

WINE REGIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA:
**VANCOUVER ISLAND
 AND GULF ISLANDS**

MAP A. GABRIOLA ISLAND



VANCOUVER



MAP B. SATURNA ISLAND



MAP C. COWICHAN VALLEY

MAP D. SAANICH PENINSULA



WINERIES

GABRIOLA ISLAND

Map A

- 1 Gabriola Island Winery
575 Balsam Street
250-244-1648

SATURNA ISLAND

Map B

- 2 Saturna Island Vineyards
8 Quarry Road
1-877-918-3388

COWICHAN VALLEY

Map C

- 3 Glenterra Vineyards
3897 Cobble Hill Road
250-743-2330
- 4 Rocky Creek Winery
1854 Myhrest Road
250-748-5622

SAANICH PENINSULA

Map D

- 5 Church & State Wines –
Brentwood Bay
1445 Benvenuto Avenue
250-652-2671



VANCOUVER ISLAND

HISTORY

Winemaking began around 1920 with wines produced from loganberries by the Growers' Wine Company. The first modern commercial vineyard began in 1970, just south of Duncan. A provincial government-funded trial, named the Duncan Project, assessed about 100 different varieties between 1983 and 1990, and identified Pinot Gris, Auxerrois and Ortega as promising grapes to grow in the region.

SUB-REGIONS

There are wineries spread over the southern half of Vancouver Island. Several wineries are in the Cowichan Valley, close to the town of Duncan. There are also producers close to Nanaimo, as well as in the Saanich Peninsula, with some close to the city of Victoria.

CLIMATE

Several areas have local climatic conditions conducive to grape growing. Wineries in the Cowichan Valley are generally shielded from Pacific Ocean storms by nearby mountains, and have a long growing season with low frost risk. Although there are high amounts of precipitation from November through April, the summers are dry enough to require irrigation in most vineyards.

GULF ISLANDS

This the newest region for viticulture in British Columbia and an exciting new addition. There are now vineyards and wineries on many Gulf Islands, including Salt Spring, Pender, Saturna, Gabriola, Quadra and Bowen.

CLIMATE

The mild climate of the Strait of Georgia is very conducive to grape growing, although scarcity of water and extreme aridity in summer can present challenges. Like the Okanagan and Fraser Valleys, the Gulf Islands have had a well-established fruit growing and market-gardening tradition since the late 1800's.

GRAPES GROWN

Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer, Riesling, Chardonnay, and others.

BC VQA WINE STORES

ARROWSMITH WINE SHOPPE

253 Finholm Street
Parksville, BC
250-954-3368

BC WINEGUYS VQA

2579 Cadboro Bay Road
Victoria, BC
250-592-8466

VQA WINE SHOP MATTICK'S FARM

Unit 133 - 5325 Cordova Bay Road
Victoria, BC
250-658-3116

THE WINE BARREL

644 Broughton Street
Victoria, BC
250-388-0606

TOURING TIPS

DESIGNATED DRIVER

Wines should be consumed responsibly. DO NOT taste and drive. Each winery will offer you several samples over the course of a tour, and it is easy to consume too much wine to be able to drive. Plan ahead and choose a designated driver before you begin your tour.

STRATEGIZE

Don't feel you have to try every wine made by every winery. Give your tour some focus and decide to taste reds or whites only. Or be even more specific and taste Merlots only. That way you're comparing apples to apples and can explore how a wine changes from vineyard to vineyard, winemaker to winemaker.

EAT

Many wineries have restaurants. Take advantage of one to break up your tour and, more importantly, to enjoy a spectacular meal. If you're more of a do-it-yourself type, bring along a picnic lunch. Some wineries have picnic areas – buy a bottle of wine and enjoy the view, or find a spot along the way to throw down a blanket and enjoy a meal with a view of the vineyards.

BUY

Many of the wines you'll taste at a winery won't be available anywhere else, so if you like one, buy it right then and there. Most wineries will happily loan you an empty case to put in the trunk of your car to store your purchases. NOTE: On hot summer days, don't let that case stay in your trunk too long. Your wines will spoil in the heat.



You can get to any British Columbia winery by following the wine route signs. If you lose your way, keep your eyes open for the signs and you'll get back on track.



100% BC

o To learn more about the Wines of British Columbia, visit winebc.com



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BRITISH COLUMBIA
Our land, revealed.