

TORONTO LIFE

West Side Story: five Okanagan wines worth seeking out online

B.C. wines are getting better every year, but they're still hard to come by at the LCBO. Here, five bottles worth a cross-country order

By David Lawrason



Vineyards in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley, one the driest, hottest pockets in Canada, continue to grow in quality and reputation. And the demand for B.C. wines here in Ontario has never been greater. Last year, the feds changed legislation to make importing and exporting between provinces easier. However, the Ontario government still charges a hefty import markup on wines from other provinces, which means the LCBO brings in precious few west-coast bottles. Avid fans like me are now ordering directly from the winery or working with private importers to track down the Okanagan's top varieties. I highly recommend you do the same. These are my favourites.

[Back to post](#)

West Side Story: five Okanagan wines worth seeking out online

1 of 5



VIEW THUMBNAILS

Le Vieux Pin 2010

Syrah | \$58 | 90 points

Syrah from the southern Okanagan desert of Osoyoos is emerging as the firecracker red of B.C. This is an authentic, nicely focused example from a small premium house specializing in syrah. It balances fresh, lively currant fruit, pepper, nutmeg and sage, and shows fine tension and structure.

[bwwines.com](http://www.bwwines.com).