

**Site Name:**  
Black Sage Bench Growing District

**Physical Address:**

**RDOSCHR002**

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**Photograph by Lynn Alaric**



**Description of Site:**

This resource consists of a district approximately along the corridor of Black Sage Road from Orchard Grove Lane south to Road 22. Throughout this area are several vineyards, orchards and wineries which define the character of the district. It is approximately centered at 49 degrees, 6' 41.3" N, 199 degrees, 32' 59.5" W.

**Heritage Value of Site:**

Economic:

As Oliver developed its capacity for agriculture, the Black Sage Bench was organized as an orchard growing district with its own irrigation system beyond that of the South Okanagan Lands Project. Over time, as new crops were considered, this district was found to be particularly appropriate for viticulture. This district evokes the feeling of an evolving landscape to support changing agricultural needs. This district has contributed significantly to Oliver's current identity as the Wine Capital of Canada, owing to the concentration of vineyards and associated wineries found here. Among the wineries are the first one owned by an Indo-Canadian, and the first local winery resort at Burrowing Owl Winery.

**Character Defining Elements:**

- The presence of agricultural activity as evidenced by orchards and vineyards
- The presence of wineries and resorts as secondary industries to the base agricultural economy
- The views from the area towards other wineries, orchards and transportation corridors
- The presence of an independent irrigation system, including water efficient drip-line mechanisms
- The appearance of well-tended vineyards and orchards in rows and blocks

# BC Register of Historic Places (Mandatory)

## Black Sage Bench Growing District

Unique FPT Identifier

### LOCATION

Address #	Street	Community	Postal	Cadastral
	Black Sage Rd	Oliver	V0H 1T0	Approximately centered at 49 degrees, 6' 41.3" N, 199 degrees, 32' 59.5" W

### DESCRIPTION

<b>Description</b>	This resource consists of a district approximately along the corridor of Black Sage Road from Orchard Grove Lane south to Road 22. Throughout this area are several vineyards, orchards and wineries which define the character of the district.		
<b>Description of boundaries</b>	Oliver Rural		
<b>Heritage value</b>	Economic: As Oliver developed its capacity for agriculture, the Black Sage Bench was organized as an orchard growing district with its own irrigation system beyond that of the South Okanagan Lands Project. Over time, as new crops were considered, this district was found to be particularly appropriate for viticulture. This district evokes the feeling of an evolving landscape to support changing agricultural needs. This district has contributed significantly to Oliver's current identity as the Wine Capital of Canada, owing to the concentration of vineyards and associated wineries found here. Among the wineries are the first one owned by an Indo-Canadian, and the first local winery resort at Burrowing Owl Winery.		
<b>Character-Defining elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-The presence of agricultural activity as evidenced by orchards and vineyards</li><li>-The presence of wineries and resorts as secondary industries to the base agricultural economy</li><li>-The viewscapes from the area towards other wineries, orchards and transportation corridors</li><li>-The presence of an independent irrigation system, including water efficient drip-line mechanisms</li><li>-The appearance of well-tended vineyards and orchards in rows and blocks</li></ul>		
<b>Functional Type</b>	<b>Contributing Resources</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>Era</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Type</b>
Farm Element	Current	Unli	Landscape(s) or Landscape Feature(s)
Farm Element	Historic		
Nature Element	Current		
Nature Element	Historic		

### FORMAL RECOGNITION

Statute	Enactment	Date
Community Heritage Register	B185/09A	March 19, 2

### COMMENTS and INFORMATION (not used by registrar)