



Township 7 Winery Puts the Sparkle in Valentine's Sparkling Wine, Chocolate & Oysters at Taste the Stars Affair

LANGLEY, BC – January 27, 2011 – Township 7 Vineyards & Winery is holding the 5th annual *Taste the Stars* Valentine's Celebration Saturday February 12 at their Langley vineyard with the release of the limited production, 7 Stars Sparkling wine. For the first time this year, the winery will also have special seminars on *méthode champenoise* winemaking and sabering champagne, chocolate making, and seafood/wine pairing. Enjoy a decadent, entertaining and informative day and learn the traditional French style of crafting champagne with Township 7 winemaker Bradley Cooper and proprietor Mike Raffan, or how to make delectable truffles with Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut, and what pairs best with oysters on the half shell with 1 Fish 2 Fish. Partial proceeds from the festivities will be donated to the BC Chapter of the Starlight Children's Foundation.



Wine and love have a long history. Bacchus, the Roman god of the grape harvest, winemaking and wine, was also the god of sensual pleasure, festivity and ritual madness. How appropriate then that champagne has long been considered the "mad wine". Named for a region in northern France, the champagne process was discovered by accident in the mid-1600s. Initially the sparkling wine was not the desired end product, rather it was a sign of poor winemaking. Dom Pérignon one of the early innovators, spent a great deal of time trying to prevent the bubbles and unstableness of this "mad wine". He was not able to stop the fizz, however when he had finally perfected his new technique with a white wine that exquisitely stood up to the bubbles, he famously exclaimed, "Come quickly, I am tasting the stars!"

"We were astounded to discover that our Langley vineyards grow the ideal grapes for sparkling wine. Similar to the traditional process in Champagne, the Fraser Valley terroir produces Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes with low brix and high acidity, the perfect combination for our 7 Stars sparkling wine," said Mike Raffan, proprietor Township 7. "Now in our fifth year, we wanted to involve our community in entertaining and educational wine and culinary activities without having to leave the city. We're proud to support a worthy Canadian charity like the Starlight Children's Foundation with a fun-filled afternoon and evening of Valentine's festivities that include great local companies like fresh seafood market 1 Fish 2 Fish and Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut."

"Chocolate has been revered as the "fruit of the gods" for 2000 years, offered as a ceremonial beverage by the Aztecs and Mayans. Thus, what could be a more perfect pairing than chocolate and wine for romance on Valentine's Day?" said Jacqueline Pearson, proprietor White Rock's, Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut store. "We're excited to partner with Township 7 Winery for their *Taste the Stars* fundraiser and believe the wine and food seminars are an outstanding opportunity to discover what makes these two delicacies so enticingly compatible all in a delightful and picturesque setting".

"We are fortunate to have the support of Township 7 Vineyards & Winery and are excited about this special and romantic Valentine's event," said Heather Burnett, BC Regional Coordinator for the Starlight Children's Foundation. "As the wine sparkles, so will the smiles and hearts of the Starlight children and families from across BC that will benefit from Township 7's support."

Valentine's festivities at Township 7 include champagne making and sabrage seminars; truffle rolling; wine and food pairing talks; new winter releases; and a live performance by *We Play for Wine*, a local Fraser Valley band. A highly acclaimed BC winery, Township 7 produces handcrafted wines in small lots from the finest vineyards in the Okanagan and Fraser Valley.

The delicate and mad art of crafting *Méthode Champenoise*

Discover how traditional handcrafted champagne is made in France and join Township 7's proprietor and winemaker in the fun and sometimes messy and challenging process of *dégorgement*, then adding the *dosage* and corking of sparkling wine!

Complimentary winemaker seminars at 1 and 3 pm

Taste the Stars Evening at Township 7

Impress your paramour and indulge your senses with an early Valentine's celebration of fine wine, paired with raw oysters and seafood canapés. Enjoy live music by the popular local band, *We Play for Wine*, while you taste your way through two rooms featuring seafood delicacies by 1 Fish 2 Fish, enjoy winemaker Bradley Cooper's discussion of wine food pairings and complete your visit in our romantic chocolate room with Jacqueline Pearson of White Rock's Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut, rolling dark chocolate truffles.

7:00-10:00 pm (grazing/non-seated) / \$30 per person
Contact 604-532-1766 or gail@township7.com for tickets

New Releases!

Red: Reserve 7 Meritage 2007

Whites: Viognier 2009 &

7 Stars Sparkling 2008 (only 55 cases!)

Valentine's Romance Gift Special

Your choice of Township 7's award-winning wines plus a bouquet of beautiful flowers and delicious Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut chocolates for \$49.99
Available Langley location only on February 12, 13 and 14

Looking for the perfect proposal or wedding location? Experience love in wine country without leaving the city. This could be the day you have always dreamed about! Contact Township 7 Langley manager, Gail Simpson at gail@township7.com or 604.523-1766 to start planning today.

About Champagne

The key process to making champagne is in the second fermentation that occurs in the bottle. First however, is the selecting of the "*cuvee*" or base wine, which traditionally must be from Chardonnay, Pinot Noir or Pinot Meunier grapes. Ideally the grapes are harvested at low brix (sugar) levels with high acidity in order to facilitate the second ferment or bubble process. After grapes are pressed they are fermented, bottled with yeast added and then capped where a second fermentation occurs. During this second fermentation or "*En Tirage*" process, carbon-dioxide is created and trapped in the bottle, thereby creating the sparkle! Similar to the technique in France, Township 7 ages its sparkling wine "*En Tirage*" for almost three years and then undertakes the final process of hand riddling (manual 1/8 turn of the bottles daily), *dégorgement* (removing spent yeast solids by freezing) and *dosage* (topping up the bottle) prior to final corking.

ABOUT TOWNSHIP 7 VINEYARDS & WINERY

Founded in 2001, Township 7's acclaimed handcrafted wines are produced in small lots from the best vineyards from our winery on the Naramata Bench, in the south Okanagan Valley, and from vineyards at our winery in the Fraser Valley. Our boutique winery is committed to creating exceptional wines that are complex, flavourful and well balanced. The Langley wine shop is housed in the beautiful south Langley countryside in a quaint building reminiscent of the many riding stables in the neighbourhood. Our Okanagan wine shop is surrounded by 7 acres of vines on the picturesque Naramata Bench and offers visitors the opportunity to see the workings of the winery first hand. Both locations are open year round.
www.township7.com

ABOUT STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Starlight Children's Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses and life-altering injuries by providing entertainment, education and family activities that help them cope with the pain, fear and isolation of prolonged illness. Starlight programs have been proven to distract children from their pain, help them better understand and manage their illnesses, and connect families with others facing similar challenges so that no one feels alone. The Foundation offers a comprehensive menu of outpatient, hospital-based and Web offerings that enable us to provide ongoing support for children and families — from diagnosis through the entire course of medical treatment. www.starlightcanada.org

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