

for starters

[news feed]

Nova 7 goes national

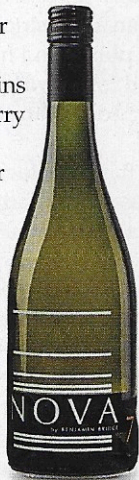
Known for its production of classic method sparkling wines and handcrafted premium wines, Benjamin Bridge has garnered national attention—not to mention some serious Instagram coverage—for Nova 7. It's an aromatic and subtly sparkling refreshment, beautifully balanced between sweetness and light acidity.

Released in 2008, Nova 7 was the first Nova Scotia-made wine sold in Ontario. Now all but two provinces have hopped on the wagon (or off it, depending on your perspective). It frequently sells out in Nova Scotia, which has allowed the winery to be strategic about growth. Rather than having all of its supply consumed at home, Benjamin Bridge dedicates small volumes of the product to opening new markets. While it started doing this in 2010, it's only now reaching production volumes that allow for significant exports outside of Nova Scotia. "Our philosophy of artisan winemaking and quality underpins everything we do," says Gerry McConnell, the owner of Benjamin Bridge. "We never took a step toward growth without considering this impact."

The growth of the business has called for serious investments to increase the capacity of the winery and keep pace with the demand for its products, but McConnell says these investments have helped ensure the sustainability of the vineyard. "I understood early on that our ability to build a national and international reputation depended upon our ability to produce the highest-quality wines," he says. "That requires continued investment in the sustainability and competitiveness of the vineyard and winery."

Luckily for Nova 7 devotees, McConnell anticipates even more growth over the next five years, including an expansion of 50 acres and substantial increases in production. He hopes the reputation that Benjamin Bridge has garnered in Canada will help its products find an international audience in Asia, the United States, and Europe. We don't think he'll have any trouble—it's hard not to gush about it once you've had a sip.

— AMANDA LESLIE



[APEC report]

Major projects are driving demand for construction-related workers

New research by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council reveals that a jump in major project investment in energy and mining in Newfoundland and Labrador between 2010 and 2013 led to a sharp increase in the demand for high-skill occupations such as engineers, engineering technicians, pipefitters, and ironworkers. This created challenges for project developers and contributed to rapid wage growth in the province's construction industry. However, according to APEC's report, *The Labour Requirements for Major Projects in Atlantic Canada*, there were no substantial labour pressures in the construction industry in the Maritime provinces.

"The number of engineers needed for major project construction in Atlantic Canada grew by 75% between 2010 and 2013 as investment in capital-intensive oil and mining projects increased," says Patrick Brannon, APEC's director of major projects. "The total number of ironworkers and pipefitters also increased by about 85%."

By contrast, APEC's analysis found that the number of carpenters and general labourers required for major projects in Atlantic Canada fell by 15% between 2010 and 2013 as spending declined on labour-intensive public-infrastructure projects. APEC used its Major Projects Inventory (MPI) and data on labour requirements provided by project developers to estimate the labour needs for 50 essential occupations in the construction phase of major projects between 2010 and 2018.

"The total number of workers required for major projects in Newfoundland and Labrador grew by about 80% between 2010 and 2013," says Brannon, "but this was offset by declining labour needs in the Maritime provinces."

APEC also found that hourly wages in Newfoundland and Labrador's construction industry increased faster than any province in Canada between 2008 and 2013. Mining and energy investments will keep demand for engineering and highly skilled trades at elevated levels until at least 2015, especially in Newfoundland and Labrador. — STAFF

A copy of the report is available at www.apec-econ.ca.

PRODUCT PLACEMENT



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You know your IQ and EQ, but what about the most important intelligence measurement of the summer—your BBiQ? A device and app duo, the BBiQ is a small black box with probes that can be pushed into meats to monitor the temperature, sending notifications via Bluetooth to your smartphone up to a distance of 15 metres (50 feet).

The BBiQ app has grilling down to a mouth-watering science; it shows real-time temperatures and a list of recipe instructions for food on the grill, suggesting what you should throw on the grill first, where to place it on the grates, and exactly how long it should stay there. Pull up the built-in recipes or enter your own summer specialties for step-by-step instructions from the app. Instead of hovering over the heat, you can retreat to the hammock, crack open a beer, and wait for BBiQ to let you know when to slather on marinade, when to flip, and when your ribs are grilled to perfection.

— LESLIE GALLAGHER

