



## Okanagan's Best Kept Secret ...

**B**eautiful, passionate, bold and complex are the essence of little Italy captured in every bottle of La Stella wines.

Old world charm and classic traditions reflecting a renaissance appeal of La Dolce Vita (the sweet life) are the heartstrings of this winery.

Embracing the values and ideology of European tradition, General Manager Anthony Burée explains, "La Stella is about bringing cultural components together. Gaining an appreciation for art, music, and literature, combined with food and wine. We want to focus on the experience. It's about taking time to enjoy every aspect and taking pleasure in life - savouring every sip, taste and conversation, and making a connection. Almost every great moment in time involves food and wine. You don't have to be Italian to enjoy the Mediterranean lifestyle," he says.

Evoking a sense of place, La Stella Winery, translating to "The Star," is one of Okanagan's best-kept secrets. Inspired from an evening of stargazing, Burée witnessed what appeared to be a band of white light arching across and illuminating the night sky—which he soon realized to be the Milky Way.

Witnessing the transition point between sunset and darkness is a variegated blue sky that inspired the labels and the beginning of "The Star". "It's about taking the time to take notice," says Burée.

A magical place resonating in renaissance appeal is a boutique winery inspired by the country that introduced Pucci, Prada and Sophia Loren. Gracing the wine bar is an impeccable blue granite counter top imported from Italy. Suspended from the ceiling are three exquisite hand blown Venetian cobalt glass pendants

flown in from Murano, and on the deck is a traditional harvest table seating for twenty.

Pursuing the pleasures of the heart, La Stella Winery bestows a cultural richness and the beauty of little Italy that can be enjoyed in every sip, glass and bottle of La Stella wines. The cachet of wines is hard pressed to find, but are available at the winery, located in Oliver.

### ☞ 2007 Vivace

Vivace is an Italian musical term describing a movement that's vivacious and full of life. Like the name, this Pinot Grigio is lively. A golden hue displaying aromatic floral notes of jasmine, balanced with acidity of fresh picked peaches and nectarines layered with coconut, and yet complex from its fermentation of 25-30% French oak barrels, giving this wine a nice long silky finish. Harvested at 2.4 tonnes an acre.

### ☞ 2006 Allegretto

Allegretto is a term typically used to describe the timing, movement and pace of music. Made from 100% Merlot, this wine has a moderate tempo. A combination of bold strawberries and cherries, interlaced with vine ripe sweet stewed tomatoes, cloves and a hint of black olives rounded out by toasted oak offers up good tannins that's well balanced and has structure. Aged 12 months in French oak.

### ☞ 2006 Maestoso

A concerto starring the Merlot, this wine is voluptuous and full of intensity, coating the glass with rich cherry notes, leather and finishing dry. Dedicated to the Super Tuscans - harvesting just over 1 tonne an acre.

~ Stephanie Loo de Nevers