

NIAGARA

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MAGAZINE

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THE MAGIC OF ANIMALS

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PRESERVER OF
BLACK HISTORY

PLUS
BEST WINES
TO GIVE & SERVE

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

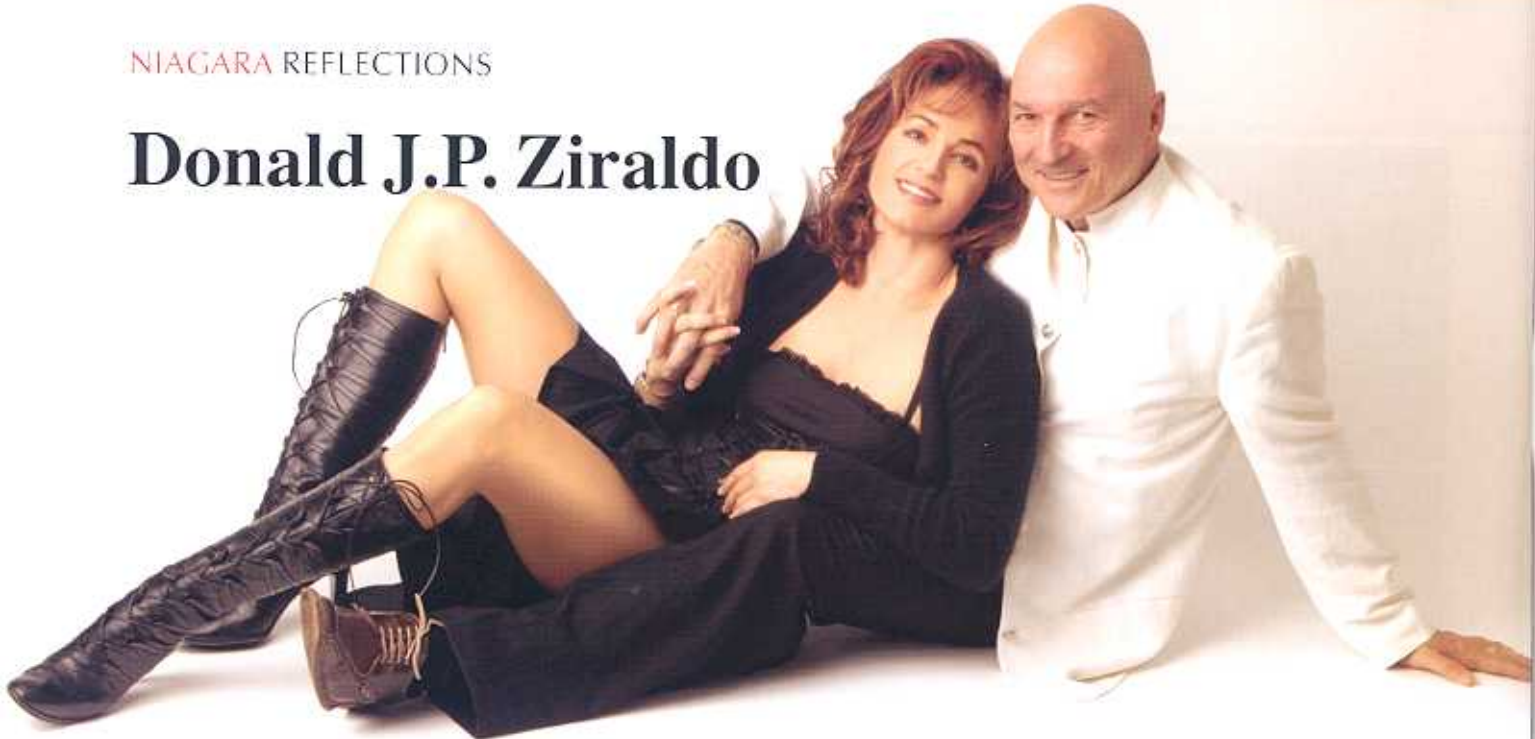
CHIC DECORATING
IDEAS FOR THE SEASON

HOLIDAY ISSUE

DONALD ZIRALDO

WINE EXPERT EXTRAORDINAIRE LEAVES THE VINEYARD
AND HEADS FOR THE SLOPES WITH HIS NEW WIFE

Donald J.P. Ziraldo



INTERVIEWED BY MIKE TENSZEN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID HASKELL

This country's best known wine personality – the Robert Mondavi of Canada – starts a new chapter in his life following two major milestones this year. The most significant for the long-time bachelor was the marriage to his life partner Anna Netter-Ziraldo in July and the other more recent change was his resignation as president of Inniskillin Wines, a company he co-founded 32 years ago. Always the visionary and committed to new ideas, Ziraldo, 58, has been an innovative pioneer in elevating the Canadian wine industry to its international acclaim.

And he's been no stranger to prestigious accolades: a member of both The Order of Canada and The Order of Ontario, the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Wine Institute and, in 1999, chosen by National Post Business Magazine as one of the top 25 Canadian CEOs of the century. His plans now involve focusing on various activities in the grape and wine research sector across Canada and around the world and, of course, skiing.

Congratulations on your success at guiding Inniskillin to its vaunted place in the world. What's next for you?

Good question...?

What's your definition of success in life?

Enjoying it to the fullest.

What's your idea of perfect happiness?

Skiing in deep, deep powder.

What has been your leadership style?

Lead, follow or get the hell out of the way.

Is there a key to your success in business?

Tenacity!

What's your own absolute favourite wine to sip?

Château d'Yquem.

Who are your favourite writers?

Ayn Rand, Macchiavelli.

If you could have a long dinner and talk with anyone in history, famous or infamous, who would it be?

John F. Kennedy.

Your favourite possession?

My memories!

Which living person do you admire most?

Dalai Lama.

What is the single quality in others that you most admire?

Integrity.

What is the most annoying behaviour in other people that you cannot tolerate?

Incompetence.

What do you value most in a friend?

Honesty.

Congratulations on your marriage to Anna. How did you two meet and why Anna?

Skiing in Whistler. She is my soul mate and an extraordinary human being.

If you could live by a single motto, what would that be?

Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you.

Do you have any major regrets?

Not taking a job as a ski instructor in Aspen many years ago.

What's your greatest achievement?

Building Inniskillin with Karl Kaiser.

If you hadn't chosen to be a wine innovator, what other occupation might have been interesting to you?

Architect.

Which historical figure do you most admire?

Albert Einstein.