

myjob

# BRIAN BILLO



**Teacher  
WJ Mouat**

Although Brian Billo has taught at WJ. Mouat high school for the past 18 years, he still finds that every day and every class is different from the rest. He currently teaches students in Grades 9 through 12 in various creative courses including Drama and Acting, TV and Film, and Directing and Scriptwriting. And yet as he continues to educate students year after year, it is Billo who says he still gets surprised by their talent and everlasting imaginations. "The great thing about teaching Theatre and TV and Film is that you can give a hundred students the same idea to work on, and the variety of responses can be so vast," he says.

As a new school year approaches, it is not just the students who are wondering what awaits when the bell rings, but Billo as well, who claims he "still gets nervous" before the beginning of the semester. "Each group is its own entity that has its own skills and weaknesses," says Billo, who is entrusted to help them understand their potential.

As Billo has noticed, while the world has evolved, so has the school and the young minds it inhabits. "The school is much more multicultural, and technology has dramatically changed the way we live, work and learn," says Billo, who now uses the internet as a key way to communicate

to students.

Relationships and conflict are an important area of study in his drama classes, and Billo hopes that his students take what they learn and can apply it to life outside of school. "I hope my students have a clearer vision of what it is to be a good person and make good choices in their lives," says Billo. "If they leave my class inspired in some capacity, then I think I have succeeded in my job."

As September approaches and Billo prepares to see new faces and old walk through the doors of WJ. Mouat, he hopes students keep in mind that time will go by faster than they can ever imagine. As someone who has seen the changing trends in the hallways, the creative minds in the classroom, and the truth of the world that awaits when it's all over, he urges students to take advantage now of all the school has to offer. "We have something here for everyone," says Billo. "The school, like future, is what you make of it."

# BETWEEN THE VINES

with Kathleen Rake



## Wine under \$10: Spain pleases with a fruity, spicy red

During a Facebook conversation with a reader from Abbotsford, I received this challenge from him: Find, taste and write about easily accessible wines that ring in at less than \$10 a bottle at the B.C. government liquor stores.

**I have taken up the task and plan to give you one or two choices in that price category each month, for the next few months.**

What I'll be looking for is red, white or rosé wine with a good QPR—quality-price ratio. Chances are, most of these wines will come from Spain, Portugal or Chile, but there may be others. I'll evaluate them as objectively as possible and share my thoughts and recommendations with you.

**If you'd like to read about a particular wine, please let me know and I'll find it, taste it and then tell you all about it.**

**Send your suggestions to [kathleen@betweenthevines.ca](mailto:kathleen@betweenthevines.ca).**

**RED WINE:** Marques de Rojas 2011

**PRODUCER:** Bodegas Piqueras

**COUNTRY:** Spain

**GRAPE/BLEND:** 100% Garnacha

**PRICE/ABV:** \$9.99/14% ABV

**THROUGH THE EYES:** Intense, purple.

**ON THE NOSE:** Ripe black raspberries, plums, smoke, tomato leaf and tobacco.

**ON THE PALATE:** Black raspberries, pepper and herbaceous qualities at the finish.

**OVERALL:** Dark berries, good acid and easy-going tannins that provide some structure but won't scare away new red-wine drinkers.

**SERVE IT:** Serve this uncomplicated wine solo or with meat from the grill. We had it with burgers at a backyard barbeque. Avoid sipping this one alongside spicy foods; the high alcohol content (14%) can amplify the heat in a less-than-pleasant way.

**BUY IT:** Find Marques de Rojas at B.C. liquor stores and drink it now. It's ready for you and won't necessarily improve with age.

Visit [BetweenTheVines.ca](http://BetweenTheVines.ca) for more wine-soaked musings

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