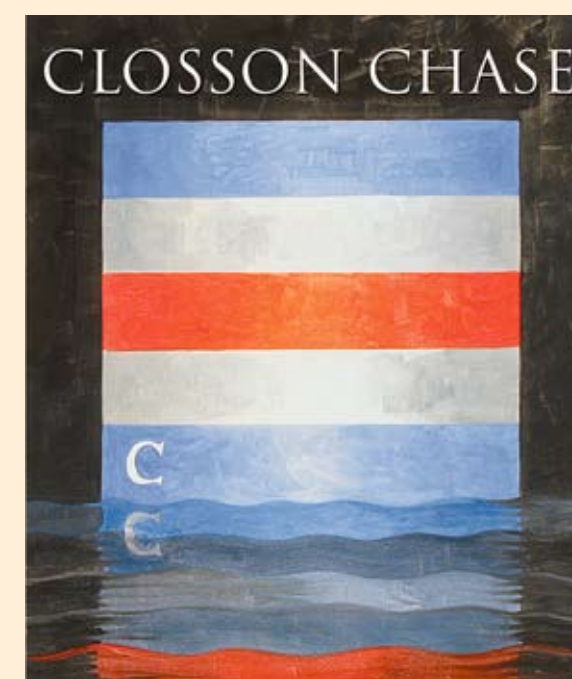


Equality Day

A Celebration of Women



Deborah Paskus



“Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.”

A. Einstein.

*A*t one time, Deborah Paskus fancied that she might become a welder in her father’s body shop. Lucky for her that didn’t work out.

Viticulturalist Deborah Paskus grew up in Hamilton, Ontario just a stone’s throw from Canada’s largest grape growing region on the Niagara Peninsula. In Deborah’s case, proximity to the vines meant affinity for the vines – a passion that led her to become one of Canada’s most celebrated winemakers.

Deborah was quick to develop ideas of her own, refusing to be limited by accepted boundaries. After majoring in horticulture at the University of Guelph, she was determined to make her own contribution to winemaking tradition. Her greatest challenge came when she set out to prove to Steve Temkin, noted Toronto wine columnist, that it was indeed possible to produce an intense, layered Chardonnay in Ontario.

The result, in 1991, was two schmoes without a dime between them encouraged a group of friends to part with some seed money, in exchange for possibly, a “nice case of wine”. They engaged Steve Kocsis to allow a little ‘radical’ vineyard management, on one acre of his 19-year-old chardonnay vines. The success of Temkin Paskus is legendary. Ranked beside international wines of distinction, this Chardonnay is one of the select few Ontario wines included in the prestigious LCBO Vintages Classics catalogue.

Looking for a new challenge, Deborah created Closson Chase Vineyards. She developed the Closson Chase mantra: High density planting (to ensure flavour and intensity) and reduction at veraison (to allow the vine to concentrate on ripening a smaller amount of fruit). Seven years later, Deborah continues to oversee day-to-day operations of the vineyard and winery. Closson Chase now has 30 acres under vine.