



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

Last day to vote to make the Finger Lakes Wine Festival 'America's Best' ~ Cast your final vote before Noon!

THOMAS F. O'MARA August 15, 2016

| ISSUE: **FINGER LAKES WINE INDUSTRY**



Watkins Glen, N.Y., August 15—At the start of the final day of voting in *USA Today's* contest to choose “America’s Best Wine Festival,” the Finger Lakes Wine Festival remains in the lead among 20 national finalists and State Senator Tom O’Mara (R,C,I-Big Flats) and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano (R,C,I-Corning) are encouraging Finger Lakes and Southern Tier voters to finish strong in this next opportunity to put the Finger Lakes region on the national map.

Just over a week ago, following a month-long contest, the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel was named **“America’s Best Waterfront Hotel”** in a similar *USA Today* 10Best Readers’ Choice contest.

In a joint statement, O’Mara and Palmesano said, “Next up for the Finger Lakes? On the heels of a great victory for the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel, Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regional voters now have another chance to keep putting the region on top! The Finger Lakes Wine Festival at The Glen is currently in the lead in a competition against many of America’s most well-known wine and food festivals. It’s the final day to keep showing our pride in all that the Finger Lakes region offers to national and worldwide tourists!”

The contest closes on Monday, August 15, at 12:00 noon. According to USA Today, voters are allowed to vote once every 24 hours from every Internet-capable device they have. To vote in the “America’s Best Waterfront Hotel” contest, visit the USA Today contest page directly at: <http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-wine-festival/finger-lakes-wine-festival-watkins-glen-n-y/>

A link to the voting site is also on the home page of O’Mara’s Senate website, www.omara.nysenate.gov., as well as on Palmesano’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Assemblyman-Phil-Palmesano-542051452491033/>

O’Mara and Palmesano said that the “America’s Best Wine Festival” designation would be yet another effective marketing tool for local leaders to help boost tourism throughout the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions.

According to *USA Today*, the nation’s 20 finalists in the wine festival contest were selected by a panel of wine and travel experts together with *USA Today*’s 10Best editors.

Finger Lakes attractions have fared well over the past year in USA Today's Readers' Choice competitions. In addition to last week's victory for the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel, last March Watkins Glen State Park was selected as the **3rd Best State Park in America**. And last June, Watkins Glen International (WGI) was chosen as **"America's Best NASCAR Track."**