

Report on Garden Party Event in Nanaimo on May 26th

The Grand Hotel was the venue for the National Conseil's meeting on Friday May 26th. Bailli Delegue, David Tetrault, invited B.C. Chaine members to join him and his National Conseil colleagues for dinner in the Hotel's gardens. Susie Sirri, Bailli for Nanaimo, and whose family owns the Grand Hotel, welcomed the National Conseil and the many Chaine Members attending.



Susie's team organised a superb event which began with a refreshing glass of a white and rather tropical-tasting Sangria. Wandering, Sangria in hand, into the first section of the gardens there were several stations where appetizers were being prepared by Chefs from the Grand Hotel. Executive Chef, Takashi Ito, a Victoria Bailliage Member, was also here preparing several types of Sushi. Morsels of pulled pork served in tiny wafer cones were very tasty as were the roasted beets and unusual salad presentations on the centre station. Not forgetting the wines, this section of the garden was also the location of four wine stations featuring about thirty labels from local and other vineyards. The range was impressive as was the quality from "Bubbles" to an impressive Rose, through traditional whites and reds to dessert wines. One of the stations featured outstanding wines from Unsworth Vineyard which will be hosting Victoria Bailliage Members for lunch on June 25th.

Moving further into the Garden and patio seating area, a delicious Spanish Paella was on offer and right behind, another familiar Victoria Bailliage Member, Executive Chef, Jeffrey Brothers, was slaving over a barbecue and barely able to keep up with the demand for the luscious lamb rib chops that seemed to "disappear" as soon as they came off the grill.

Further into the garden, it opened out to a wider area where slabs of salmon were skewered and cooked above a fire pit. Needless to say, this too was a very popular station. Not to be forgotten, and if anyone had any room to sample the offerings at the dessert station, a wide range of beautifully decorated small cakes and tiny cones of ice cream were available.

The evening could not have been more enjoyable beginning in sunshine and ending in the flood-lit garden. It was an opportunity to meet our National Conseil Members and their partners and to meet or renew our acquaintance with many Nanaimo Bailliage Members.