



Chile invades Vancouver:

Fraser Valley benefits from good value, full flavour with Kathleen Rake



“The Chileans are coming,” is the call of this year’s Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival (see website www.playhousewinefest.com) running Feb. 27 – Mar. 4 at the Vancouver Convention Centre West. And this means a spotlight on some value-packed, flavour-filled wines. Many of the 30-plus Chilean wineries featured at the VPIWF have product available at our Fraser Valley liquor stores.

For \$12.99 you can sip on a Cono Sur Pinot Noir that is simply flavourful and priced to please a crowd. Pay roughly \$2 more and you can sip a certified organic Cono Sur Pinot Noir (\$14.99/14% ABV) that is fruity, spicy and earthy on both the nose and palate. This wine will work well with all sorts of foods. I’ve had it with a pre-made chicken pot pie I picked up from the big box store on my way home and my slow-cooker beef Stroganoff—happy endings each time. Give it a try with the salmon you marinate and grill for Sunday’s supper.

If you’re looking for a wine we might call a little more skookum, the Montes Cabernet Sauvignon – Carménère

blend (\$19.99/14% ABV) promises to please. I’ve not tried this one yet, but it’s been recommended to me and I’m really looking forward to giving it a go. I’m told this wine shares aromas of black fruit, smoke, chocolate and dark-roast coffee, with hints of vanilla and butterscotch; on the palate, this is a soft, lush wine whose flavours mirror its aromas.

The producers recommend you decant this wine for at least 30 minutes before you drink it. Decanting will allow the wine to soften and open so you get the full benefit of all the delicious flavours and aromas. I decant most of my red wines for this very

reason. If you don’t have a decanter, a water jug will work. Or, just pour the wines into the individual glasses about 15 – 20 minutes ahead of sit-down time.



Visit BetweenTheVines.ca for more wine-soaked musings by Kathleen Rake.

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