

CALGARY HERALD

BREAKINGNEWS.AT.CALGARYHERALD.COM

PROUDLY CALGARY SINCE 1883

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2010

Among the vines

The Okanagan is growing up. Calgary's favourite playground is home now to outstanding wines — and restaurants. Here's the latest news for your summer vacation spot.



The Okanagan has always had the sun and the lake and the fruit. But for a long time it had mediocre wine and dull restaurants.

Not anymore. Since the plonk-wine grapes were torn up 20 years ago, more than 140 new wineries have been built, many making terrific wines. And with good wine comes good food. Now the food and restaurant scene is among the best in the country, making the Okanagan a world-class culinary destination.

We spent a week there recently and here's what we found to slake our appetites.



PASSATEMPO

**Spirit Ridge Resort,
1200 Rancher Creek Rd.,
Osoyoos, 250-495-5445**

The stylishly white Passatempo serves internationally inspired “wine country comfort food,” such as sablefish with lobster bisque and smoked caviar or goat cheese panna cotta with fig and port compote and pinot noir caramel sauce. All with a wide-ranging wine list and excellent service.

More Okanagan tidbits

In between visits to wineries and restaurants, there are more than a few activities in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys to help build an appetite. Here are a few to consider.

NK'MIP DESERT CULTURAL CENTRE

**1000 Rancher Creek
Rd., Osoyoos**

Take a walk through lands where the First Nations of Osoyoos have lived for thousands of years. Visit the interpretive centre to learn about Canada's only true desert.