

# TIGHTROPE

WINERY



1050 Fleet Road Penticton, BC V2A 8T7  
ON THE NARAMATA BENCH IN BC'S OKANAGAN VALLEY

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## TIGHTROPE RELEASES 2017 VINTAGES

*receives honourable mention for Winery of the Year in Canada and 42 medals to date in 2018*

Naramata, BC (date) – Tightrope Winery is pleased to announce its fall vintage release: three wines from the 2017 vintage – and one of them has already scored well in competition.

The **2017 Riesling** and **2017 Viognier** are available now in [private liquor stores](#) around British Columbia.

The Riesling won Best in Class Gold at the 2018 Cascadia International Wine Competition, as well as Gold at the Intervin International Wine Awards and the Dan Berger's International Wine Awards and bronze at the Lieutenant Governor's BC Wine Awards in September. It is 100% estate-grown, hand-picked and made with very little intervention, to show off the true nature of the vintage. The nose has aromas of honeysuckle, pear and green apple, while you'll find flavours of pink grapefruit, nectarine and honey with a touch of minerality.

The Viognier, made from Naramata Bench grapes, is 100% aged in barrel in a combination of French Oak, Acacia and stainless-steel barrels. It is then aged in barrel for eight months. The taste has hints of orange blossom, mandarin, apricot, vanilla and spice.

A third wine will only be available to members of the [Walk the Wire Wine Club](#): the **2017 Chardonnay**. This wine has aromas of apple, pear, vanilla and honey, with flavours of warm lemon, yellow plum and even baking spice. It was aged in barrel for nine months, giving it a soft feel in the mouth and a lingering finish.

Red wine lovers can look forward to two more releases in Spring 2019: **2017 Syrah** is also made exclusively from Naramata Bench grapes, taking advantage of the unique terroir in that part of the Okanagan Valley. It boasts a nose of black pepper, blackberry and dark cherry, with flavours of anise, plum and black currant.

Also making its debut in Spring is the **2017 Pinot Noir**, made from grapes from Tightrope's own vineyard, along with those from nearby Hermitage Vineyard; hand-picked and fermented in small lots, using wild yeast. You'll find vanilla, tobacco and spice on the palate, with a nose of dried cranberries, plums and dark cherry in an elegant balance – this is a Tightrope, after all!

This has been a banner year for Tightrope. All-told, Tightrope has earned 42 medals in five competitions in 2018 and received Honourable Mention for Winery of the Year at the Intervin International Wine Awards.

“The Honourable Mention is particularly sweet for us, since we were the smallest winery to receive recognition,” says Lyndsay O’Rourke, Tightrope’s vintner and, with husband Graham, co-owner. “It’s been a rapid rise for us in the five years since we struck out on our own and we are really pleased with the 2017 harvest. Next year will be very exciting competition wise.”

The early – and decisive – success of Tightrope Winery is a testament to the passion and education of the owners. Lyndsay and Graham O’Rourke are not just winery owners: they are hands-on producers, formally educated in viticulture and oenology. They studied first at Okanagan University College (now part of the University of British Columbia) and then at Lincoln University in New Zealand. Now, Graham works the land as the viticulturist, producing the grapes Lyndsay needs as vintner.

Tightrope wines are available [in private liquor stores](#) around British Columbia, or shipped direct via the [Walk the Wire Wine Club](#).

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**About Tightrope Winery:** *Tightrope Winery sits on 10 acres on the Naramata Bench in British Columbia’s Okanagan Valley, where the complex soil is ideal for growing Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Barbera, Viognier, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir. Supplementing its own grapes with those from other vineyards on the Naramata Bench, Tightrope produces up to 4,500 cases of wine a year.*

*For more information and to arrange interviews, contact Mat Wilcox, Wilcox Group [mwilcox@wilcoxgroup.com](mailto:mwilcox@wilcoxgroup.com) or Drew Snider [drewdsnider@gmail.com](mailto:drewdsnider@gmail.com).*

## **TIGHTROPE WINERY: 42 MEDALS AND COUNTING IN 2018!**

### ***InterVin International Wine Awards***

#### **GOLD**

2017 Riesling  
2017 Rosé

#### **SILVER**

2017 Tip-Toe  
2016 Pinot Noir

#### **HONOURS (formerly bronze)**

2017 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon  
2017 Pinot Gris  
2016 Cabernet Franc  
2016 Merlot  
2016 Syrah  
2016 Vertigo

### ***BC Lieutenant-Governor's Wine Awards***

#### **GOLD**

2017 Pinot Gris  
2017 Sauvignon Semillon

#### **SILVER**

2016 Pinot Noir  
2017 Tip-Toe

#### **BRONZE**

2017 Riesling  
2017 Rosé  
2016 Syrah

### ***WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada***

#### **GOLD**

2016 Pinot Noir  
2016 Syrah

#### **SILVER**

2016 Cabernet Franc Eira Thomas  
2016 Equipoise

2016 Vertigo

2017 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon

#### **BRONZE**

2017 Tip-Toe

### ***Dan Berger's International Wine Competition***

#### **GOLD**

2015 Syrah  
2017 Riesling  
2017 Pinot Gris

#### **SILVER**

2015 Pinot Noir  
2017 Tip-Toe  
2017 Rosé

#### **BRONZE**

2016 Cabernet Franc  
2016 Equipoise  
2016 Merlot  
2016 Viognier

### ***Cascadia International Wine Competition***

#### **GOLD / BEST OF CLASS**

2017 Riesling

#### **DOUBLE GOLD**

2017 Pinot Gris

#### **SILVER**

2016 Equipoise  
2016 Pinot Noir  
2016 Merlot  
2017 Rosé  
2017 Tip-Toe

#### **BRONZE**

2016 Syrah

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## ***BACKGROUND - October 2018***

### **THE TIGHTROPE WINERY: It's all about balance**

Tightrope Winery burst out of the gate with its very first vintage, winning six medals in three competitions, including a double gold for its 2012 Rosé at the Northwest Wine Summit. Since then, its wines have been honored internationally, leading to the tremendous success in 2018.

Tightrope won a total of 42 medals in international competitions such as the Dan Berger's International Wine Awards, the WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada, the British Columbia Lieutenant Governor's Wine Competition and the Intervin International Wine Awards. Tightrope also received Honourable Mention for Winery of the Year at Intervin – the smallest of the wineries on the short-list.

What makes this perennial success all the more remarkable, is the passion of co-owners Lyndsay and Graham O'Rourke. They are formally educated in the science and art of wine: they studied viticulture and oenology at Okanagan University College (as it then was), in the heart of BC's famous wine-growing country. They continued their studies at Lincoln University in New Zealand, which is internationally recognized for its Viticulture and Oenology program. Lyndsay was top of her class among the women in the Bachelor program and had the highest mark in the Wine Chemistry final.

The couple have had to overcome numerous challenges to get to where they are: they returned to the Okanagan as newcomers in a small industry; natural conditions changing year by year, requiring constant adaptation; and it's rare to find a woman vintner in the wine industry. It took people who were willing to give them a shot – like Prudence Merher at Ruby Blues, who took Lyndsay on as vintner and John Simes at Mission Hill, who hired Graham as a viticulturist. As they honed their crafts, they planted their own ten-acre vineyard in 2007 on the rolling hills of the Naramata Bench, overlooking Okanagan Lake in British Columbia. The Bench's complex soil and many micro-climates make for perfect conditions to grow a wide variety of grapes.

At first, they sold their grapes to other vineyards, then in 2012, they produced their first vintage – and that was the award-winning Rosé. In 2014, they turned Tightrope into their full-time project. This is their life, their passion -- not a hobby or side-hustle in retirement – and their gift is to share incredible wines with others.

With their formal education in viticulture and oenology, they understand the science behind growing wine grapes and making wine. Out of the science comes the art: making wine simply, with minimal intervention.

Graham makes sure Lyndsay has the grapes that she needs. Wine, he'll remind you, is made in the vineyard, and he ensures the grapes have the right sugar content and acidity to become the award-winning Riesling ("Best of Class" at the Cascadia Wine Competition, 2016 and 2018), Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Rosé and all the other varieties that make Tightrope a Label To Know for wine lovers.

Another key ingredient in Tightrope Winery's recipe for success is **sustainability**. Graham sat on the committee writing guidelines for the vineyard portion of the [Sustainable Winegrowing BC](#) program, developed by the BC Wine Grape Council. A solar panel electrical system has recently been installed at the winery by [Powermax Electric and Solar](#) of Penticton. The 50-panel array can develop 17.25kw. As well, the winery is lit by LED lights to reduce energy consumption and has also invested in an under-vine mower, to eliminate the use of herbicides.

Tightrope wines can be found in [private liquor stores around British Columbia](#); or visit the shop at the Winery, 1050 Fleet Road in Penticton (Naramata). The wine shop is open April through Thanksgiving (second Monday of October). Wine lovers can also join the [Walk the Wire Wine Club](#), and order a dozen bottles of hand-selected whites, reds or an assortment, to be delivered twice a year to their door. Club perks also include preferred access to exclusive, new and limited-production wines.

Every year is an exercise in walking the tightrope. "We start with the wine we want to make," Lyndsay says, "and to get it to that end point, the other end of the tightrope, you have to balance all the variables along the way. These variables can include the weather, crop load, picking dates, winemaking decisions, business and financial hurdles, and, of course, the most exceptional grapes. We currently make 4500 cases of wine per year and we want each bottle to be memorable."

The science. The art. The sacrifice. The earth. The tannins. The minerality. There's a bit of Graham and Lyndsay in every bottle of Tightrope, and you can taste it.

[www.tightropewinery.ca](http://www.tightropewinery.ca)

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Mat Wilcox

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Drew Snider

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[drewdsnider@gmail.com](mailto:drewdsnider@gmail.com)