

FROM THE CELLAR... FLAT ROCK CELLARS

YOU HAVE TO VISIT FLAT ROCK CELLARS BECAUSE...

Of their Twisted (white), a consistently outstanding blend that pairs beautifully with an array of foods.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

August 6, 2019



Flat Rock Cellars' Twisted has been one of our favourite white blends for a number of years now, so we were excited to finally visit the estate. Driving up to the property, we appreciated the view of the main building, which stands perched high above an expansive, sloping vineyard. At the same time, we kept looking for the signature touch of red that adorns most of the Flat Rock bottle labels, and we finally found it on a wall inside the main production area (see the middle picture below).



*Flat Rock Cellars' main entrance (top),
production area (middle), and pristine barrels
(bottom)*

THE LAY OF THE LAND

Ed Madronich Sr. has owned and operated Flat Rock Cellars for decades, having turned it from a dream into a flourishing, decorated reality. His son, Ed Madronich Jr. also plays a pivotal role in the estate's operations, with his personal touches shining through in many aspects of the business.

Flat Rock Cellars endeavours to not only produce excellent wines, but to personalize the wine experience. This starts at the top, and it trickles down to everyone involved in the estate, including the personable and knowledgeable sales team.

The estate has the capacity to produce 15,000 cases per year from 80 planted acres of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, and Gewürztraminer.

Flat Rock Cellars holds environmental sustainability as one of its fundamental responsibilities. This includes geo-thermal systems, low impact viticulture, environmentally-sensitive waste management systems, and underground barrel cellaring.

We also came to learn the winery staff builds an inukshuk on the grounds each year (see picture above for the 2019 version/vintage). For us, this symbolized a communal spirit, as well as a presence in the gorgeous Niagara region.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Flat Rock Cellars strives to produce consistent, palatable, and approachable wines using the best possible fruit grown from their own vineyards. The winemaker, Dave Sheppard, has headed the winemaking team since 2017, and he brings a wealth of experience based on his nearly 40 years in the industry. Although he specializes in Riesling, Pinot Noir, and Chardonnay, he produces an impressive range of wines, including red and white blends, as well as sparkling wines. Hand plunging constitutes one of the many wine-making techniques he and his winemaking team employ.



A slice of the Flat Rock Cellars lineup

“In a wine world that can seem so intimidating, it’s nice to go somewhere where you can have fun and be yourself.” – Tolula Williams, Sales Representative, Flat Rock Cellars

THE TASTING...

Tolula Williams led our tasting with a lively sense of humour and enthusiasm. We began with the 2018 Pinot Noir (price: \$22.15 CAD) and ended with the 2017 Nadja’s Vineyard Riesling (price: \$25.15 CAD).

In between, we tasted the:

- 2016 Good Karma Chardonnay (price: \$17.15 CAD)
- 2017 Twisted (price: \$18.15 CAD; a blend of Riesling, Gewürztraminer, and Chardonnay)
- 2014 Gravity Pinot Noir (price: \$35.15 CAD)
- 2012 Trademark Infringement Pinot Noir (white) (price: \$25.20 CAD)
- 2018 Pink Twisted (price: \$18.15 CAD)
- 2014 Reserve Riesling (price: \$25.15 CAD)

For us, the 2014 Gravity Pinot Noir took the proverbial cake. This pale ruby offering served up red cherries, raspberries, and menthol in the nose. On the palate, this light-bodied red, with medium-high acidity and soft tannins, offered red cranberries, white pepper, earth, stone, menthol, and green leaf notes. More sour cranberry and earth notes endured in the medium-long finish. We could see this Pinot Noir pairing nicely with grilled lamb, pork loin, and Thanksgiving dinner. Unsurprisingly, the 2015 vintage of Flat Rock Cellars’ Gravity Pinot Noir wine won a 2019 Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines and a gold medal in the Pinot Noir category at the 2019 Ontario Wine Awards (click [here](#) for the details).

On another note, we have long enjoyed (and strongly recommended to our friends) Flat Rock Cellars’ Twisted (white). We found the most recent vintage of this fantastic white blend a little heavy on the Gewürztraminer this time round, but that’s just our personal opinion.

FINAL NOTES

Flat Rock Cellars has consistently produced delicious and award-winning wines, and the 2019 edition of the Ontario Wine Awards confirms this point in emphatic fashion (see above). If you have never tried any of their wines, we highly recommend you do, especially their Twisted line.

Contact Flat Rock Cellars

2727 Seventh Avenue, Jordan, Ontario, L0R 1S0

info@flatrockcellars.com

+1 905.562.8994

www.flatrock.com

Contact Us

Emilie Ryan 

36 Rialto Way

Ottawa, Ontario, K1T 4B3, Canada

emilie@emilieryan.com

+1 613.791.1247

www.emilieryan.com