

British Columbia

realweddings Planning Guide

SPECIAL ANNUAL ISSUE 2015

START PLANNING

Checklists, Tools
& Tips Inside!

FIND YOUR GOWN

Choose the
Perfect Dress

GET INSPIRED

Real B.C. Weddings

YOU'RE

Engaged!

HOW TO CREATE YOUR DREAM DAY



plus

LOCAL VENDORS ★ REGISTRY PICKS ★ CUSTOM CEREMONIES

Desert LOVE

Craving open skies and sunshine for your big day? Osoyoos offers plenty of both –plus fabulous wine too

By Kim Mah



Ride through rolling vineyards and fields at Covert Farms.

The guarantee of sunshine draws many a B.C. couple to Hawaii, the Caribbean and beyond for their big day. But aside from the expense and logistical headaches for the bride and groom, travelling to a far-off destination wedding can put a financial burden on guests, too. Here's an idea: why not head somewhere affordable and close to home, where sunny skies are a given? The charming lakeside Okanagan town of Osoyoos fits that bill perfectly. And bonus: You can toast your nuptials with some of B.C.'s finest wines from award-winning local vineyards.

BEACH TIME

The site of Canada's only true desert, Osoyoos's climate is dry and warm from spring through fall. But if it's a beach wedding you're after, you can feel the sand between your toes when you say

"I do" at Osoyoos Lake, which happens to be the country's warmest lake.

Best option? The luxurious **Watermark Beach Resort** (watermarkbeachresort.com) is built right on the lakefront and offers a variety of indoor and outdoor ceremony locations (including its sandy beachfront) and venues for your reception that can accommodate up to 150 guests.

Opened in 2009, the Watermark still feels brand-new, thanks to its 153 exquisitely appointed and spotless guest suites that ensure you and your guests can while away the hours or days before and after your wedding in deluxe comfort. Lakeview suites range from studios to three-bedrooms, most with roomy patios and fully equipped gourmet kitchens for true home-away-from-home convenience.

A meal that wows your guests is a promise at

Watermark, thanks to its emphasis on farm-fresh ingredients from local producers and its carefully chosen list of Okanagan wines. In addition, the resort's full-service **Illumination Spa** is on hand to help you and your bridal party look flawless on your big day. Plus, you can get married your way at Watermark — choose from wedding packages ranging from intimate to grand, or handpick numerous à la carte options. Whether you'd like a martini bar at your reception or a winery tour to entertain guests, the resort's numerous options allow you to create a fully customized occasion.

WINERY WEDDINGS

If you've always dreamed of a vineyard wedding, but Tuscany is out of reach, the Okanagan Valley has got you covered. The Osoyoos and neighbouring Oliver area is home to more than

