

# BCBUSINESS

## How 9 wineries do things differently in the South Okanagan

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186 Shares     



Unlike Time Winery, these wine producers are distinctly rural, yet each has its own personality



### 3. Covert Farms Family Estate Winery

Established as a vegetable farm in 1959 by George Covert, Covert Farms began growing grapes in the early 1960s. In 2014, Gene Covert, George's grandson, changed his focus to winemaking and organic food growing. The 25-acre vineyard (300 acres of the 650-acre farm is leased to another winery, Peller Estates) is certified organic, and the farm collaborates with Watermark Beach Resort in Osoyoos as one of Destination Canada's 197 Signature Experiences. Participants tour the farm in the back of a 1952 Mercury pickup truck to learn about its agriculture and viticulture practices. Its location 400 feet above the highway and right below McIntyre Bluff, a South Okanagan landmark, means the farm receives more heat and wind than other local farms, reducing mildew problems. The Coverts try to work with nature, planting cover crops that suppress weeds and attract beneficial pollinators and insects; they make their wines with minimal intervention, using natural fermentation when possible. At the end of the tour, participants pick seasonal vegetables for a wine tasting with charcuterie and a cheese board on the patio back at the wine lounge, or head to Watermark for a dinner prepared with produce from the farm.

**Vineyard:** 650 acres (65 Covert Farms vines, remainder leased or farmed)

**Production:** 4,500-5,000 cases a year



Covert Farms Family Estate Winery