



In Vino Veritas

Unlike freewheeling bartenders, sommeliers have a reputation for being staid and even a bit dull. Not David Stansfield (pictured), who took over as wine director at Earls last year. Whether he's writing about wine, teaching classes at Vancouver Urban Winery or instructing Earls staff about the finer points of the wine list, Stansfield is "all about the humour and the swears." He's liberal with jokes and F-bombs, firm in his belief that wine is "serious, but it's not *serious serious*."



For a visitor wishing to sip what British Columbia does best, Stansfield recommends ordering a syrah, especially one from Le Vieux Pin Winery. And if you're unsure what to do when it arrives, he advises swirling the liquid in the glass, sticking your nose in for a big whiff, then praising the minerality: "You don't have to know what that means, but the sommelier will be impressed." Stansfield keeps trying to remove the snootiness from oenology because, more than anything, he loves "the way that wine brings folks together."—*Sheri Radford*

Check out the wine list at Earls (page 75) any day of the week, but especially on Tuesdays, when all bottles are half price.

Excellence, *Wine Spectator* perennial winner. Contemporary dining room features an array of seafood and meats with a distinctive West Coast spin. Sample tasting menus, house-made desserts and made-to-order martinis and cocktails. Reservations advised. \$\$\$ L (M-F), D (daily), brunch (Sa-Su). 2881 Granville St. 604-738-8938. www.westrestaurant.com & **Map 4: D3**

STADIUM DISTRICT

Chinese 1886 Elegant fine-dining destination named for the year that Vancouver's Chinatown was founded. Find dishes inspired by the cuisines of Szechuan, Shanghai, Canton and Hunan, including dim sum and a Peking duck tasting menu. \$\$\$ L/D (daily). Parq Vancouver, 39 Smith St. 778-370-8500. www.parqvancouver.com & **Map 1: D6**

Pub BC KITCHEN Creative comfort food reigns supreme at this sports bar. Watch the game on one of four TVs while dining on gourmet steaks, classic milkshakes and more. BC-focused wine list. Features a 24-hour take-out window, and breakfast is served until 5 pm. \$\$ L/D (daily). Parq Vancouver, 39 Smith St. 778-370-8300. www.parqvancouver.com & **Map 1: D6**

Coffee/Tea CATFÉ Purchase drinks and snacks from the cafe before visiting adoptable rescue cats in a feline-friendly open space filled with climbing areas, scratching posts and toys. Gift shop sells cat-themed goods and upscale pet products and accessories. Open F-W, closed Th to bring in new cats from the BC SPCA. One-hour visit: \$5 with cafe purchase, \$8 without. Maximum 16 guests. Reservations recommended. 2nd Floor, International Village Mall, 88 W. Pender St. www.catfe.ca **Map 1: C7**

Casual HONEY SALT Cozy booths populate the spacious dining room at this home-style eatery. Dig into regionally sourced farm-to-table comfort food, and delicious cakes. Sit at the bar to watch sports on twin TVs while browsing the BC-focused wine list. \$\$ B/L/D (daily), brunch (Sa-Su). Parq Vancouver, 39 Smith St. 778-370-8200. www.parqvancouver.com & **Map 1: D6**

Regional: Upscale THE VICTOR Premium steaks and seasonal offerings



HAPPIEST HOUR From 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., find daily deals at Parq Vancouver's restaurants, like BC Kitchen (listed above), where beer and wine are \$5 and appies are 50 percent off.