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ON THE ROAD

A week of **wine**

Explore B.C.'s wineries, one sip at a time

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SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Say you've got a week to explore the best of British Columbia's wineries. With nearly 200 of them dotted around the province, it would be, if not impossible, then at least challenging to visit them all. But you can certainly get a taste of the best by following this action-packed itinerary.



Check out the vineyards at Nk'Mip Cellars in Osoyoos on Day 5 of your road trip. Planning your own wineries trip? Go to www.vancouversun.com to see a Google map of all of the wineries mentioned on these pages and in this section.

DAY 5: OSOYOOS AND SIMILKAMEEN VALLEY

Continue south on Hwy 97 for about 20 minutes until you reach Osoyoos, located in the desert country a scant few minutes from the United States border.

Stop in at Nk'Mip Cellars (www.nkmip.com), where winemaker Randy Picton is producing exceptional wines, especially the top tier "Qwam Qwmt" series. This winery is owned and operated by the Osoyoos First Nations and is part of the bigger Nk'Mip Resort, which also comprises a desert cultural centre, conference centre, RV park, golf course and the luxe Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort & Spa.

Spirit Ridge is also home to the terrific Mediterranean-inspired Passa Tempo Restaurant.

Or, if you're feeling peckish, try the fusion-friendly Sol Grill Room, the Ridge Brewing Company for great pub grub or the vino-licious Watermark Wine Bar at the just-opened Watermark Beach Resort

(www.watermarkbeachresort.com).

If you check out Osoyoos in the morning, you should have time to swing up to the Similkameen Valley in the afternoon. To get there, head west from Osoyoos on Hwy 3 for about 30 minutes until you reach the town of Cawston.

Although this is still primarily orchard country, many experts think it will be the next big thing in B.C. wine. Here you'll find small, young wineries making intriguing wines, like the cult faves Seven Stones Winery (www.sevenstones.ca) and Orofino Vineyards (www.orofoviniveyards.com), both near Cawston.