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NOT-FOR-PROFIT

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Chinese Lunar New Year 'Year of the Horse' celebrations begins February 16

Photo by Richmond Sentinel

OUR CITY

Richmond

SPECIAL EVENTS

by Florence Gordon

Chinese New Year Traditions

Chinese New Year also known as the Lunar New Year marks the first day of the New Year in the Chinese traditional calendar that is determined by the location of the sun and the moon relative to the earth. This is why, on the western calendar the date changes each year. In 2026, the New Year is on February 17 with celebrations extending from February 16 to the end of the month. Each year is a different Zodiac Animal (12 in total and according to the legend these 12 animals participated in a race to determine their place of order on the Chinese calendar. In 2026, it is the Year of the **Fire Horse**. As the seventh sign in the 12-year cycle, in Chinese astrology, the horse traditionally symbolizes strength and freedom. And this time around, it's partnered with the fire element, creating a rare fire horse year that signifies additional intensity, energy and dynamism. This is a year for action and opportunity.



Photos via Freepik.com

Lucky Red Envelopes

At the Lunar New Year it's tradition to give a gift of money in a red packet to family and friends. The red packet symbolizes prosperity and happiness for the coming year.

Entertainment

As part of the celebrations Lion and Dragon performances are part of the Chinese tradition throughout the New Year festivities.

New Year's Traditional Food



Dumplings are a Chinese recipe served New Years because it represents wealth.



Niangao Sweet Rice Cakes symbolizes hope for a better year ahead served specifically at New Year festivities.



Tangerines and oranges' round shape and gold colour symbolizes prosperity and good fortune.

Families Celebrate Chinese New Year



Homes and restaurants are decorated with lucky red lanterns.



Chinese families travelled to their homeland to pay respect to their elders and celebrate Chinese New Year.

2026 Lunar Events For Families



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On **February 16**, the Aberdeen Centre will stay open late for its big "Year of the Horse" party complete with a stage show (from 8:30pm), a visit from the God of Fortune (10:30pm) and a live televised countdown that concludes just after midnight.



Photo Britannia Shipyards

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

Looking for additional kid-friendly options? Head to Steveston on **February 14, 15 and 16** (11:00am to 4:00pm), the free Lunar New Year activity is part of its Family Day celebrations. Bring your kids to the Chinese Bunkhouse to learn about zodiac signs, play some games and make a unique decoration to take home.

2026 LUNAR NEW YEAR LANTERN FESTIVAL **FREE ENTRY**

BODHI MEDITATION.

Feb 20 - 22 • 10 AM - 9 PM

Lantern Festival

7740 Alderbridge Way

Step into our long-awaited Lunar New Year Lantern Festival and immerse yourself in our breathtaking sea of glowing lights; each one placed to illuminate hope, joy, and an auspicious beginning for your upcoming Year of the Horse.

2026 Lunar Events For Families



Caishen, in Chinese religion, is the popular god (or gods) of wealth, widely believed to bestow on his devotees the riches carried about by his attendants.

As we approach February 16, 2026, the start of the Lunar New Year, families everywhere are busy with preparations—setting up offerings, paying homage to ancestors, and ushering in blessings for the year ahead. A central figure in these traditions is the revered "Caishen", the Chinese God of Wealth.

To all my spiritual seekers out there, this is the perfect time to dive into the story and significance of Caishen. Let's explore how this fascinating figure embodies the universal human wish for prosperity and abundance.

Why Is Caishen Important?

At the heart of Lunar New Year celebrations, people honor deities to invite good fortune, wealth, and well-being into their homes. Caishen stands out as the first god worshipped in the zodiac transition, often referred to as the **God of Fortune**.

Here's a fun fact: "wealth" isn't just about money. In traditional beliefs, it encompasses **luck, destiny, longevity, and happiness**. Caishen represents all of these values, making him a crucial figure for anyone seeking holistic prosperity.

The Lunar New Year is more than just a celebration—it's a moment to reflect, reset, and invite abundance into your life and Caishen's blessings are universal. So, wear your best red attire, light those incense sticks, and join the festivities. Here's to a year of **wealth, happiness, and success** for us all.

For 30 years Councillor McNulty has graciously made an annual appearance at the Aberdeen Centre's Chinese New Year celebration as seen in the photo.

Photo courtesy Councillor Bill McNulty



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2026 Lunar Events For Families



Photo Aberdeen Centre

LANSDOWNE CENTRE

Another Lunar New Year hotspot, **Lansdowne** will be staging its main festivities on **February 21** (noon to 5:00pm) — complete with an opening ceremony and a special dragon and lion dance performed by the celebrated Hon Hsing Athletic Club.

Throughout the afternoon, there will also be interactive games, an artisan market and additional lion dances throughout the mall.



Photo Richmond Centre

CF RICHMOND CENTRE

The city's **CF Richmond Centre** is also celebrating the Year of the Horse. On **February 21** (2:00pm to 3:00pm), visitors can enjoy a lion and dragon dance, eye-dotting ceremony, a "grabbing green" merchant tour and an appearance by the God of Fortune — who will also distribute red envelopes to shoppers.

And from **February 17 to March 3**, the mall will also be hosting additional interactive cultural experiences, including a calligraphy wall where you can have your family name or zodiac character created by a calligrapher. Additional activities will include lantern-making workshops and digital red envelopes offering special retailer promotions.



TIME FOR TEMPLES

Several Richmond temples and spiritual sites will also be ushering in the New Year. **Ling Yen Mountain Temple** — located on No. 5 Road (aka the Highway to Heaven)—is hosting its traditional Ringing the Bell event on **February 16 and 17**. During this blessing ceremony, a giant bell will resonate, encouraging wisdom and spiritual reflection for the time ahead.

Photo Hohn Lee

VBCE Vancouver Bullion & Currency Exchange

BRIDGE TO S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

中僑星輝夜

GALA

2026

Saturday, March 7, 2026

2026年3月7日

The Westin Bayshore Vancouver

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**S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
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中僑基金會**

Strengthening provincial response to extortion violence. New funding supports Provincial Forensic Firearms Lab expansion to target extortion



Photo courtesy news.gov.bc.ca

vincial Forensic Firearms Lab, which plays a crucial role in supporting police investigations related to organized crime, gangs and gun-related violence. "We are ensuring that police have the tools, resources and intelligence support they need to hold these offenders accountable," said Nina Krieger, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. "Expanding the capacity of the Provincial Forensic Firearms Lab will enable police to prioritize forensic testing of weapons in critical criminal files, helping accelerate extortion and other criminal-related charge approvals."

Provincial Forensic Firearms Lab expansion

- The Provincial Forensic Firearms Lab allows police to analyze weapons used in criminal activities and seized by police, helping investigators in their efforts to identify and arrest suspects.
- With increased demand has come the need for the lab to have a larger space.
- The expanded lab will be able to prioritize forensic testing of crucial investigative files and expedite extortion-related charge approvals, while producing provincewide data on guns used in criminal activity to support intelligence-led policing strategies.
- The funding, through the federal Gun and Gangs Violence Action fund and administered by the Province, includes money for overtime costs at the lab.
- This investment builds on government's ongoing efforts to address extortion and organized crime by reinforcing initiatives underway and bolstering support in key areas, such as enforcement, community awareness and prevention.

Premier Eby's statement on combating extortion



Premier David Eby issued the following statement about fighting extortion:

"We face a crisis caused by criminals demanding money from businesses and shooting up homes. Perhaps you are a victim, or maybe you know someone who is, or maybe you've heard gunshots in your neighbourhood. As a dad to three children, I know that every family needs security at home. It's fundamental."

"Concerns raised by those who have received threats must be addressed urgently. Information offered by community members must be received and incorporated into investigations immediately. That's why we are establishing a community advisory group on extortion to close any gap between community members and police to solve this crime."

"Paul Dadwal will lead this group. He has years of senior police experience, including service with the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia. He knows how to combat crime, as well as how to connect with a community. He will lead efforts to ensure we are exploring all ideas – related to policing, community and communication – and share them with police to ensure we fight this crime with everything we've got."

"Our government will be listening, too. I want you to know that this issue is our most important public-safety priority, and we've ensured it's Number 1 on the list of police and the federal government."

Richmond's Bowling Green Community Activity Centre officially opens



(L to R): Kion Wong, Richmond Lawn Bowling Club President; Councillors Michael Wolfe; Chak Au; Andy Hobbs; Mayor Malcom Brodie; Councillors Bill McNulty; Alexa Loo; Crystal Don, City Centre Community Association Board Secretary; Ivan Wong, Richmond Lawn Bowling Club Past President.222'

Photo courtesy richmond.ca

Richmond, BC – The City of Richmond has officially opened the new Bowling Green Community Activity Centre, located at 6131 Bowling Green Road in Minoru Park. The new 3,200-square-foot facility replaces the former clubhouse and provides a larger, brighter, and more flexible space to support lawn bowling as well as a range of community programs, events and gatherings. The centre includes a multipurpose room, kitchen, breezeway and a covered outdoor viewing area with seating.

"This facility supports both the long-standing lawn bowling community, and a broader range of community uses," said Malcolm Brodie, Mayor of Richmond. **"It reflects the City's commitment to investing in accessible and sustainable spaces that serve residents today and into the future."**

The Bowling Green Community Activity Centre was designed and constructed in accordance with the City of Richmond's Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines, Rick Hansen Foundation Certification requirements and LEED Gold certification standards. The former clubhouse was carefully deconstructed, with salvaged materials donated to Habitat for Humanity, supporting waste diversion and material reuse.

This facility will serve as a dedicated hub for lawn bowling and a flexible space for a range of community programs, activities and gatherings. Designed to support both organized sport and informal use, the facility strengthens opportunities for recreation, social connection and community life in Richmond.

The site also includes a new public art installation, Welcome, by Luke Ramsey. Inspired by the concept of a welcome mat and the marine life of the Pacific West Coast, the artwork reflects themes of inclusion, arrival and belonging, and contributes to the cultural character of Minoru Park.

For more details about the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre, visit richmond.ca/BowlingGreen.

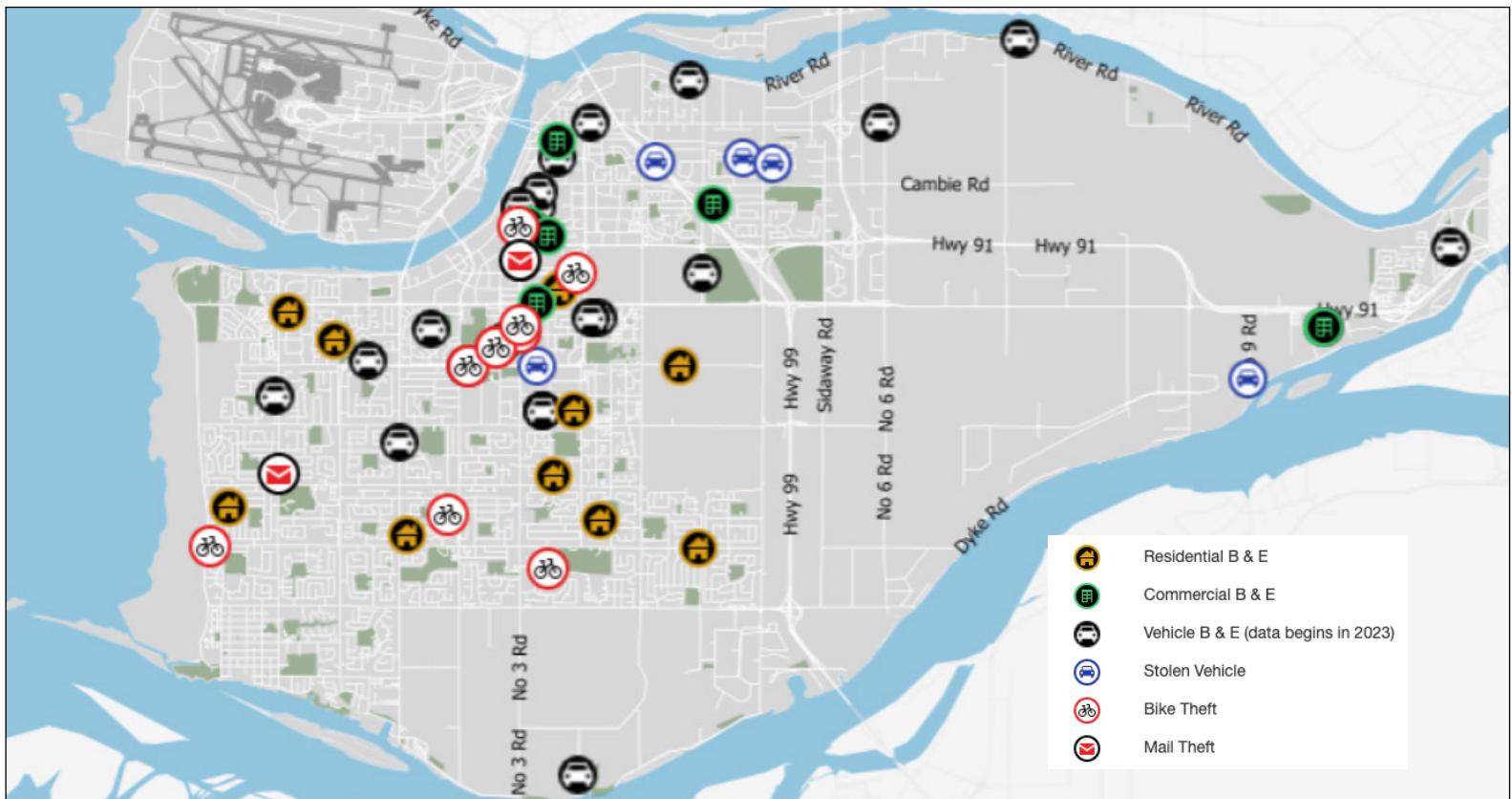
Bowling Green Community Activity Centre





RCMP

Crime Map Jan. 09, 2026 - Feb. 06, 2026



Richmond RCMP invites families to free car seat safety event



Photo courtesy RCMP

Advance registration is recommended due to high demand. Parents and caregivers can reserve a spot by calling 604-207-4761, Monday to Friday between 9 am and 5 pm.

Richmond RCMP, in partnership with Richmond Fire-Rescue, ICBC and BCAA, is holding a free car-seat clinic later this month to help parents and caregivers ensure their child seats are installed and used safely. Event details:

- Date: **Saturday, February 28, 2026**
- Time: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Location: Brighouse Fire Hall No.1. 6960 Gilbert Road, Richmond BC

To book an appointment: Call **604-207-4761**. Space is limited.

The **Child Passenger Safety Program**, launched by Richmond RCMP in 2022, continues to support families by providing guidance on the correct use and installation of child car seats. During the clinic, certified child passenger safety educators, including RCMP officers and trained community volunteers, will conduct individual car seat audits.

These checks confirm that seats meet Canadian safety standards, are not expired and are properly fitted based on the child's age, weight and height. Each session lasts about **30 to 45 minutes** and gives caregivers practical, hands-on instruction to help them feel confident in securing their child safely.

"We want families to feel supported and to know they're not alone when it comes to installing a car seat," says Constable Frank Bryson. "A quick session can make a big difference in keeping children safe."

Eye exams for \$99 including OCT eye health scan

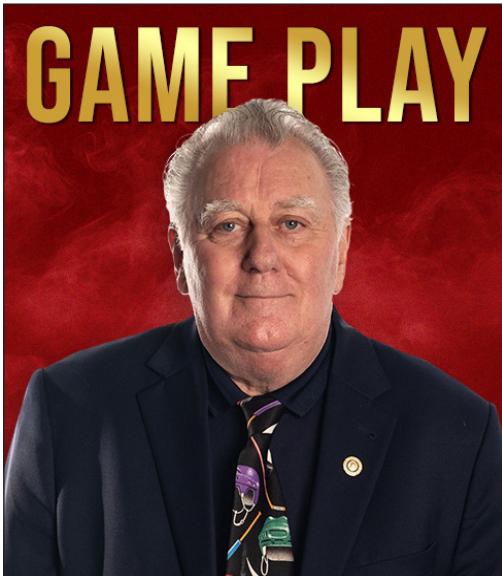


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Steve Erickson
Media Relations Richmond Sockeyes

Sockeyes Alumni Game Draws Record Attendance

In recent conversation with Sockeyes' Head Coach Scott Hewson I asked about how he has managed to get the players to be so productive when it comes to scoring, which he replied "I told them at training camp that I strongly believe in what they bring to the team and will help them develop their skill level to advance their career." When you look from the outside at the coaching staff's confidence in their players it's no wonder why the players go above and beyond what they are asked to do or in this case, changing their skill level.

The Sockeyes enter the mid-part of the season and make their way to play against the Langley Trappers at the Lodge which is the former home in the late 70ties of the Langley Lords who played in the defunct BCJHL. Teams come and go by the wayside but for the PJHL, growth is on the upswing with the most recent addition of the Coastal Tsunami who play out of Gibsons on the Sunshine Coast and are attracting record numbers. The fan base attracted by each club but mainly the Richmond Sockeyes is on the upswing which not only helps the team but is a huge motivation for the players who are thrilled to play in front of a solid fan base.

The Sockeyes for the past few seasons continue to get a record number of goals as well as shots on goal at the opposition either at home or away and in the case of visiting the Trappers who finished with 28 shots on goal, while the Sockeyes finished with 39 shots.

Sockeye's David Yoon (38) opened the scoring



Sockeyes JR A Hockey Team with Sockeyes Alumni Hockey Team Photo richmondsockeyes.com

2:21 in the first period after being set up from Kai Adano and Dylan Nazareth on the PP with Avraham Brown serving a minor for Roughing. The first twenty minutes of play finished with only goal scored outshooting the Trappers by a 18-19 margin with the Sockeyes adding another pair in the second with Brendan Quinn-Lagria getting his second of the season while Dylan Nazareth collected a goal on the PP making it his 33rd of the season.

The third period saw no scoring from either squad with the teams trading nine penalties allowing the Sockeyes to finish pulling out a 3-0 win in a game that saw a penalty shot awarded to David Yoon who was unable to get one past Beckham Brossard in the third period. The following night saw the Sockeyes hit the road to visit the Ridge Meadow Flames who are hot on their heels looking to make headway on their rival Sockeyes who have had their number outshooting them this season by a commanding 32-14 in their six meetings this season. While the game was entertaining by now each team knew they wouldn't win sitting in the penalty box with the Flames taking a dozen minors while the visiting Sockeyes were assessed nine. This contest saw the Sockeyes steal a 6-3 win heading home to play the following night in the annual Alumni game that would see them play in front of a sell-out crowd.

Alumni games are a game that allows the players to have fun playing against former Sockeye players who have either finished their career as a Sockeye or advanced to play in the pro level of the game as some have. The day wasn't just for the Alumni game but also a day that saw the Vancouver Canucks host a skills clinic that saw both Kirk McLean and "Fin" on hand to both teach and entertain everyone who signed up for the afternoon event. While the game was extremely entertaining we should let you know that you can re-watch the game on the Sportswave.ca site listed under the video tab as VOD with no charge for watching. As ironic as it sounds the game actually went to a 3 on 3 O/T that saw the overpowering Alumni pull out the win. Regardless of the final score in the game, everyone was a winner that has everyone waiting until the 2027 Alumni game and I'm hearing that players are on the "wait list" to sign up to fill next year's roster.

Following the "fun game" the team's next opponent would be the visiting Coastal Tsunami in a game that saw them pull out another 6-3 win in a game that was dominated from the opening face-off 11 seconds in. Sockeyes Nick Kovich notched his 12th of the season that led the charge in both the first with Bryce Strandt getting his 2nd of the season with the first period dominated by the Sockeyes outshooting the visiting Tsunami by a 20-5 tally. They continued their scoring streak in the second period with goals from Dylan Nazareth (34), Beaudy Beaudin (20) with David Yoon (40) rounding out the scoring in the second heading into the final twenty minutes that should have been an easy final period. The third period was like watching an Abbott and Costello movie with someone flipping the switch that saw the visitors get their first of three goals opening the final twenty minutes at 1:46 followed by one from Luke Curtain getting his 19th of the season on the PP only to be followed by his 20th making it 5-3 with all pressure on the Sockeyes. Say what you will, you could have heard a "pin drop" in the building with many close to the broadcast booth expecting the Tsunami to make it a 5-4 contest.

From the broadcast booth you could see the frustration on the players let alone the coaching staff thinking "well that wasn't fun" sending a loud and clear message for the team to finish with a much stronger play, which they did.

The final goal of the season saw Captain Teo Lin get his 19th of the season at 17:15 that saw the final minutes of the game put more pressure on the home squad. Sockeyes Haiden Heide got the win for the Sockeyes finish stopping 17 of the 20 shots he faced while visiting Tsunami Austin Kindrat faced 59 shots managing to stop 53 through sixty minutes. The Sockeyes enter the final month doubling up 6-3 on their visit to the "Lodge" over the Langley Trappers with five regular season games remaining, three of which are home at "The Fish Tank." Through the first 44 games the Sockeyes hold a record of 39 wins, 5 losses for 78 points managing to grab 234 goals allowing 96 against.

Swing by the Broadcast booth and say "hi" and enjoy exciting Sockeyes hockey!!!

DEFINING QUALITY



Richard Goodine

Vice President of
Hospitality & Development
Skye Avenue

ty is based more on the character side than the excellence side of the definition. All too often those of us who have taken it upon ourselves to be the self-proclaimed experts of knowing what is good, criticize those wines that are viewed as quality products by the consumer. The demand for these wines and the rapid growth of sales is a clear indicator that the consumer is looking for that distinctive quality which satisfies them, not the critics. Look simply at the top-selling names in many markets—brands such as Oyster Bay, Yellow Tail, or J. Lohr—and it becomes clear that consumers are often seeking easy drinking, value for money, and broad appeal long before worrying about whether a wine shows clear superiority over another. In that context, “quality” may be defined less by complexity or distinction and more by price, approachability, the fact that it isn’t too dry, or even by practical considerations, such as packaging that fits neatly into everyday life.

We must not forget the consumer’s emotional or visceral view of the topic when providing the factual answer to the quality question. However, quality in wine from a technical perspective is about the absence of flaws, and science alone can make that argument. Any winemaker with a lab can calculate levels of SO₂ (sulfur dioxide), volatile acidity and extraction. To that information the skilled professional will add a personal assessment based on years of experience and the outcome of a quality assessment with tactile data.

Over the past 30 years the industry has made great strides in understanding how to make better wine, even purer, cleaner ones, which have fewer

faults than in the past. Brettanomyces, a naturally occurring yeast that can influence a wine’s aromas and flavors and was once described as “typicity,” can be better controlled through proper winemaking and cellaring conditions. Vineyard management, advanced viticulture practices and more sanitised vinification help to ensure the number of potential flaws are reduced. Therefore, we can say that overall wine quality is higher than it was just three decades ago. Many individuals involved in the wine business for more than 15 years may be able to remember a time when consumers could be heard saying, “I can’t drink Italian wines because they give me a headache.” While some of the winemakers called this “typicity” or “quality” of their vineyards, it was in fact elevated levels of histamines as a result of high levels of sulfites. Today, with the introduction of new cleaning techniques and



The oak wine barrel is one of the most recognizable symbols associated with wine.

Over millennia of development our understanding and our common perception of the meaning of words has changed greatly. With that in mind, we must ensure that the basic definition of quality is clarified in order to establish what quality in wine represents. This is the first step to defining wine quality. Quality, by many dictionary accounts, is a defining character, unique trait which separates one thing from another. It is also defined as having excellence lacking in fault or flaws and as being superior.

The second step in defining quality in wine requires us, the industry professionals, to accept the fact that the consumer’s perception of quality



What “quality really means when it comes to wine Photos statcan.gc.ca



Following the harvest, the grapes are de-stemmed and crushed to extract the juice, which is then ready for fermentation.

sanitation standards in the winery, as well as nitrogen bottling, we have seen the levels of sulfites decrease greatly in Italy. It could be said that we have replaced a certain quality with quality of excellence.

Perhaps the most room for interpretation of quality exists within the pages of every wine publication or online resource. Numerous examples exist, in a plethora of languages and editions, that proclaim which wines are of

the best quality. Some of these journals do in fact celebrate the unique quality of the wines while trying to assess its overall quality. Rating the beverages has even taken on a language of its own. The 10-point rating, the 100-point scoring system or the five-star classification of wines by different critics can be declared as proof that one individual’s assessment of quality differs from that of another. The question can be asked, how can one magazine give a wine 90 points while another gives it four stars. What is the difference in quality? In a world where things are always being rated, which rating is giving the wine higher scores for quality?

In a blind tasting held at the 2003 Society of Wine Educators conference in Anaheim, five pairs of wines were presented to a group of 50-plus wine professionals. As each set was about to be unveiled following individual tasting and noting the quality, the group was asked to vote on their favourite ones. In each pairing, without exception, the unanimous favourite was the wine which had scored under 80 points in a famous wine magazine, which shall go unnamed. The wine not chosen, by the majority, as the preferred choice had scored 90-plus points in the same publication. All the products at the tasting were from respected and revered wineries around the world, and they were well made and lacking in flaws. However, the final assessment of quality contradicted the established magazine’s definition. The high-scoring wines were distinctive and well made, but their unique qualities did not surpass the group’s basic view of quality.

Quality in wine can be defined in many ways. However, three things cannot be ignored: firstly, quality is indeed the unique character a wine possesses which makes it unlike another, or another region; secondly, it means that a wine does not have flaws, imperfections or faults; and lastly, quality is too individual a term never compared to another’s view of quality.

Hopefully these three philosophies can combine in such a way that all wine lovers around the world will benefit. Consumers will gain from a better understanding of what they like about a wine and why. The industry will benefit from having a foundation of respected and reputable peers helping the consumer in their search for quality, and last but not least, wine will continue to show better and more unique qualities.



A glass of wine ready to enjoy a labour of love.



Douglas James Scammell

FASHION FOR MEN British Wax Motorcycle Jacket

Another great jacket to have in your wardrobe for the wet rainy season is the **British Wax Motorcycle jacket**. It will keep you warm and dry and maintain a great look for a different kind of outfit idea even if you do not own a motorcycle like myself.

This jacket is a great long-term investment that I will explain in this article. I get lots of use with this jacket because it keeps me both dry and warm in this wet marine climate here in the greater Vancouver area as well as looking stylish and very British...

HISTORY

British wax motorcycle jackets also known as Wax cotton jackets evolved from early mariners oiled clothing in the early 20th century and with the invention of the motorcycle it became an essential protective gear for motorcyclists. There are few British jacket brand companies out there that make amazing wax motorcycle jackets but based off of my research the first company was Barbour.

Founded in South Shields, England, in 1894, the company initially imported oil cloth and supplied weatherproof garments to sailors and dock workers. In 1936, the founder's grandson, Duncan Barbour, a keen motorcyclist, introduced a one-piece waxed cotton suit called the **Barbour International**. This suit was developed specifically for the International Six Days Trial (ISDT) off-road motorcycle race and quickly became the standard for competitors. It was famously worn by the American team, including actor Steve McQueen, in the 1964 trials in east Germany and thanks to McQueen he further cemented the jackets legendary status.



Also very important to note, the brand Barbour holds the British royal family's warrants to supply them with waterproof and protective clothing from Duke of Edinburgh, to Queen Elizabeth and King Charles. In 1983, Barbour introduced the waxed hunting jacket model that remains most commonly associated with the brand: the Beaufort Jacket. Its design is French in origin, but tailored to suit British needs. Its waxed olive exterior and brown corduroy collar, along with its tartan lining and spacious front pockets, made it a favorite with both the British royal family as well as the general public. The late Queen Elizabeth was reportedly so fond of her Beaufort Jacket that despite repeated offers from the company to replace her well-worn favorite, she opted to keep the original for 25 years.

Another British brand, **Belstaff**, also pioneered waxed cotton motorcycle jackets, beginning production for motorcyclists in the 1920s. Their iconic "Trialmaster" jacket was introduced in 1948, featuring a design that was later adopted by other brands, including an angled map pocket.

The jackets are made from waxed cotton, which is a tightly woven cotton fabric treated with a layer of paraffin based or beeswax based wax to repel water, wind, and dirt. While the wax coating makes the jacket water resistant, some brands add an internal waterproof membrane for a higher level of protection against heavy rain.

The lining of these jackets they use taffeta for added waterproofing as well as thermal lining like wool.

The jacket over time develops a unique patina giving them a classic and rugged look that many riders appreciate.

TODAY

The wax motorcycle style jackets produced by both Barbour and Belstaff are more popular than ever before. In more recent years this style jacket has appeared in many tv shows

and movies like the James Bond movie *Skyfall* (2012) worn by Daniel Craig playing James Bond, to Tom Hardy who wore a Barbour wax jacket in the TV series *Mobland* (2025). The wax jackets on the market today by Barbour and Belstaff can be a bit pricy between an entry level around \$200.00 for a more high end model around \$800.00 dollars. Regardless all models due to a combination of high-quality materials, skilled craftsmanship, and a long-standing heritage of making durable, practical clothing. The jackets are built to last for decades with proper



care, which is why many people view them as a worthwhile, long-term investment rather than a disposable fashion item. Factors like brand reputation and cultural cachet also help contribute to the premium pricing.

The jacket I am wearing in the pictures is a special Barbour International Steve McQueen limited edition jacket. It is honestly one of my favorite jackets and also looks great when layering with a dress shirt, suit tie, a scarf, or cardigan sweater or turtleneck... the possibilities of layering with this jacket are almost endless. I also like wearing the jacket with a newsboy cap... No matter how you wear this jacket the one thing that there is no getting away from is you will be able to pull off a very British look.

OUR CITY

tonight

SPOTLIGHT ON
GREAT TV SHOW
YOUR NEXT COCKTAIL
A GOOD READ

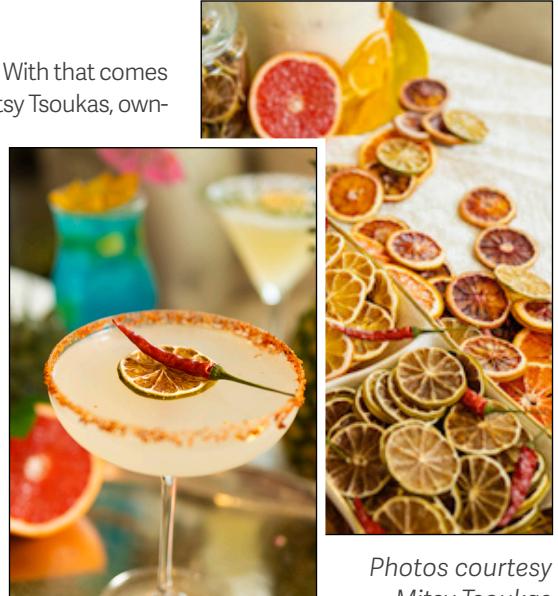


Photo courtesy Acorn TV

in Bilbao joining the search for answers. The pace of *Hidden Assets* never lets up, and is one of the most binge-worthy shows we've seen in a while (we viewed all 6 episodes in an evening). Big thumbs up to the show's writer/creator, Peter McKenna, who is also responsible for another gritty Irish TV show we highlighted last year called *Kin*. Season 3 of *Hidden Assets* is available exclusively on Acorn TV, which brings you TV and film content from around the world. www.acorn.tv.

THE ADDITION – ORCHARD LUXE

Modern cocktail culture has never been stronger, as devotees search for that perfect blend in a glass. With that comes higher end brands of spirits, as well as mixers or components, including garnishes. Which leads us to Mitsy Tsoukas, owner of the cozy and popular Neighbour's Restaurant & Pizza House (best pizza we've had!), and someone who has grown up in the industry thanks to her restauranteur parents. Her new project is called *Orchard Luxe*, which offers curated cocktail enhancers such as garnishes designed to add depth and nuance to cocktails, whether in a bar or at home. "Owning and operating a restaurant, I use dehydrated, citrus and fruit regularly for cocktails and presentation," she tells us, "and over time, I noticed that the quality and consistency of what was available on the market varied significantly. That curiosity led me to explore the process myself and once I did, it quickly became clear that there was an opportunity to create something better." *Orchard Luxe* has created all natural, handcrafted, dehydrated fruit with a focus on quality, appearance, and consistency. The reaction has been positive and encouraging (and not just from us, as we sample one of her delicious cocktails). "Our goal," Mitsy says, "is to create perfect slices that elevate cocktails, desserts, charcuterie boards, floral arrangements, crafts, and culture." Mitsy and her team are currently working on offering nine different citrus varieties, along with select seasonal fruits, all made without additives or preservatives. As she says, it's all about elevating your cocktail! For more information orchardluxe.ca and neighboursrestaurant.ca



Photos courtesy
Mitsy Tsoukas

THE READ – PABLO

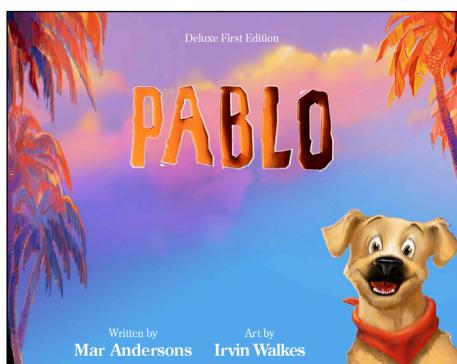


Photo courtesy Mar Andersons

Mar Andersons' resume in TV/Film is impressive. He's a successful actor, producer, writer, voiceover artist and a member of the Directors Guild of Canada, the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Arts, and the Union of BC Performers. He can now add children's author. His wonderful new book is called *Pablo*, and it's a story of a scrappy dog living on the streets of a Mexican town with the love of his life, Arianna. He's also about to become a dad. But before he can enjoy the good news, he's "dognapped" and taken to the Pacific Northwest. From there, Pablo has one goal: to escape and somehow get back to Mexico in time for the birth of his puppies. How will he do it? Meeting a grieving widow named Joan will help. This educational book – with great art work by Irvin Walkes – is written in English with Spanish words/phrases, and is the perfect story to assist parents with talking to their kids about love, loss and the five stages of grief (a child psychologist lesson plan is included). There's also a charitable element too. "*Pablo*, is intended to raise awareness — and funding — for dogs and other animals in need," Andersons tells us. They've partnered with three animal rescue/adoption organizations, with a portion of proceeds from *Pablo*'s sales going directly to them to help with their efforts. Look for Mar Andersons on *Our City Tonight* March 1st/8th. More *Pablo* at www.kidstori.com

Rachel Feldman shares the heroic story of Lilly Ledbetter

Our City Tonight sat down with Rachel Feldman, the co-writer, producer, and director of the very powerful film called "Lilly".

OCT: Congratulations on this film and we like to say that there are always movies each year that deserve to be watched and this is one of those movies. It is important for people to know the history and the courage of the people that came before them. Let's talk a little bit about the background of this extraordinary woman named Lilly Ledbetter.

RF: Lilly was a self-described Alabama grandmother who worked at the Goodyear tire factory in Gadsden, Alabama. She got the job at the age of 40 because she wanted to have the best paycheque in her county. She had grown up in poverty, and it was really important to her that she raised her family as middle class. So, she took this job in this toxic environment that was a tire factory. It was also a socially toxic environment because of the sexual harassment, and the fact that she was the only woman who worked on the floor. She worked hard for 20 years subjected to terrible treatment by the men because she wanted that paycheck. When she found out, nearing retirement 20 years later, that she had been paid nearly half as much as all the other men in the factory, something inside just cracked. She had been putting up with all this mistreatment just for the paycheque and to find out that they were cheating her opened up something inside her to pursue her own sense of justice. She took her case to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, (EEOC) and then took it to a court. She had a wonderful lawyer, John Goldfarb, who is a character in the movie, and he stayed with her all the way through the ordeal. She fought bureaucrats, bullies, Congress and corporations. And when she could no longer win for herself, she became an advocate and an activist for others. Lilly single-handedly changed the law and this was the very first piece of legislation that President Obama signed when he became president in 2009.

OCT: This is the story of an extraordinary woman, performed by an extraordinary woman



Photo courtesy Greg Crowder
Veteran TV Director Feldman succeeds with first feature film

an herself. How vital was it to get someone, we all love Patricia Clarkson, to play Lilly in this movie?

RF: Patti comes from a political family. Her mother, Jackie Clarkson, was a politician working in the city of New Orleans for most of her career. Patti is the youngest of five girls, all of whom have careers. She knew who Lilly Ledbetter was and she knew why her story was so important. I consider myself the luckiest filmmaker in the world for her to have said yes to me and to my project. I'm not a famous director as I've been working in television all my career. This is my first feature film, and there is a preconception for a lot of movie stars that television directors are not great directors. She is not that kind of person, and she really trusted her instincts. Patti loved the script and she knew that Lilly's story was compelling. It was truly great that her and

I clicked as I believe she really embodied Lilly and brought her to life. I have had both of these women in my life and unfortunately Lilly has now passed, but she was a very dear friend of mine and now Patricia is a very dear friend of mine. They are both very separate people. But I really feel like Patti brought Lilly to life.

OCT: Let's talk about some of the work that you do in this category. You've been a fighter for gender equality in the still male-dominated film and television industry, and you were also part of the groups that are activists for women behind the camera who can be seen in Geena Davis' very important movie *This Changes Everything*. Given some of your background, obviously you could really relate to what Lilly went through.

RF: I saw Lilly on television when I was watching the DNC like most people did (Democratic National Convention) in 2008. I was sitting on the couch with my husband, and I did not know who Lilly Ledbetter was at the time. That is kind of embarrassing to say at this moment, but she came out on the stage and delivered her speech with such grace, dignity, and power about gender equality, fair pay, and women's rights to an audience of arguably millions of people. And this was 2008 which was before the Times Up and before the Me-Too movements. This was at a time in Hollywood when people were still saying incredulously, "do women really not work as much as men", even though there were statistics to prove that. So here was this woman talking about it, and of course it related to her field, which was when she was a factory worker. And here's the situation where I'm a Hollywood film director and she's an Alabama tire factory worker and we both have the same issue. So does every other woman in the world and I was really touched by her, so I said to my husband, there's a story here and there's a movie here. There's an Erin Brockovich, Norma Rae story here and we love these kinds of social justice movies that are really about people, families, that are filled with heart. That was the story I went after.

LILLY can now be seen on most streaming platforms www.LillyMovie.com. Filmed interview richmond sentinel.ca/videos



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