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\$1.90 + GST

Beer is great; wine, too



STEVE
MacNAULL

Fill'er Up

Today is the day to sip some suds, soak up some sun and have some fun at the Great Okanagan Beer Festival.

It's Kelowna's only beer event held outdoors and will see Waterfront Park packed with 3,500 people enjoying cold ones, live music and eats from food trucks.

You can buy tickets to the fest, which runs noon to 5 p.m., at the gate for \$50.

Admission comes with three tokens good for three beer samples.

Additional tokens are \$1.75 each and are sold in books of five or 10 by beer fairies, aka roaming lovely ladies wearing wings.

In all 60 craft breweries will be pouring 120 beers.

Okanagan breweries with booths include Penticton's Bad Tattoo, Highway 97, Tin Whistle and Cannery; Vernon's Okanagan Spring and Marten; and Kelowna's Big Surf and BNA.

The fest attracts numerous bachelor, bachelorette and theme party groups, so don't be surprised if you see girls, and maybe even some guys, in bridal gowns and other gaudy costumes.

Hunter Spectacular

There's nothing wrong with a little sip of rose wine before mounting your 1,100-pound horse to compete, according to Haeli Saunders.

The Calgary rider enjoyed a small glass of Silver Lining rose from Kelowna's The View Winery last weekend before she and her horse, Pierre, jumped in the Hunter Spectacular event at the Kelowna Riding Club's Spring Classic.

Ever since the spectacular was introduced four years ago, The View owner Jennifer Turton-Molgat has sponsored the event and poured wines for spectators, competitors and coaches.

She also takes orders for wines at the Saturday afternoon event and delivers on Sunday, the last day of competition, so people can take The View wines home with them.

Turton-Molgat is a rider herself and so are her two daughters.

Besides the rose, Turton-Molgat also poured the aromatic Silver Lining white and the Pinotage red at the spectacular.

Unleashed

While the canines lapped water

and scarfed biscuits, their human companions sampled wines and nibbled canapes.

Such was the scene last weekend as the wineries on Kelowna's Lakeshore Wine Route - Tantalus, St. Hubertus, Summerhill Pyramid and CedarCreek - invited wine lovers to bring their dogs along for the Unleashed fundraiser benefitting the B.C. SPCA.

For a \$20 donation, people were served two wines with paired appetizers at each winery accompanied by their pooches.

Unleashed is one of the most innovative offerings of the ongoing 90-event, 11-day Spring Okanagan Wine Festival.

The fest wraps up tomorrow, so there's still lots of time to sip and savour.

The Iron Sommelier competition is tonight at the Kelowna campus of Okanagan College and with Mother's Day falling tomorrow there are parties perfect to take mom to, including brunch at Watermark Beach Resort in Osoyoos and the Floral wine tasting and garden soiree at Kelowna's Laurel Packinghouse.

Check out TheWineFestivals.com for a full list of events.

Art in the Park

West Kelowna's Art in the Park has been revamped to include wine, yipee.

For the past few years, the event, which features local artists working on pieces and selling their art, was held in various West Kelowna parks.

This year wineries on the Westside Wine Trail were brought on board so the events can be hosted vineyard-side.

The launch is tomorrow, which coincides with Mother's Day, at Quails Gate Winery on Boucherie Road from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It's free to attend and you can buy some wine to enjoy while you check out the paintings, sculptures, glassware and tapestries by 14 artists.

Painter Louise Lambert, who is helping organize Art in the Park, will be there displaying several canvases, all with a wine theme.

Twisted

Kaylan Madeira, 28, makes the bold claim of being the youngest cidery owner and cider maker in North America.

With no one challenging the assertion, I believe her.

After all, 28 is young to own seven acres of land in Cawston with your boyfriend and be five years into making fermented apple juice with their Twisted Hills Craft Cidery.

Madeira is passionate about making only certified-organic ciders with a twist, as the name indicates.

As such, the company's four ciders come in elegant 750-ml bottles and carry the names Pippin's Fate, Kingston's Twist, Tangled



Photo courtesy Great Okanagan Beer Festival

You don't have to wear orange satin shorts and matching headband to today's Great Okanagan Beer Festival, but you can if you want to. The fest is noon to 5 p.m. in Kelowna's Waterfront Park and attracts 3,500 beer lovers, including numerous bachelor, bachelorette and theme party groups.



STEVE MACNAULL/The Okanagan Saturday

Haeli Saunders of Calgary enjoys a glass of The View Winery's Silver Lining rose before mounting her horse, Pierre, and competing in the Hunter Spectacular at last weekend's Kelowna Riding Club Spring Classic hunter-jumper show.

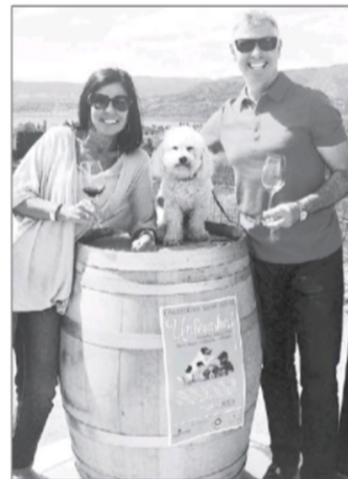


Photo courtesy Cara Woods Photography

Reporter Steve MacNaull and his wife, Kerry, accompanied, of course, by their cute little Bichon Frise, Beni, ham it up at Tantalus Winery in Kelowna, which took part in the dog-friendly Spring Okanagan Wine Festival event called Unleashed in support of the B.C. SPCA.

Rose (which gets its pink tinge from some added plum) and Paradise Pear.

Madeira's Twisted Hills was one of 14 B.C. cideries pouring samples to 500 people at last weekend's sold out inaugural Okanagan Craft Cider Festival held at Kelowna's B.C. Tree Fruits, which has diversified into cider making.

While the fest is over, cideries want you to consider dry and refreshing fermented apple juice as the perfect alternative to wine and beer through the hot summer and year round.

Steve MacNaull is The Okanagan Saturday's business reporter and columnist. But he also loves to eat and drink, thus his new column, aptly named Fill 'er Up. Reach him at steve.macnaull@ok.bc.ca.



STEVE MACNAULL/The Okanagan Saturday

Sisters Kelsey, left, and Kaylan Madeira poured Twisted Hill ciders at the sold-out Okanagan Craft Cider Festival in Kelowna last weekend.