



## A tasty swan song

Swan's Buckerfield Brewery is inside Swan's Hotel in Victoria's "Old Towne".

The reclaimed property has gone through gentrification over the last 20 years and is steps from the Inner Harbour. The wrap-around patio invites foot traffic.

The brewery is tiny but well organized. Award-winning brewer Andrew Tessier has worked on the premises since 2003.

My food selection was excellent, fresh and delicious - a true pub burger with fresh green salad. I downed my taster-sized beers while my eyes wandered between the tourist-filled street and the local artwork and First Nations carvings that adorned the walls.

Swan's Hotel typifies Victorian charm and craft beer full of character.

**MY PICKS:**  
Raspberry Ale - a beer worthy of a trip to Vancouver Island. The berry flavour is subtle but balanced, the 7 per cent alcohol content is almost sinful.

Riley's Scotch Ale - this beer will make you tipsy fast at 8 per cent. The warming sensation of the alcohol and rich dark malt lingers on the tongue.

COLIN JACK IS AN OFFICIAL BEER AFICIANADO. CHECK OUT HIS WEBSITE JUSTHEREFORTHEBEER.COM

# Keefe serves up Eastern meds

*Time is running out on Raj Taneja's and Melody Fury's quest for the ultimate summer cocktail.*

**Raj:** A drink to improve your health.

**Fury:** Raj, didn't we already cover that?

**Raj:** When you're in the heart of Chinatown, the concept of Western medicine and molecular mixology are foreign.

**Fury:** Speaking of foreign, it's always entertaining to sit on The Keefer Bar's glass-fenced patio during Chinatown's Summer Night Market.

**Raj:** Ahh ... watching shoppers gather at stalls buying random things from underwear to DVDs.

**Fury:** What isn't random are Dani Tatarin's well-articulated concoctions. Every ingredient in The Keefer's Asian herbal-infused cocktails are calculated for flavour and health benefits. All too familiar ground given what we learned on our recent visit to The Refinery, except Dani comes from the traditional Chinese school of medicine.

**Raj:** I think she's on to something shopping for cocktail ingredients at neighbourhood herbal shops



Dani Tatarin will cure what ails you with her TCM-inspired cocktails at The Keefer Bar.

to infuse into the bitters and spirits. The house magnolia bark tincture in the Dragonfly sends your body's "chi" down to calm your nerves. Then dragonfruit-infused gin, pearl sake and ginger-galangal syrup are shaken into a balanced and soothing drink that's ideal for the heat on a hot summer day.

**Raj:** Imagine guests arriving at the bar, bartenders take their pulse and prescribe the ultimate heal-

ing summer cocktail for their ailments.

**Fury:** That's no fun. It's about Dani's knowledge of spirits, Eastern ideas and an end product with a well-developed flavour profile. I especially love the combination of Gosling black rum with the ginger-galangal syrup in the Peach Sling. This twist on the Dark and Stormy reminds me of sipping a spiked peach iced tea at a barbecue party. The

peppery bite from the fragrant roots has a surprisingly refreshing and cooling effect.

**Editor:** Woody Harrelson was recently seen onsite double-fisting the Dragonfly. It didn't last long, though - the first round calmed him right down.

RAJ TANEJA RUNS URBANMIXER.COM. MELODY FURY ROCKS VANCOUVERFOODTOUR.COM. TWEET THEM @TINHEAD & @GOURMETFURY. THEY TALK BACK!

PHOTO SUBMITTED

# top 5

## Richmond joints

A fast-growing city that boasts a number of diverse ethnicities, Richmond is more than an airport town. Here's a look at the top five reasons to cross the bridge.

### GLOBE @ YVR Vancouver International Airport (3111 Grant McConachie Way)

Like I said, Richmond has much more to offer than its airport - but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy a fabulous meal between flights.

### RICHMOND SUMMER NIGHT MARKET

12631 Vulcan Way

Arguably serves up the finest Asian eats in the Lower Mainland. If you haven't had a chance to head down yet, hurry as the market closes Sept. 26.

### CHARHOUSE RESTAURANT

3866 Bayview St.

This beautiful dining room, located along the scenic Steveston Harbour, is the perfect spot for a romantic evening.

### GINGERI CHINESE CUISINE

323-5300 No. 3 Rd.

An unassuming joint in Landsdowne Mall, Gingeri has some of the best dim sum around. Be sure to sample the deep-fried tofu with spicy salt.

### BANZAI SUSHI HOUSE

8251 Westminster Highway

This sister restaurant to Samurai Sushi offers the same enormous sushi rolls at low prices. No matter how ravenous you are going in, you'll feel full on the way out. - KRISTEN MCKENZIE

# Love affair continues with Cork & Fin

**SARAH ROWLAND** - My ongoing love affair with Gastown continues with Cork & Fin (221 Carrall St.). As the title suggests, the emphasis at this up-and-coming hotspot is seafood and wine.

They do both very well.

I recommend starting off with a selection of raw oysters. If you're looking for a

light meal, you can't go wrong with the sablefish (\$13), which is poached in a delicate milk and grainy mustard sauce. As for side dishes worth sharing, the mouthwatering Dungeness crab mashed potatoes (\$9) is an excellent choice.

In addition to the menu, what makes C&F such a great

date place is the understated, chic atmosphere. When the loft-size front windows are open (even if you're sitting inside), you feel like a tourist in a cool little Parisian sidewalk eatery. There's nothing stuffy about this dining experience. If it's sunny, you don't want the night to end after dining here. In other words, C&F of-

fers perfect flirting conditions for people on their first few summertime dates.

While I have yet to eat there when the weather is miserable, I'm guessing the brick wall interior combined with the sound of Vancouver rain pounding against those giant windows make a cozy sanctuary for dining couples.



Tweet Kristen your favourite fashion item for your chance to WIN tickets to FMA Fashion Week

@kristen24hours

Contest runs from Sept 2 until Sept 8 (12:00pm deadline).

FMA FASHION WEEK

POP + CULTURE FESTIVAL

Sept 12 to 18

Tickets on Sale Now

www.fmafashionweek.eventbrite.com

