

Fruits of winery's labour bear national titles

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

A Whitchurch-Stouffville winery has something to which to toast.

Matt Passafiume and his wife, Stephanie, of Applewood Farm and Winery, received a gold and double gold for their fruit wines at the All Canadian Wine Championships in Windsor.

And they couldn't be more excited.

"We were absolutely floored to find out we had won a double-gold," Mr. Passafiume said.

"I think it's pretty great," Mrs. Passafiume said. "It's nice for him (Mr. Passafiume) to be validated."

► Go to applewoodfarmwinery.com for more information.

Mr. Passafiume runs the operation, on McCowan Road just north of Stouffville Road.

He began the winery eight years ago at his parents' farm and since then, has seen an "increase in interest and sales" of the wine, said Mrs. Passafiume.

In addition to the winery, the family has sold strawberry and apples for 35 years.

"My dad is still actively involved in farming the apples," said Mr. Pas-

safiume, who runs the expanding fruit wine business.

The best part of running his own business is being the boss, Mr. Passafiume said. But, it also has a disadvantage.

"I get full autonomy with where I'd like to head with my wine," he said, "but the downside is you don't have any help."

The couple have four children and each one has a wine named after them.

One was one of the award winners, The 2007 Eden.

While this isn't the first time the Passafiumes' wines have won

awards, they're optimistic for the future and intend to continue expanding their farm.

In addition to the winery, the family has sold strawberry and apples for 35 years.

"We'd like to expand upon the path we're headed as a family farm and winery," Mr. Passafiume said.

"We'd also like to see some of our wines in small and medium-sized restaurants," adding he's waiting for the appropriate legislation from the provincial government.

Currently, there's a greater markup on fruit wines than there is on grape wine.

He invites the public to come to the farm and taste test the award-winning wines.

For more information on the wines or the farm can call 905-642-4720 or go to applewoodfarmwinery.com.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Matthew Passafiume of Applewood Winery on McCowan Road shows two of his fruit wines that won gold medals at the All Canadian Wine Championships. Eden, a wine of strawberry and apple is named after his daughter. The bottle on the right is a sparkling Mac Meade and the other is an apple and honey meade winning double gold, meaning best of class.

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