BC's Best Pinot Noir

Blind Tasting

October 18, 2026

Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
Jericho Clubhouse

3811 Point Grey Road
Vancouver, B.C. V6R 1B3

CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSEURS VANCOUVER

ROYAL VANCOUVER YACHT CLUB

Understanding B.C. terroir

Terroir describes the growing environment and its interaction with the vine: climate, soil, slope, exposure and local conditions. This selection explores Pinot Noir through several Okanagan sites, plus a traditional-method sparkling expression.

CLIMATE: WARM DAYS, COOL NIGHTS

Interior B.C. has warm, dry summers and cold winters. Long summer daylight supports ripening; cool nights help preserve acidity. Lakes, valley winds and mountain rain shadows create local differences within the broader region.

SOILS: A LANDSCAPE SHAPED BY ICE AND WATER

Glaciers, meltwater, rivers and sedimentation left varied deposits. Glacial till is mixed material deposited by ice; alluvium is deposited by flowing water. Sand, silt, clay and gravel describe different particle sizes, often found together in one vineyard.

ELEVATION AND ASPECT

Elevation is height above sea level; aspect is the direction a slope faces. Read them together. Higher sites can be cooler, while exposure changes the timing and intensity of sunlight. Wind, cold-air drainage and nearby lakes also matter. A higher vineyard does not automatically produce a lighter wine.

THE PLACES IN THIS SELECTION

East Kelowna Slopes is associated with elevated sites and air drainage; Naramata Bench has many west-facing vineyards and a moderately warm season; Okanagan Falls combines glacial terrain with cooling winds. West Kelowna adds the distinctive Fritzi’s and Quails’ Gate sites.

Reading the wines

SAME GRAPE, DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS

Pinot Noir can express red or dark fruit, floral notes, savoury complexity and a range of tannin textures. Vineyard conditions matter, but the vintage, harvest timing, clones and cellar decisions also influence the result. These seven wines are not a controlled experiment in soil alone.

WHY THE SPARKLING WINE IS DIFFERENT

Tantalus Blanc de Noir is a Pinot Noir-based sparkling wine made using a second fermentation in bottle. Its 2023 release spent 22 months on bottle lees. Lees are yeast sediment; extended contact contributes texture and bread-like complexity. It belongs in this exploration of Pinot Noir, but its bubbles and production method distinguish it from the still reds.

A SHARED TASTING VOCABULARY

Appearance: colour, depth and clarity; for sparkling wine, bead and mousse.
Aromas: fruit, flowers, herbs, earth and oak-related impressions.
Palate: flavour, acidity, tannin, body and texture.
Finish: persistence and the flavours that remain after swallowing.

WINEMAKING TERMS

Whole cluster: fermentation with stems still attached to some or all bunches.
Puncheon: a large oak barrel; its size affects the wine’s exposure to wood.
New oak: a barrel’s first use, generally with a greater potential oak contribution.
Clone: a selected line within a grape variety, not a different grape.
Cuvée: a particular blend or selection; its meaning depends on the producer.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Profiles appear alphabetically by winery and do not represent the pouring order or a ranking.



WINE & STYLE

Blue Mountain single-vineyard Block 9 Wild Terrain Pinot Noir 2023, from Okanagan Falls. The Mavety family owns the winery; Matt Mavety is winemaker.

VINEYARD & TERROIR

The estate·s most varied block combines wind-exposed slopes and sunny, flatter ground over loamy sand. It has southwestern exposure and Dijon clones 115 and 667, planted in 1998.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

A severe winter cold snap reduced the 2023 crop. Hand-harvested and destemmed; wild-yeast fermentation in open-top tanks with gentle pump-overs. Aged 18 months on fine lees and bottled unfiltered.

TASTING PROFILE

Wild red fruit, bramble, dark cherry and plum meet savoury herbs and forest-floor nuances. A mineral impression, taut acidity and a structured palate distinguish this wine.

TERROIR LENS

Consider how the varying terrain and southwest exposure may influence ripening, while remembering that fermentation and aging also shape the final wine.

INDICATIVE PRICE

Approximately $48 at the winery; availability may be limited.



WINE & STYLE

Carter Wine Company Pinot Noir 2023, a small-lot wine from an Okanagan Falls producer. Stephen Carter is the owner and a Royal Vancouver Yacht Club member.

WINERY PROFILE

Valerie Tremblay is winemaker and viticulturist. Carter emphasizes attentive farming, estate fruit, small-lot production and minimal intervention.

VINEYARD & TERROIR

Estate and other small-lot vineyard sources; the regional landscape includes rocky alluvial deposits, glacial till, sand and gravel, with warm days and pronounced nighttime cooling.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

Vintage: 2023. Specific fermentation methods and oak-aging details are not available for this bottling.

TASTING PROFILE

Ripe dark cherry and plum, subtle sweet baking spice, and forest-floor notes balanced by bright acidity.

INDICATIVE PRICE

$50 at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club.



WINE & STYLE

Little Engine Gold Pinot Noir 2022 is a selection of estate fruit from the Naramata Bench. Owners Steven and Nicole French work with winemaker Scott Robinson.

VINEYARD & TERROIR

High-density estate vineyards with west-facing exposure and glaciated silt and clay soils. Published estate sites lie at approximately 409·446 metres in elevation.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

A cool spring was followed by a long, warm summer in 2022. Aged in French oak; sources differ on the new-oak proportion and duration, so those particulars are not specified here.

TASTING PROFILE

Black raspberry compote, cranberry, dried herbs and forest floor. Richly textured, with floral lift and bright acidity.

TERROIR LENS

Compare its west-facing Naramata sites and finer soils with the clay-rich West Kelowna vineyards.

INDICATIVE PRICE

Approximately $65.



Martin’s Lane

Fritzi’s Vineyard Pinot Noir 2022

WINE & STYLE

Martin·s Lane Fritzi·s Vineyard Pinot Noir 2022, a single-site expression from West Kelowna. The winery is part of the von Mandl family·s wine portfolio; Shane Munn is winemaker.

VINEYARD & TERROIR

Fritzi·s Vineyard lies near Mount Boucherie on a southeast-facing slope, about 410·430 metres above sea level. Clone 115 is planted here. Winery descriptions emphasize clay-based soils and glacial till.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

The 2022 vintage followed a cool spring and a long, warm summer. The wine is associated with Austrian oak aging; exact barrel details are not specified.

TASTING PROFILE

Red cranberry, violet and lifted florals, with savoury and stony impressions. Concentrated yet elegant, with refined tannins and a long finish.

TERROIR LENS

Compare Fritzi·s clay-rich growing environment with Quails· Gate and the sandier or silty sites elsewhere in this selection.

INDICATIVE PRICE

Approximately $150 direct from the winery.



WINE & STYLE

Meyer Family Vineyards Micro Cuvée Pinot Noir 2023: a selected-barrel wine from McLean Creek Road Vineyard in Okanagan Falls. Chris Carson is winemaker.

VINEYARD & TERROIR

Planted in 1994, the vineyard has gravelly, sandy loam with alluvial and glacial deposits and south, west and northwest aspects. Pommard 91 and Dijon 115 are prominent in this cuvée.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

Severe winter cold reduced yields in 2023. The wine was aged 11 months in French oak, 50% new; unfined and coarsely filtered. Production was 255 cases; alcohol 13.5%.

TASTING PROFILE

Dark Bing cherry and earthy complexity, with clove spice, integrated oak, crisp acidity and notably firm tannins. The 2023 release is deeper in colour than earlier vintages.

TERROIR LENS

The vineyard·s multiple exposures show how distinct growing conditions can occur within a single property.

INDICATIVE PRICE

$61 at the winery.



WINE & STYLE

Quails· Gate Richard·s Block Pinot Noir 2023 is named for Richard Stewart and showcases the Stewart family·s West Kelowna estate. Jeff Del Nin is winemaker.

VINEYARD & TERROIR

Estate Pinot Noir clones 115 and 777 grow in West Kelowna. Published site descriptions include silty clay, sandy loam and glacially influenced soils, with afternoon sunlight and cooling lake breezes.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

The 2023 winter cold snap reduced crop yields. Oak aging is described as 14 months in French oak; detailed barrel proportions are not specified.

TASTING PROFILE

Chocolate-covered cherry, strawberry, rose petals, sagebrush and dark tea leaf. Savoury spice, soft ripe tannins and a velvety finish.

TERROIR LENS

Compare this West Kelowna estate expression with the nearby Fritzi·s Vineyard wine, while allowing for differences in clones and cellar decisions.

INDICATIVE PRICE

Approximately $75.



WINE & STYLE

Tantalus Blanc de Noir 2023: a 100% Pinot Noir traditional-method sparkling wine from the East Kelowna Slopes. Eric Savics owns the winery and David Paterson is winemaker.

VINEYARD & TERROIR

Estate Pinot Noir fruit from East Kelowna, where silt overlays glacial gravels. The vineyard includes old plantings, including clone 93 planted in 1985.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

Winter damage reduced the 2023 crop. Hand-picked early; fermented in seasoned oak, followed by bottle fermentation and 22 months on lees. Disgorged February 2026. Alcohol 12.7%.

TASTING PROFILE

Pale sunset pink with a fine bead and persistent mousse. Red apple, raspberry, brioche and roasted cashew notes; a fresh, lively finish.

TERROIR LENS

Early harvest preserves sparkling-wine acidity, while bottle fermentation and lees contact develop texture and complexity.

INDICATIVE PRICE

$37 at the winery.

Seven expressions at a glance

Site facts and published style notes are summarized below. This is a comparison of the selected wines, not a ranking or a prediction of flavour from soil alone.

Bottle	Wine	Site / location	Soil context	Published style / key distinction
	Blue Mountain Wild Terrain 2023	Block 9 Okanagan Falls	Loamy sand; varied southwest-facing terrain	Savoury, complex single-block red. Wild yeast; 14–18 days maceration; 18 months on fine lees; unfiltered. Alcohol 14%; pH 3.82; TA 5.77; RS 2. Aging: 7–8 years.
	Carter Pinot Noir 2023	Winery: Okanagan Falls. Bottle site NV	Bottle-specific soil NV	2023 technical and tasting profile not verified.
	Little Engine Gold 2022	Naramata Bench estate context; cuvée allocation NV	Estate reference sites: silt loam	Floral, cranberry, herbs and cinnamon; 40% new French puncheons.
	Martin’s Lane Fritzi’s 2022	Fritzi’s Vineyard West Kelowna	Clay-rich; winery lists glacial till	Concentrated, floral and firmly structured; clone 115.
	Meyer Micro Cuvée 2023	McLean Creek Road Okanagan Falls	Gravel and sandy loam; glacial / alluvial deposits	Dark fruit, earthy notes, firmer tannins; 50% new French oak.
	Quails’ Gate Richard’s Block 2023	West Kelowna estate context	Silty clay / sandy loam; historical site description	Rose, sagebrush, chocolate; soft tannins and rounded acidity.
	Tantalus Blanc de Noir 2023	Estate East Kelowna Slopes	Estate silt over gravel; glacial meltwater deposits	Apple, raspberry and brioche; sparkling, 22 months on bottle lees. 12.7% alcohol; 6.34 g/L residual sugar.