



Bizou + Yukon

every Dog's a Critic

Bizou + Yukon Review the Neighbour's BC Wines
(with help from Nikki Bayley)

As working dogs, we are very busy keeping things on The Ranch in good order, and we believe that working hard means you should play hard too. We love to bark it up with the play dogs and swap vineyard tales and taste wine. Try the ones we tried lately and give Four Paws Up.







Bella

If we use our binoculars, we can see across the lake from Summerlandia to the sloping hills of Naramata to our favourite all-sparkling boutique bubble house, Bella Wines. Sometimes we semaphore with Buddha the bulldog to swap organic farming tips. You can visit Bella this summer on their new farm tour. Can't make it to the winery? Then order online and mix and match a rainbow of bubbles with Bella's new Something Different label, where winemaker Jay's creative side runs wild with different grapes from small local growers and different styles of sparkling winemaking.



Synchromesh

Yukon considers himself quite the Riesling connoisseur and so Synchromesh, with its six different expressions of Riesling, is one of his favourite wineries in the Okanagan. "I'm a member of several different wine clubs, I love the exclusive members-only wines."

explains Yukon. "I like to talk tasting notes with Clive, their resident Komondor, who I am embarrassed to say, I once mistook for a mop. Ellie, their staffie/lab mix is a powerhouse in the vineyard and has shown me several new ways to dig holes and eat mice." Our Tall Furry Human can't get enough of Synchromesh's

silky Cabernet Franc; once he spilled a glass of the 2017 Cachola Family on Bizou, and Yukon thoroughly enjoyed licking that up. Bizou rather liked being a pretty shade of pink for a few hours too. Win/win.



TIME Winery & Evolve Cellars

Whenever we leave The Ranch for a trip to town, we always make a beeline for TIME Winery. Perfectly placed in Penticton's downtown core, Bizou loves nothing more than a glass of Evolve's Pink Effervescence on the suntrap patio, and Yukon is partial to the McWatters Collection Meritage—ever since Yukon overheard Walky Lady explaining that 'meritage rhymes with heritage' he always enjoys ordering a glass and getting the pronunciation just right. No matter what's in the glass, it's always got to be paired with the juicy TIME burger (cooked rare!) and crispy fries, with extra Cabernet-Merlot catsup on the side. Yum!





Roche

We are incredibly envious of winery dog Oka's terrific pointy ears and her sophisticated French accent. Along with her duties as greeter and water hose-chaser, Oka is also Roche winery's official mascot. When the floofy friends get together to drink something fun and fresh we turn to Roche's Texture series; we love Arôme, made with floral, aromatic Schönberger (something of an Okanagan rarity!) and the perfect pairing with sushi (yay, raw). But

if the Tall Furry Human is cooking, then it must be something from the 'Tradition' series: 'Make it a magnum!' says Bizou. After all, when Pinot Noir is that good, you know it won't just be one glass.







Rust and Mt Boucherie

On our days off, Bizou will flip a coin to decide who we'll visit: heads left and tails right (because tails are always right.) Two of our favourite wineries to visit, Rust (heads) and Mt Boucherie (tails) have one excellent assistant vineyard manager, Forrest the Australian Shepherd, who has a very important job taking care of nearly 300 acres for both properties with his Beardy Man, Brett.

Although he's young, Forrest already specializes in dealing with those pesky marmots, birds, and gophers, and in-between racing the vines with Bizou, he'll stop and quiz Yukon for advice.

If it's a tails day, then we'll be drinking Mt Boucherie's Mama's Blush rosé, which raises money for Mamas for Mamas, a charity which helps moms in crisis. If it's a heads day, then we'll stretch out on that sun-drenched patio at Rust and settle in for the afternoon with a magnum of their Gamay, which raises funds for the BC Hospitality Foundation. We love helping in such a delicious way!





THE OTHER WAY

THAT WAY



Platinum Bench

It's always a good day when we head to Oliver to visit our fellow floof, Wally, at Platinum Bench Estate Winery & Artisan Bread Co. Wally is a Portuguese Water Dog, whose official job at the winery is 'greeter' but he also doubles up as on-site 'bread thief'.

We don't blame him, the Gorgonzola & Fig bread that his Walky Lady bakes fresh every day, is soooooo good. Four Paws Up! We like to head out to the sunny patio to take in the view of the vines whilst tasting through wines paired with different oven-fresh breads. Pair the Mur-Fi Red with their asiago cheese bread or try Yukon's favourite, the Cab Franc with the sopressata and Swiss cheese bread, because, "Spice on spice is twice as nice."



The View

We've long been a fan of Kelowna's The View winery for its sparkling Riesling-White Pinotage blend, Pearls. Made in the traditional method, it's bubbly enough for Bizou and has that racy Riesling zippiness for Yukon. We try to get to the winery at least once each September when every Sunday they have a 'Wine and Wags' walk with 50% of proceeds donated to the St. Johns Ambulance Therapy Dog program.





Les Dames/The Wine Umbrella

Winemaker Mireille Sauve is a garagiste winemaker, which Walky Lady says means something about small lot producers (but we're not sure what that means, and Yukon didn't want to ask).

We are pals with Mireille's Grenadian Pothound Lucy, who once ran so hard in the vineyards that she lost her hoodie—she's not all floofy like we are, so she wears a faux-floof in the winter.

We love to #drinkforacause and Mireille's Les Dames wines have raised more than \$37,000 to fund scholarships for women in the wine industry. More fizz, please, with the 2017 Dames Brut, an apple-bright brioche-y bubble while Yukon is raising a glass of the Wine Umbrella's 70/40 a tasty red, bursting with bright cherries and soft sage notes.

When we can escape to visit more of our neighbours, we will share more Four Paws reviews then. Until then, **Let's Wander.**



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