Diploma Program
 - Wine Business Management Graduate Certificate Program
 - Sommelier Certificate
 - Continuing Education Certificates
 - Niagara Wine 101
- The WVEC will serve as a key resource for industry training, hosting seminars, workshops and conferences for entry level staff training, hospitality and tourism training, technical seminars for winemakers, environmental certification, safety training and more.

- It will also house a series of education programs for the general public/community including tasting, VQA information, food and wine pairing, the history of Ontario wines, cellar development, touring tips and grape information.
- The WVEC will support applied research projects with industry and government in viticulture, oenology, and wine business and marketing utilizing. Through its applied research division, Niagara Research, Niagara College is a leader in applied research, which supports innovation and growth among key industries in Niagara, Ontario and beyond. Niagara Research is currently leading winery and viticulture-related applied research projects that include varietal wine trials, Tetra-pak wine aging and quality, Canadian Oak characteristics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) viticulture applications, precision agriculture and wine industry supporting software. The WVEC will also provide facilities to complete wine production research projects in partnership with industry and the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute at Brock University, and the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre.
- The Wine Visitor + Education Centre will become an educational resource for the students, industry and the public, on the Ontario grape and wine industry, its history, wine routes and other information.
- The Centre will be a wine and culinary information centre providing a central point of contact for the wine route and culinary trail, winery information, computer-based interfaces.
- Construction of the 8,500 square-foot facility began in September, 2008. The building was designed by Raimondo & Associates Architects and built by Brouwer Construction of St. Catharines.
- Further information regarding the Wine Visitor + Education centre is available online at <http://www.winevisitorandeducationcentre.ca>