



## BURROWING OWL ESTATE WINERY

### For parents

Get swanky for the winemaker's dinner Oct. 5 to 6 (\$159) with an underground candlelit reception, hard-to-find library vintages and five amazing courses you didn't have to cook. Now *that* warrants a babysitter. Maybe even a winery guesthouse room. (\$250-\$350/night; [bovwine.ca](http://bovwine.ca))

### For kids

Even if you already own 137 stuffed animals too many, the wine shop's plush little burrowing owl is hard to resist. Ask how the winery helps this endangered species. Who knew wine touring would be so, well, educational?



## Wine without the whining

Sure you can hike, bike and sail with the wee set. But sipping wine at high-falutin' wineries with kids in tow? It's totally possible at these five wineries throughout the Okanagan

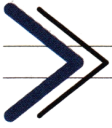
THERE ARE THREE RULES for successfully pulling off an Okanagan wine tour with young kids during The Fall Okanagan Wine Festival: 1) Don't set out without kid-approved snacks; 2) Find the entertaining hook (pronto!) at every winery; and 3) Build in time for jumping into leaves, even if they get trampled into fish food-sized flakes on the minivan floor.

Still terrified? We've got your back with a family game

plan for five fabulous stops along the wine trail from Osoyoos to Okanagan Falls. Rewards and bribes are in here, too.

So, no more excuses. Fall is the best time of year to visit the Okanagan, and to enjoy the autumn colours, crisp air, the grape harvest and 165 wine festival events in full swing Sept. 30 through Oct. 9. Here's how to do it without complaints from the backseat.





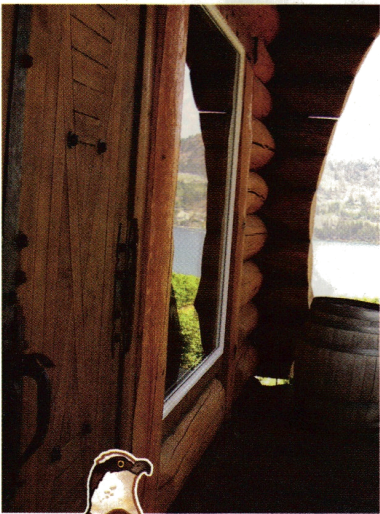
### SEE YA LATER RANCH

**For parents**

Join several hundred dogs and their wine-swilling owners at the festival's Dog Days of Summer (by donation) SPCA fundraiser Oct. 1. Raise a glass of Rover Viognier/Shiraz to the talent at the doggie fashion show or agility course. ([sylranch.com](http://sylranch.com))

**For kids**

R.I.P. Rover, Nelly and 13 other ranch dogs from the past century. The winery's pet cemetery and canine ghost stories are enough to get you looking for happy puppy spirits running though the vineyard—in slo-mo, of course.



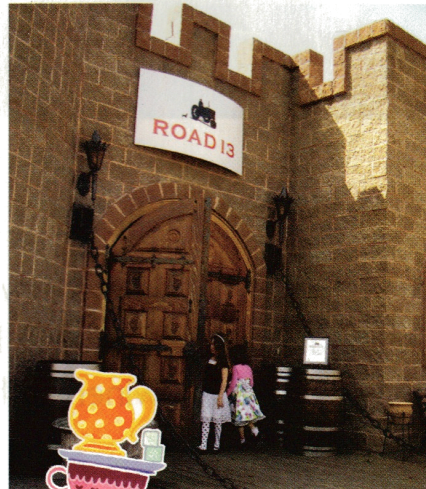
### BLASTED CHURCH VINEYARDS

**For parents**

Midnight Service, Oct. 7 and 8, is the one late-night festival soiree well worth ditching the kids for. It pairs Southern-style barbecue and live gospel and blues with Swear to God Chardonnay, OMG sparkling wine and other bottles. Ready to come, all ye faithful? (\$110 per ticket; [blastedchurch.com](http://blastedchurch.com))

**For kids**

Look up when you near the vineyard entrance—you might see osprey peeking out of their nesting platform. If geese are there instead, the Church staff is quick to shoo and excommunicate them from the fold.



### ROAD 13 VINEYARD

**For parents**

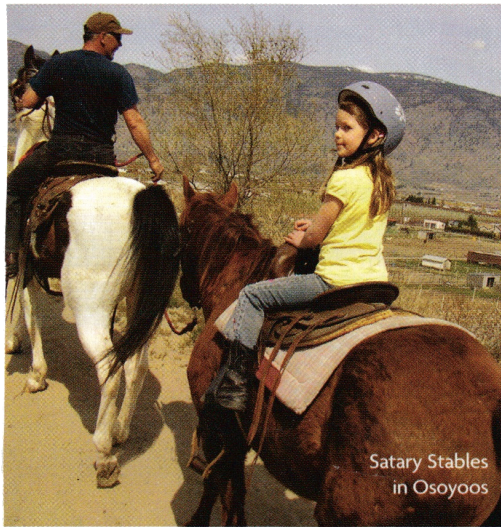
Catch a "Taste with a Thief" (\$45) in Road 13's new barrel room. Sounds like a new edition of *Clue*, right? At this event, smooth criminals get to use a wine thief (a siphoning instrument) to taste wines from the barrel. ([road13vineyards.com](http://road13vineyards.com))

**For kids**

Straight out of a fairy tale, this medieval stone castle winery is graced with turrets, huge doors and a faux drawbridge—a grand setting for a toy sword duel or a pinkies-up tea party.







Satary Stables  
in Osoyoos

## On the Wine Trail with the Kids

For everyone's sanity, take some breaks along the wine route, and build in pre- and post-tour incentives. These are surefire rewards and bribes to help prevent everything from benign pouting to vehicle-stopping hissy fits.

Get an enormous ice cream cone at **Tickleberry's**. (Hwy. 97, Main Street, Okanagan Falls; 800-667-8002; tickleberrys.com)

Fill a cooler for a picnic at **Okanagan Falls Provincial Park**. (Green Lake Road at Hwy. 97)

Look inside a pit house or hold a snake at **Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre**. (1000 Rancher Creek Rd., Osoyoos; 888-495-8555; nkmpidesert.com)

Stay at the **Coast Osoyoos Beach Hotel** with an indoor pool and waterslide. (7702 Main St., Hwy. 3 East; 800-716-6199; coasthotels.com)

Take a trail ride through the sagebrush with **Satary Stables** in Osoyoos. (11305 28 Ave.; 250-495-7400; satarystables.ca)

✂ **GETTING THERE** WestJet flies to Kelowna 13 times daily from six Canadian and U.S. cities this month.

Wish you were here.

There is nothing wrong with missing the comforts of home when traveling, but there's no need to miss us. With over 85 locations across Canada and in Phoenix, Tucson, Dallas, Fort Worth, Denver and Seattle, there's always a great steak nearby.

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