

Northwest *palate*

*taste and tour
wine country!*

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A Fool for Berries | Brother, Can You Spare a Truffle?

Not so long ago, accommodation in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley often meant a room in a hotel or a motel that looked much like the one you occupied in the last town. And if you felt like splurging on luxury, there weren't many options to choose from.

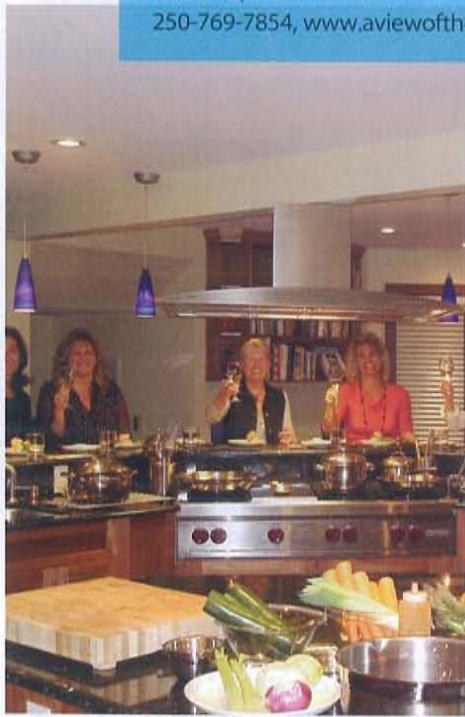
Welcome to the new Okanagan. In the past few years, the valley's celebrity as a wine-touring destination has inspired a mini-boom in guesthouses, resorts, and lavish B&Bs. These ten newcomers, which offer a variety of lodging styles from one-room cottages to three-room suites, exemplify the trend. They're all unique. All are conveniently—and panoramically—situated on or near vineyards and wineries. And they'll all be quite happy to spoil you.

Where to Stay— Okanagan Wine Country

By Darlene West

A View of the Lake B&B

1877 Horizon Drive
Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 3E4
250-769-7854, www.aviewofthelake.com



COURTESY A VIEW OF THE LAKE B&B

Part upscale lodging, part foodie retreat, this B&B on a hillside setting in Kelowna dishes up glamorous lake views at every turn. Accomplished chef Steve Marston, who moved to the Okanagan after a 19-year culinary career in Bermuda, was winery chef at nearby Quails' Gate before launching this innovative getaway with his wife, Chrissy. Guestrooms in rich shades that make you think of butterscotch and pumpkin are generously sized with deluxe *en suite* baths. The *pièce de résistance*: a 550-square-foot, show-style kitchen. Sign up for a cooking demonstration, and you not only get to enjoy a sumptuous four-course meal, you learn how to recreate it.

Three guestrooms. Rates: \$125 to \$145*. *En suite* baths, TVs, Internet. Adult-oriented. No pets. Smoking outside. Gourmet breakfast included. Cooking demonstrations at \$75 per person include local wine paired with a full-course dinner. The kitchen accommodates 10. Call ahead to inquire about coming events.

The Cove Lakeside Resort

4205 Gellatly Road
Westbank, B.C. V4T 2K2
250-707-1800 or 877-762-2683
www.covelakeside.com



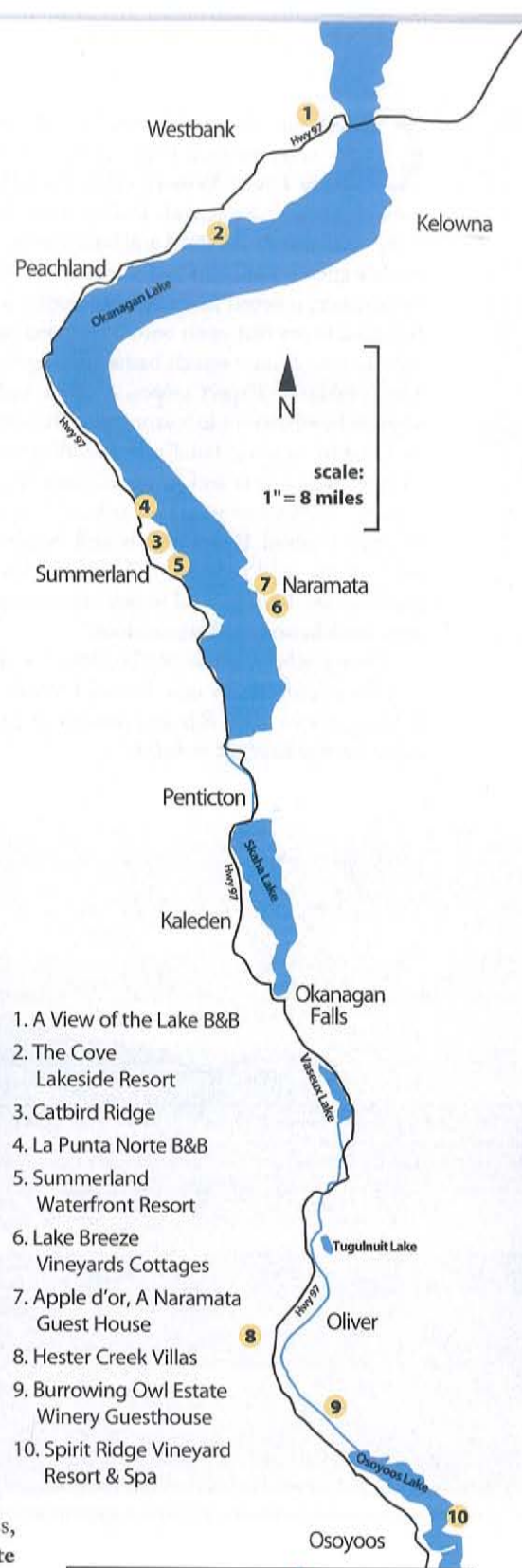
COURTESY THE COVE LAKESIDE RESORT

Suites in this condo-style resort, located on Okanagan Lake between a historic nut farm and a yacht club, are luxuriously comfortable, with snazzy kitchens, dining and living areas. Guests have access to the resort's numerous amenities, which include a spa, fitness center, pools, and hot tubs. The onsite eatery, Bonfire Restaurant and Bar, pairs Okanagan ingredients with Southwest style and artsy presentation. Sit by the open kitchen, in a corner booth, or outdoors on the deck. Beside the resort, a footpath runs along the lake, and Gellatly

Road leads to several nearby wineries, including **Mission Hill Family Estate** (250-768-6467) and **Quails' Gate Estate Winery** (250-769-2501). Supplies to stock your own kitchen are just minutes away in Westbank, and Kelowna shops and restaurants are about a 20-minute drive.

150 suites in one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom styles. Rates vary from \$145 to \$400 in low season, from \$300 to \$900 in high season. Fully equipped gourmet kitchens, TV/DVD/Internet, fireplace, washer/dryer. No smoking. Pet-friendly. ▶

1. A View of the Lake B&B
2. The Cove Lakeside Resort
3. Catbird Ridge
4. La Punta Norte B&B
5. Summerland Waterfront Resort
6. Lake Breeze Vineyards Cottages
7. Apple d'or, A Naramata Guest House
8. Hester Creek Villas
9. Burrowing Owl Estate Winery Guesthouse
10. Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort & Spa



*All prices listed are in Canadian dollars.

Check into this sophisticated B&B and your tour of the neighborhood might include a visit to **Sumac Ridge Estate Winery** (250-494-0451) or a stroll through an apricot orchard. Unlike some B&Bs, Catbird Ridge was custom-designed and built specifically to accommodate guests. The hallway to the second floor guestrooms, for instance, is broad and airy, with oodles of natural light and glass doors that open onto a secluded outdoor seating area. Rooms feature stylish baths and big-hotel amenities. The breakfasts? Expect crêpes, soufflés, and other dishes inspired by whatever's in season, from rhubarb in spring to squash in fall. Emily Waddington, an enthusiastic cook and gardener, came here from the West Coast with her husband, Barry, to open Catbird Ridge and is still swooning over the local produce. "We get fabulous peaches," she beams. "And organic free-range eggs are delivered right to our door."

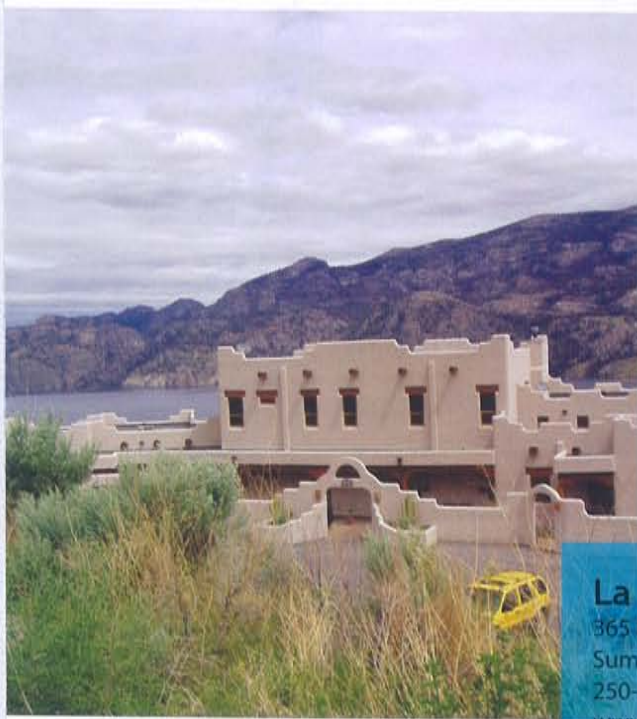
Three guestrooms. Rates: \$175 with a two-night minimum in July and August. En suite baths, TV/DVD/Internet access. Smoking outside only. Pets and children by pre-arrangement only. Gourmet breakfast included.

Catbird Ridge

17404 Logie Road
Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z6
250-494-0111 or 888-488-4954
www.catbirdridge.ca



COURTESY CATBIRD RIDGE PHOTO BY ENCS PHOTO LAB



La Punta Norte B&B

365 Highway 97 North
Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z6
250-494-4456 or 877-527-8682
www.lapuntanorte.com

This inn-like B&B leaps into view as you wind your way south on Highway 97 towards Summerland. The buff-colored, adobe-style building looks as though it could have morphed out of the cliffs above Okanagan Lake. Six spacious suites, all very private, showcase the spectacular location. Balconies, complete with hot tubs, perch above the lake. The décor is Mexican-Southwest, with rugged tables

and colorful, hand-painted bathroom fixtures. Breakfast is served on a broad lakeside deck, and guests who want to whip up some meals themselves have a barbecue area on a separate deck.

Six suites. Rates: \$185 (\$165 for bookings of two or more nights). En suite baths, private entrances, balconies with hot tub, TV/Internet, fireplace. Smoking outside only. Pet-friendly by pre-arrangement. Gourmet breakfast included.



COURTESY BOUCHONS BISTRO

Kelowna Dining

Try the casually chic **Bouchons Bistro**, pictured, left, (1180 Sunset Drive, 250-763-6595, www.bouchonsbistro.com), where the tablecloths are paper, the daily cheese selection is printed on a blackboard, and the pommes frites are addictive. Fresh produce from Okanagan farms and orchards finds its way onto the table at **Fresco Restaurant and Lounge** (1560 Water Street, 250-868-8805, www.frescorestaurant.net). At the helm: Chef Rod Butters, formerly executive chef at the famed Wickaninnish

Inn on Vancouver Island. At **Waterfront Wines Restaurant & Wine Bar** (1180 Sunset Drive, 250-979-1222, waterfrontwines.com), the menu ranges from prawn and vegetable spring rolls to rack of lamb with meatballs and polenta. The B.C. and international wine list includes many by-the-glass selections. You can dine well in magnificent surroundings at a handful of Kelowna wineries. Quails' Gate Estate's **Old Vines Patio** (3303 Boucherie Road, 250-769-4451, www.quailsgate.com) and Summerhill's **Sunset Bistro** (4870 Chute Lake Road, 250-764-8000, www.summerhill.bc.ca) are open year-round. Open during touring season are CedarCreek's **Vineyard Terrace Restaurant** (5445 Lakeshore Road, 250-764-8866, www.cedarcreek.bc.ca), **Gray Monk's Grapevine Restaurant** (1055 Camp Road, 250-766-3168, www.graymonk.com), and **The Terrace at Mission Hill Family Estate** (1730 Mission Hill Road, 250-768-6448, www.missionhillwinery.com).

Summerland Waterfront Resort

13011 Lakeshore Drive South
Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z1
250-494-8180 or 877-494-8111
www.summerlandresorthotel.com

Summerland Waterfront Resort opened with a blast in February 2006 when the entire crew of *Wind Chill*, a movie being filmed in nearby Peachland, checked in for six weeks. The suites are fresh and cheerful, with soft yellow color schemes and stainless steel kitchens. Most suites have lake views. If you're lucky enough to be staying long-term, you'll appreciate conveniences such as a fitness center and guest laundry facilities. Shaughnessy's Cove Pub and Restaurant, next to the resort, has a lakefront patio. You can investigate a handful of winery tasting rooms in Summerland.

76 suites. Rates range from \$89 to \$159 in low season, \$159 to \$399 high season. Full kitchens, TV/DVD/Internet. Fireplace. Non-smoking. Pet-friendly rooms available on request.



COURTESY SUMMERLAND RESORT

Summerland/Penticton/ Naramata Dining

At Sumac Ridge's **Cellar Door Bistro** (17403 Highway 97 North, Summerland, 250-494-0451, www.sumacridge.com), Chef Neil Schroeter pairs Sumac Ridge wines with a sophisticated, seasonally changing menu. The classy little **Vanilla Pod**, pictured below, (9917A Main Street, Summerland, www.thevanillapod.ca, 250-494-8222) dishes up big flavors in a "small plates" style (dinner only). In Penticton, the casual **Theo's Restaurant** (687 Main Street, 250-492-4019, www.eatsquid.com) is a local favorite, offering Greek fare from avgolemono to saganaki. In Naramata, the top dining spot is at the **Naramata Heritage Inn & Spa** (3625 First Street, Naramata, www.naramatainn.com, 250-496-6808). The inn's Cobblestone Wine Bar extends onto a perennially popular patio and offers many B.C. wines by the glass. The inn's more formal Rock Oven Dining Room is open May to

October; in summer, dine *al fresco* with a vineyard view. The lunch menu at Hillside Estate Winery's **Barrel Room Bistro** (1350 Naramata Road, Penticton, 250-493-6274, www.hillsideestate.com) includes thin-crust pizzas and creative sandwiches. **The Patio at Lake Breeze Vineyards** (930 Sammet Road, Naramata, 250-496-

5619, www.lakebreeze.ca) serves Mediterranean-inspired lunch items, such as a shrimp-and-crab wrap with roasted-garlic lemon aioli.

Lake Breeze Vineyards Cottages

930 Sammet Road
Naramata, B.C. V0H 1N0
250-496-5659
www.lakebreeze.ca



COURTESY LAKE BREEZE VINEYARDS

Your own cottage? On a vineyard? Overlooking a lake? Believe it! The owners of the award-winning **Lake Breeze Vineyards** built a guest cottage near the winery a couple of years ago and added a second, higher up in a block of pinot blanc grapes, in 2006. Both feature snappy kitchens and outstanding views. You'll find a bottle of Lake Breeze wine waiting for you in your cottage when you arrive, and the setting is perfect for exploring other Naramata Bench wineries. The units are self-catering. Supplies are just minutes away in the village of Naramata, and

you're only about seven miles from Penticton. Lake Breeze's lovely Mediterranean-flavored restaurant, The Patio, is open for lunch in summer. A tip: if you're planning a visit, reserve well in advance. These cottages book up fast.

Two one-bedroom cottages with kitchens. Rates in July and August are \$229 for weekend nights and \$209 per weeknight, with a three-night minimum. Rates in May, June, September, and October are \$189 for weekend nights and \$169 per weeknight, with a two-night minimum. Rates from November to April are \$159 per night. TV/DVD. Fireplace. ►



COURTESY THE VANILLA POD

Apple d'or is a grand log guesthouse on a former apple orchard overlooking Okanagan Lake in Naramata. Owners Holly Stevens and Colin Moores had a hand in everything from drawing up the plans to nailing down the floorboards (some of which were salvaged from an Alberta grain elevator), and they furnished the king-sized suites with treasures from their travels. Guests have a separate entrance and deck. Geared to extreme relaxation, this highly original house features private, walk-out patios off each room, spa-style baths, and a pool with a front-row view of the lake. You can soak in a hot tub, sweat in a sauna, or mellow out in a

Apple d'or, A Naramata Guest House

2587 Naramata Road
Naramata, B.C. V0H 1N0
250-496-4045, www.appledor.ca

sunroom. The Naramata Bench has about 20 wineries to check out. In particular, the owners recommend **Poplar Grove Winery** (250-493-9463), **La Frenz** (250-492-6690), and **Van Westen Vineyards** (250-496-0067).

Three suites. Rates: \$275 to \$325. En suite baths. TV/DVD/Internet. Music system. Kitchens. Fireplaces. No smoking, no pets, children over 12 only. Continental breakfast included.



COURTESY APPLE D'OR

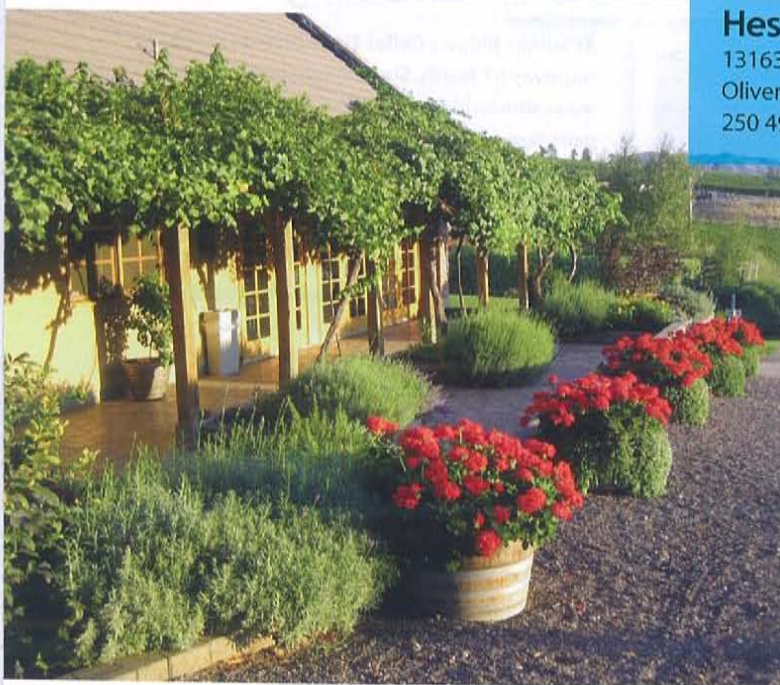
Hester Creek Villas

13163 326th Avenue
Oliver, B.C. V0H 1T0
250 498-4435, www.hestercreek.com

These brand-new (June 2007) Tuscan-flavored villas have a top-of-the-world exuberance, with towering ceilings and a hilltop setting above **Hester Creek**

Estate Winery. Fill your wineglass (a Hester Creek Trebbiano, perhaps). Step out onto your patio. Inhale the view. Life is good. The tile-clad rooms come with microwaves, bar fridges, and small sinks. Bathrooms have soaker tubs and hip corner showers. Continental breakfast is delivered right to your door. (Opt for the VIP unit, a detached, one-bedroom villa, and you'll have your own kitchen). Hester Creek is just south of Oliver on a stretch of Highway 97 that's lined with wineries and vineyards. You can easily plot a tasting tour from your patio.

Five villas, one VIP villa. Rates vary with the season, from \$165 to \$265 for villas, from \$195 to \$295 for the VIP villa (there is a two-night minimum from June through October). En suite baths, TV/Internet. Fireplace. No smoking, no pets, adult-oriented. Continental breakfast included.



COURTESY HESTER CREEK

Oliver/Osoyoos Dining

The Toasted Oak Wine Bar & Grill (34881 97th Street, Oliver, 250-498-4867, www.winecountry-canada.com), in a former fire hall, has a mammoth wine list and a wide-ranging menu that varies throughout the year. The VQA wine store in the same building carries hundreds of B.C. wines. For an intimate setting, head for the **Wildfire Grill** (8526 Main Street, Osoyoos, 250-495-2215) where you can enjoy your

seafood linguine or blackened tuna on a quiet patio. For memorable scenery, the don't-miss dining spots in the southern end of the valley are the **Sonora Room** at Burrowing Owl Winery (100 Burrowing Owl Place, Oliver, www.bovwine.ca, 250-498-0620) and **Passatempo at the Spirit Ridge Resort** next to Nk'Mip Cellars (1200 Rancher Creek Road, Osoyoos, 250-495-8007, www.passatempo.biz/osoyoos).



(L-R) Toasted Oak Sommelier Jay Drysdale and Executive Chef Jeffrey Brandt.

COLE DANSHOWER PHOTO

COURTESY BURROWING OWL, GORD WYLE PHOTO



Burrowing Owl Estate Winery Guesthouse

100 Burrowing Owl Place
Oliver, B.C. V0H 1T0
250-498-0620 or 877-498-0620
www.bovwine.ca

Burrowing Owl's lofty location on the east bench of the Okanagan River Valley, between Oliver and Osoyoos, affords a big-screen view of B.C. wine country—and many settings from which to enjoy it. In the winery restaurant, the Sonora Room, you can sample rosemary lamb sausage or wild sockeye salmon on a wrap-around deck that overhangs Burrowing Owl's hundreds of acres of grapes. The latest addition: an opulent guesthouse. The *très chic* rooms feature lots

of slate, walk-in closets, decadent baths, and of course, tremendous views. The breakfast room is on the main level, next to the library wine collection, and just outside, there's a 25-meter pool.

Ten guestrooms, one penthouse suite. Guestroom rates vary with the seasons, from \$175 to \$295 (with a minimum two-night stay from April through December). For penthouse suite rates, inquire at winery. En suite baths, TV/Internet. Fireplace. No smoking, no pets, adult-oriented. Artisan buffet breakfast included.

Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort & Spa

1200 Rancher Creek Road
Osoyoos, B.C. V0H 1V0
250-495-5445 or 877-313-9463
www.spiritridge.ca



COURTESY SPIRIT RIDGE

These condo-style units have tall ceilings, sleek kitchens, and loads of atmosphere, thanks to an oh-so-cool setting in the desert-like

southern tip of the Okanagan near the shores of Osoyoos Lake. Sagebrush and cactus thrive here. Coyotes howl in the hills at night. Situated next to the majestic **Nk'Mip Cellars** (250-495-2985) owned by the Osoyoos Indian Band, the resort also includes a nine-hole golf course and a cultural center. A spa is in the works for this summer. The restaurant, Passatempo, offers an imaginative menu, with seating arranged around a long communal table, in more intimate settings near the windows, and, in fine weather, outdoors on the deck. And the views? Let's just say you won't forget you're in wine country.

94 units. Various styles are available, from 590-square-foot one-bedroom suites, to 977-square-foot two-bedroom villas. All units have fully equipped kitchens, fireplace, TV/DVD, and Internet. Rates vary with the season. One-bedroom suite: \$159 to \$295, one-bedroom villa: \$219 to \$319, two-bedroom villa: \$249 to \$389. Non-smoking, with a \$20 charge for pet-friendly rooms (check availability when booking).



Vineyard owner and travel writer Darlene West lives in Oliver, B.C.

We're no one-night stand.

There's so much to do, you'll need at least a week.

Excitement abounds with wakeboard lessons, a private marina with valet service and kids activities.

Indulge in spa treatments, Bikram Yoga, gourmet dining at Bonfire Restaurant or gazing from your balcony at the spectacular views. Your vacation at The Cove will keep you coming back year after year. Kelowna's newest luxury resort...everything you've dreamed about. You won't lose our number.

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www.bhrbc.com

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