

The Modern Living Magazine of British Columbia

Lifestyle

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BACKYARD REVIVAL

FROM AGONY
TO ECSTASY

WINE HOUSE

TOUR A TUSCAN VILLA...
IN KELOWNA

VALLEY WHIRL

SUMMER PLEASURES OF THE
OKANAGAN AND THE FRASER

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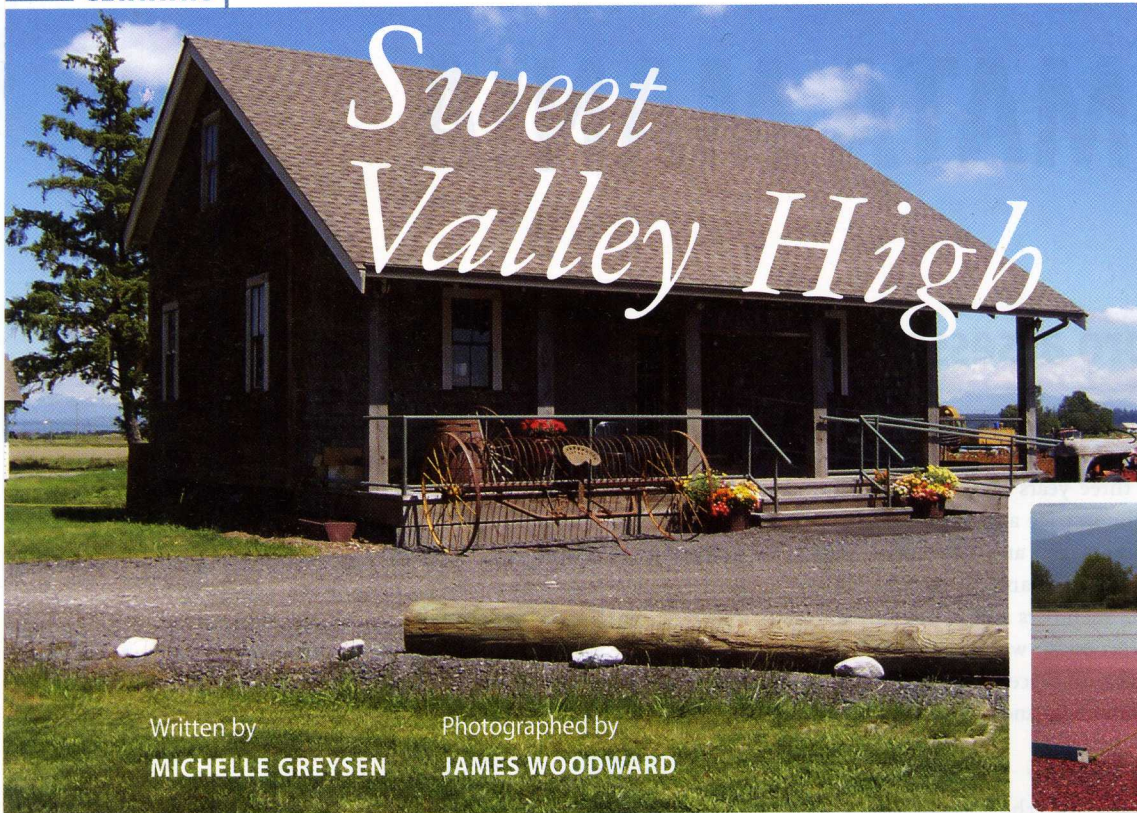


DIANA KRALL

CANADA'S FIRST LADY OF JAZZ

+ Seafood recipes
from Tojo's

Sweet Valley High



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Visit the up-and-coming estates of southwestern B.C. for grape and fruit wines

The Fraser Valley has always been home to some of the West Coast's most fertile soil, but only in the last decade has it been taken seriously as wine country. Since the mid-'90s, however, the wineries of the Fraser River basin have been nabbing awards for both fruit and grape varietals.

Enterprising vintners have now discovered the local climate of hot dry summers and cool winters is perfect for berry patches, cranberry bogs, fruit trees and grape vineyards. According to Fraser Valley Wine Association director Eugene Kwan, the collective now boasts 12 premium wineries, and this summer will hold its first ever Wine Festival showcasing "the Fraser Valley's unique wine culture, along with both the agriculture and culinary components."

With most fruit-farm wineries offering year-round tours, tasting rooms,

fine bistro cuisine and specialty shops, visitors can spend days exploring for the perfect table or dessert wine. The dozen picturesque vineyards boast facilities for family picnics, food pairing evenings, cooking classes, fundraisers, live theatre and even car shows. Each winery reflects its winemaker's unique heritage and methods, and many of the region's

award-winning vintages are now appearing in fine restaurants and retailers around the province.

Of particular benefit for Vancouverites, says Kwan, is that the association's handily located wineries offer a genuine, socially aware 100-mile wine for urbanites pursuing the popular 100-mile diet. Of course, he says, the wine is best experienced at its beautiful Fraser Valley winery. •

Find the Fraser Valley Wine Association online at: www.fvwa.ca.



Wineries of the Fraser Valley

Westham Island Estate Winery

Delta's first winery specializing in homegrown fruit, Westham plants, picks and process on its own 35-acre farm west of Ladner. It also offers wine jellies, syrups, gourmet goodies and wares from local artists.

Sanduz Estate Winery

Located in Richmond, Sanduz opened in September 2006 as a diversified venture to its existing blueberry and cranberry farm, and offers a range of fruit and grape wines for both table and dessert.

Wellbrook Winery

This fruit winery offers a unique historic setting on a 100-year-old Delta-area farm scattered with antique farm machinery, and featuring the restored Old Grainery Store.

River's Bend Winery

One of the Valley's newest additions and Surrey's only farm-based winery, River's Bend operates 15 acres of vineyards.

Blue Heron Fruit Winery

A division of 50-year-old Flynn Farms, Blue Heron is only 30 km east of Vancouver in scenic Pitt Meadows, and produces fine fruit table wines and dessert wines. Its signature product is a deep-red, robust cranberry wine sold at the on-site gift shop.

Domaine de Chaberton Estate Winery

Located in Langley's south hills, this is one of the largest and oldest operations in the area, and the first to



establish grapes in the Fraser Valley. It's also home to the Canoe Cove brand and the Zagat-rated Bacchus Bistro.

Vista Doro Farms Winery of Langley

The newest member of the association, Vista Doro opens for tours this summer, offering a signature walnut-fortified wine from a family recipe dating back to the French Revolution.

The Fort Wine Company

Just outside historic Fort Langley, this is the place to try table and dessert wines in an old-fashioned saloon bar. The site features a country store with fruit-enhanced balsamic vinegars and extra-virgin olive oil, plus the Harvest Wine & Cheese Bistro.

Pepin Brook Estates Winery

Located on the Langley-Abbotsford border, the former Glenugie Winery is joining the upcoming Pepin Brook Estates development, blending an award-winning winery with estate-lifestyle living.

Lotusland Vineyards

A south-sloping vineyard in Abbotsford, Lotusland grows organic chemical-free fruit, producing small batches of low-sulphite wines available in limited release.

St. Urban Winery

Named for the patron saint of vine growers and winemakers, St. Urban is located in Chiliwack at the Fraser Valley's eastern end. The Slovakian owner/winemaker specializes in German riesling hybrids Kerner and Siegerebbe, and a signature red of Hungarian Turán varietal.

