

Edmonton Wine Report

The lithe, nuanced blend of red Bordeaux varieties called Cornerstone took a gold medal and Best of Show at Canada's Great Kitchen Party in Edmonton, October 12. It was a 'coming home to roost' of sorts as River Stone Estate Winery founders Ted and Lorraine Kane had worked as medical professionals in Edmonton before following Ted's vineyard dream to Oliver in the south Okanagan Valley. There they purchased a fallow nine acre knoll with gravel soils and a south facing exposure. Being a student of Bordeaux reds Ted planted accordingly and is now producing some of the best, most well balanced merlot and cab-based wines in BC, Cornerstone being their top drop.

The Silver Medal went to Fandango, the engaging, fresh blend of two Spanish white varieties – albarino and Verdejo – being grown at Terra Vista Vineyards high on the stony upper slopes of the Naramata Bench. Bronze medals were shared by Bella Winery 2022 Rouge Sparkling, a gutsy gamay based single-fermentation bubbly and the inky, dense and flavour-packed UPPERCASE 2020 Petit Verdot. Personal honorable mentions went to Tighrope 2022 Pinot Gris, Deep Roots 2020 Syrah and Painted Rock 2019 Merlot.

The wine competition was held among 19 wines donated by Canadian wineries to the Edmonton event, which was a qualifier for Canadian Culinary Championships. The vast majority had already won Gold Medals at the National Wine Awards of Canada. I was joined by three leading Edmonton palates – William Bincoletto, Canada's longest serving accredited sommelier (1976), Juanita Roos writer and owner of Color del Vino wine shop, and Mary Bailey, the head culinary judge and publisher of The Tomato.

Canada's Great Kitchen Party would like to thank and acknowledge all of the wineries, breweries and distillers that donated their fine products

The Chef Wines

Bella 2022 Sparkling Rouge, Naramata Bench

Flat Rock 2020 Gravity Pinot Noir, Twenty Mile Bench, Niagara

Frind 2020 Chardonnay, Okanagan Valley

Indigenous World 2019 Riesling, Okanagan Valley

Peak Cellars 2021 Goldie Red, Lake Country

Plot 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon, Okanagan Valley

Unsworth 2019 Pinot Noir, Vancouver Island

The Event Wines and Beverages

Blasted Church Vineyards 2020 Nothing Sacred, Skaha Bench

Branded Peak Brewing

Deep Roots 2020 Syrah , Naramata Bench

Dirty Laundry 2022 Reserve Chardonnay, Summerland

Painted Rock 2019 Merlot, Skaha Bench

River Stone 2019 Cornerstone, Okanagan Valley

TerraVista 2022 Figaro, Naramata Bench

TerraVista 2022 Fandago, Naramata Bench

Tightrope 2022 Pinot Gris, Naramata Bench

Time Chronos 2020 Cabernet Franc, Okanagan Valley

UPPERCASE 2020 Petit Verdot, Okanagan Valley