



SKAHA BENCH SUB-GI RECEIVES NEAR UNANIMOUS APPROVAL FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 4th, 2018 (Vancouver, BC)

Painted Rock Estate Winery is thrilled by the news today from the British Columbia Wine Authority that the vote on the Skaha Bench sub-geographic indication is complete. There were 20 eligible ballots and the BCWA received 19 in response. All votes were in favour of creating British Columbia and the Okanagan Valley's 4th sub-GI under the name Skaha Bench.

"We couldn't be happier with the results of this vote," says John Skinner, Painted Rock's Proprietor. **"The ability to put exactly where our grapes are grown on our label has always been exceptionally important to me. It is about truth in labelling and transparency with consumers. If they want to know, I want to be able to tell them."**

While the vote has been completed, the BCWA was clear: wineries cannot use the new Sub-GI of Skaha Bench on their labels until the regulations have been amended. It is up to the Minister to amend the regulations.

ABOUT SKAHA BENCH

Located on the eastern side of Skaha Lake, Skaha Bench is a glaciolacustrine bench that spans a total length of approximately 10 km in a north south direction with an area of 365 ha. The bench is identified as running from Ellis Creek (Penticton) in the north and McLean Creek (Okanagan Falls) to the south. There are approximately 75 ha. of vineyards located on Skaha Bench, split evenly between the northern and southern portions of the Sub-GI (BC Ministry of Agriculture 2016). The delineation also encompasses areas of rock outcrop, a large residential area (Heritage Hills estates) and significant areas of orchard lands.

SOILS

The most common soil on the Skaha Bench is the Olhausen soil series, noted to be very favourable for wine grape production in the geotechnical report prepared by Scott Smith of Eterna Consulting and Pat Bowen of the Summerland Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The surface of this soil is covered with a wind-blown layer some 10 to 50 cm thick overlying the glaciolacustrine silts and clays. While the Olhausen soil series has been mapped throughout the southern Okanagan as a minor soil, along the Skaha Bench, it is dominant and a unique attribute of this sub-GI. Along the highest elevations of the Sub-GI, in those areas that contact the bedrock-controlled valley wall, there is another type of underlying soil, glaciofluvial. These materials are deposited by running water melting from the glaciers and so contain abundant gravels and cobbles that are set in a matrix of sand. They are limited to the highest elevations of the sub-GI and are prominent on the Painted Rock estate vineyards.

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