

## Okanagan Spring Wine Festival showcases what the valley has to offer

By Jenna Hickman



Family owned Kitsch Wines took home the top prize at the 2017 Okanagan Spring Wine Festival for the best riesling over \$19, with their 2015 Riesling.  
 Image Credit: SUBMITTED/Kitsch Wines via Facebook

May 10, 2017 - 8:00 PM

KELOWNA - With the Okanagan Spring Wine Festival wrapping up this weekend, numerous wineries have been acknowledged for their outstanding wines.

One of the wineries to win big at the festival was Kitsch Wines, located in South East Kelowna.

Their 2015 riesling won in the category of Best Riesling for \$19 and over. This was a unique win for the winery it is a first vintage, coming from first year fruit and made from a first year wine maker.

Although this year would be vineyard's third harvest year, it is the first year wine can actually be made from the grapes.



Kitsch Wines took home an award at the 2017 Okanagan Spring Wine Festival.  
 Image Credit: SUBMITTED/Kitsch Wines via Facebook

"We submitted the same wine last spring and last fall, so this was the third time we put it forward, and this time it won," said co-founder Ria Kitsch says. "We felt the wine was tasting better each time so thought why not?"

Kitsch describes the wine as having hints of stone fruit - such as peach, apricot and nectarine.

"It's really smooth and there's a note of petrol, almost diesel-like quality," says Kitsch. "I don't like using that word because it doesn't sound the most attractive, but in the wine world it's a good thing, it means it's aged well."

Set on land that originally was the Kelowna Land and Orchards headquarters, Kitsch Wines is a single-vineyard winery, and they plan to keep it that way.

"We want to really focus on what we do best," Kitsch says. "Our personal vibe is one of approachable sophistication, we're relaxed but with a classy quality."

"Wine is and can be very fun for every person of any education level, you don't have to be intimidated. We just want people to enjoy it and have a good time."

Other winning wineries to note at the Okanagan Spring Wine Festival were Okanagan Fall's Wild Goose Vineyards and Winery - taking home the award for the 2017 wine of the years with their 2016 Mystic River Gewurztraminer.

Additionally, Lake Country's Arrowleaf Cellars took home 10 awards. Most notably taking home best rose for under \$19, best riesling for under \$19, best pinot noir for under \$25 and best pinot gris for under \$19.

The Okanagan Spring Wine Festival wraps up this weekend after their last three events, including a Mother's Day brunch at Watermark Beach Resort.