

Did You Know that the Okanagan Valley is Western Canada’s premier winery destination with more than 186 licensed wineries, contributing nearly \$3 billion to the provincial economy? What’s more, 86% of B.C.’s vineyard acreage offers a scenic 250km stretch, representing 9,600 acres planted.

With quiet family-run boutique vineyards to world-class operations, the Okanagan Valley wineries are rich in tradition and character, consistently ranking among the world’s best at international competitions.

More and more, wineries are prioritizing sustainability, adopting organic practices and minimizing pesticide use. Wine tourism is thriving, with on-site restaurants and a significant economic impact.

Boasting wine exports to 17 international markets and counting and 14,000+ people being employed in B.C.’s wine industry, the Okanagan Valley is B.C.’s premier grapegrowing region. With an ever-changing panorama, the valley stretches over 250 kilometres, across sub-regions, each with distinct soil and climate conditions suited to growing a range of varietals from sunripened reds to lively-fresh and often-crisp whites.

Okanagan Valley Facts

11	official sub-regions in the Okanagan Valley, each with distinct soil and climate conditions
40°C	daytime temperatures can be reached, but the cool nights allow the grapes to maintain their natural acidity – a signature trait in BC wine
2	warmer and more arid than Napa Valley, the unique Okanagan Valley climate gets nearly two hours more sunlight per day during the peak growing season

Wine Crop Specific Stats

3rd	most common crop in the Central Okanagan is grapes (Cherries #1 and Apples #2)	128	farms with grape as main crop (1,470 acres) in 2021.	2	Pinot Noir and Gris are two major varieties in the Central Okanagan
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Competitive Advantage

The Okanagan Valley is B.C.’s premier grape growing region, with distinct soil and climate conditions suited to growing a range of varietals from sun-ripened reds to lively-fresh crisp whites

Soil, topography and a hot, sunny, dry climate provide an excellent viticulture environment

Geographic proximity to key markets and reliable transportation routes (Port of Vancouver, YVR, YLW)

[New Centre for Tourism and Culinary Arts](#)



Viticulture

Talent pipeline supported by responsive public post-secondary institutions and directed regional attraction and retention initiatives in viticulture

Okanagan College – Viticulture and Wine Studies

University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus – Viticulture Studies

Proximity to research support facilities at the University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus and Okanagan College

University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus – Wine Research Centre

Okanagan College – Viticulture Programs

Okanagan College – British Columbia Beverage Technology Access Centre (BC BTAC)



Success Stories

[Viticulture in the Central Okanagan](#)

[CedarCreek Estate Winery](#): An organic transformation

[Indigenous World Winery](#): The double gold standard

[Okanagan Spirits](#): 100% farm to flask