

**DONALD ZIRALDO, BUSINESS LEADER  
(1948- )**

Born in St. Catharines, Donald Ziraldo received his B.Sc. in Agriculture at the University of Guelph in 1971. He and partner Karl Kaiser founded Inniskillin in 1975. They have dedicated themselves to producing high quality estate-bottled wines. Ziraldo was awarded an Honorary Degree from Humber College and an

Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Brock University in 1994 (in recognition of achievements including the arts, community service, and contributions to the university).



He also received the Order of Ontario in 1993 and 1998. National Post Business Magazine chose Ziraldo as one of the top twenty-five Canadian CEOs of the century in 1999. "More than any individual, Donald

Ziraldo embodies Ontario's wine industry," said Robin Garrett, President and CEO of the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation. "Donald has worked tirelessly over the years to build

strong partnerships that promote tourism in Ontario."



Ziraldo is also the author of Ice wine; Extreme Winemaking, published in 2007. Along with those achievements he is also the Director, of Shaftesbury Films, Member of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists, Founding Chair of Vintners' Quality Alliance 1988-1995, and was inducted as Member of the Academie Internationale du Vin (AIV) in December 2000. He was instrumental in the development of the 2001 Ontario Wine and Culinary Tourism Strategy partnered by the industry, the Wine Council of Ontario, and the Ministry of Tourism's Investment and Development Office.



He was appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in 2006 to chair the Vineland Renaissance Advisory Panel and currently sits on the Ontario Culinary Tourism Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Minister of Tourism. He has been a driving influence in bringing together Ontario wines, agriculture, and regional cuisine to the international stage.