



CANADA'S FIRST 'CERTIFIED ROMANTIC' WINERY BRINGS YOU BACK TO A SIMPLER TIME

Oliver, British Columbia – Rustico Farm & Cellars may be the newest winery grounded in the South Okanagan's famous Golden Mile, but in its estate, its buildings and its wines, the Oliver vineyard is firmly rooted in the region's rich history.

For more than 45 years, Rustico vines have produced top-quality grapes for many of the region's best wineries and helped to establish the internationally renowned reputation of the Okanagan industry. Now, proprietor Bruce Fuller has launched a portfolio of wine from his gently sloping hillside property off Road 16 in Oliver.

The Golden Mile Bench is a micro-region of rich, agricultural land home to 10 per cent of Canada's wineries and 60 per cent of British Columbia's grape-growing acreage. The area has a long and storied history that is reflected in the names of Rustico's wines, and is also visible in the vineyard's centerpiece, a turn-of-the-century heritage log bunkhouse.

"Our collection of Rustico wines truly captures the history of the area with rich flavours that reflect the strong past of the Okanagan Valley," says Fuller. "Each bottle has a story sure to send its drinker back to a time of simplicity, optimism and freedom."

The Bunkhouse – A Step Back In Time

Rustico's heritage log residence was originally built as a bunkhouse in the early 1900s for 19 miners at the Sally silver mine near Beaverdell, in the West Kootenays. In the 1960s, Johnny Tokias, a locomotive driver at the Highland-Bell Mine, learned that several structures at the Sally Mine were still intact. Tokias had acquired what is now the Rustico property and decided to move one of the buildings down to his new land.

Piece by piece, Tokias disassembled the building, numbering each piece. Transporting the logs was another feat altogether. The mine sat high in the mountains and was reachable only by a narrow road full of switchbacks. Logging trucks couldn't make the journey so Tokias brought the building down in a trailer towed by his Volkswagen truck.

Tokias reconstructed the bunkhouse at what would later become Rustico, where he also planted the first three acres of vines in 1964. However, the winters at the mine had weathered the roof so Tokias left it at the mine. Instead, he built a sod roof for the structure. Later, Tokias adorned it with animal horns to finish the unique building.

While it is some distance from its original site, the bunkhouse fits neatly into the sage landscape. Just above Oliver, the now mostly abandoned town of Fairview was once a mining boomtown, with saloons and inns catering to a large population of prospectors and gold seekers.

The rush for minerals has since died out, replaced by a steady stream of tourists and wine connoisseurs who flock to the heart of British Columbia’s wine industry.

Rustico epitomizes this new focus of the South Okanagan while embracing and reveling in the region’s rich history. One needs to look no farther than the labels on the winery’s bottles emblazoned with the words *Bonanza*, *Last Chance* and *Isabella’s Poke*, each hinting at the region’s past.

For more information, visit www.rusticowinery.com

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Reference:

Lara Gerrits
LBMG
604-252-3613 (office)
604-805-9545 (mobile)
Lara.Gerrits@LBMG.ca