

THE DAILY COURIER

Vanessa readies for visitors

Steve MacNaull Jul 24, 2017 0



Vanessa 2013 Meritage (\$37), 2013 Syrah (\$35) and 2014 Merlot (\$35)

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It's taken 11 years, but Vanessa Vineyard is finally ready to open a tasting room and shop at its Cawston property.

Vancouver businessmen and friends Suki Sekhon, a property developer, and John Welson, a retired stock broker, bought the 220 acres in the Similkameen Valley in 2006, concentrated on planting red varieties only and released award-winning wines along the way.

However, a tasting room and shop wasn't part of the plan for a decade.

That all changes on the afternoon of Aug. 11 when Vanessa will throw a party to launch its elegantly simple tasting bar and store at 1090 Highway 3.

The winery is releasing scant details about the grand opening right now, but urges you to check out VanessaVineyard.com closer to the date for more information.

What we do know is you'll be able to taste Vanessa's four stunning wines at the event.

For the first time, it's released a rose (\$23) made from estate-grown Syrah and Merlot and finished French Provençal-style for a pink that bursts with cherry, raisin and wildflower aromas and tastes.

Only 90 cases of the 2016 rose were made and its extremely limited production means you can only buy it at the winery shop.

The new-release reds have all had time in the barrel and bottle so you can drink them now or age them further.

The 2014 Merlot (\$35) is approachable, smooth and polished.

Opulent and well-rounded with a long finish describes the 2013 Syrah (\$35).

And the 2013 Meritage (\$37) blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot is dark-berry-and-coffee full-bodied and rich with silky tannins.

The reds can all be purchased at the winery, online or at restaurants including Oak+Cru at the Delta Grand hotel in Kelowna, Predator Ridge Golf Course near Vernon, Hooded Merganser at the Penticton Lakeside Resort and Watermark Beach Resort in Osoyoos.

By the way, Vanessa is not the lady love of anyone associated with the winery.

It's derived from the Greek word for butterfly, which flutter in abundance around the property in the summer.