

# ARTS

## Riveting theatre

thirsty's tale of loss and dislocation is a universal lesson, **D3**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012

## The beards are back

ZZ Top rock the NAC like it's never been rocked, **D3**



## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

If you are planning a December Christmas concert, we'd like to know. Please send us the details by Nov. 16. Tell us who is performing, what they are performing, where, when and how much tickets cost — all in 30 words or less. We will publish a list at the end of the month. Use this email address: [xmasconcerts@ottawacitizen.com](mailto:xmasconcerts@ottawacitizen.com).

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THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, SECTION D

## WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

### 10 tips for a tasty wine experience



JOANNE CHIANELLO

I'm very sentimental about the Ottawa Food and Wine Show. The first time I attended was 20 years ago — virtually to the day — and where I shared my first sip of Bollinger champagne and Ontario ice wine with my future husband.

The show's changed considerably since, much of it for the better. Ice wine, for example, is only a tiny segment of the great Ontario wines you can now find at the show. But you also can't just wander over after work — these days, you need a plan, especially if you've got limited time.

What hasn't changed is the opportunity to try a huge array of wines. Even if you don't know much about wine — perhaps especially if you don't — this is the place to try everything from grape varieties you've never heard of to vintages with three-digit price tags.

If you haven't signed up for a workshop or seminar — they sell out by the time the show opens — we've come up with a few strategies for getting the best wine tasting experience with a few not-to-be missed stops in this weekend's show.

See 10 TIPS on page D2

### 12 stops destined to satisfy



LAURA ROBIN

Wine is wonderful, but a person needs some sustenance to navigate the 200-plus booths at the Ottawa Wine & Food Festival. Here are a dozen top spots:

#### 1 Best for a quick bite

It's a bit chilly now for hanging out in a Hintonburg parking lot to enjoy tacos from Tacolot. Stop by the Tacolot stall for a fresh and filling taco. A different type is on offer every hour. I had a beef one, topped with pico de gallo salsa, pickled cabbage and hot sauce, garnished with a wedge of lime and a triangle of pineapple. Grab some napkins: they're juicy and delicious.

**Where:** Booth 33, beside the culinary theatre, by the windows, outside the main tasting floor area.

**Cost:** 8 tickets (or \$4)

**Tidbit:** Quick-to-sell-out halibut tacos will be on the grill at 6 p.m. Saturday at the fest. (You can now eat in at Tacolot, with 10 chairs squeezed inside the Hintonburg location.)

See 12 STOPS on page D4



BRUNO SCHLUMBERGER/OTTAWA CITIZEN

Promising Ottawa singer-songwriter Kristine St-Pierre's debut album, *Call Me Crazy*, was recorded with local producer Dean Watson.

## Kristine St-Pierre delivers soul-searching songs in both languages

LYNN SAXBERG

Asking singer-songwriter Kristine St-Pierre to choose between French and English is like asking if she would prefer to exist without water or air. Both languages are basic elements of life for the 31-year-old musician, who was born in Germany, went to high school in Brussels and landed in the Ottawa area more than a decade ago when her career-military father finished a posting overseas.

A natural singer with a strong, clear voice, she used to love karaoke and has been dabbling in songwriting for years. But in the last five or six years, she has pushed herself to get more serious about writing by showing up at open-mike nights, taking on writing challenges and ven-

turing into the studio. Although French is her first language, St-Pierre was educated in both, and uses both when she's writing songs.

"I make a point of writing in both languages," the dark-haired dynamo says during an interview over cranberry juice at Irene's Pub, not far from the studio where she recorded her full-length debut album with Ottawa producer Dean Watson. "If I come up with a melody, I start thinking, 'OK, is this more English or French?' and then I try to come up with lyrics and see what it feels like."

Contrary to all the music-industry advice she received, the new album, *Call Me Crazy*, to be released this weekend, contains songs in both languages.

### Kristine St-Pierre CD-release concert

**When & where:** 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, Westboro Masonic Hall, 430 Churchill Ave.  
**Special guest:** Winnipeg singer-songwriter Justin Lacroix  
**Tickets:** \$10 at the door. Children admitted free.

Listen to a video of Kristine St-Pierre by finding this story at

[OTTAWACITIZEN.COM](http://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM)

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See ST-PIERRE on page D6

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## Spreading the rewards

Book awards help boost the 'cultural space' given to literature, award-winning writer Vincent Lam says

PETER ROBB

Vincent Lam defines the term over-achiever. He is a skilled emergency room doctor at Toronto East General Hospital. He is a happily married father of three children aged seven, five and two.

And he is an award-winning writer. His first book of short stories won the Giller Prize.

It makes for a very full life, he admitted during a telephone interview, one that right now is focused on the upcoming Governor General's Literary Awards for which his book *The Headmaster's Wager* is shortlisted in the English fiction category. The GG awards will be announced Tuesday morning.

The book was glowingly reviewed and discussed on these pages last

**The book:** Vincent Lam's *The Headmaster's Wager*, one of the nominees for the Governor General's Literary Awards, is published by Doubleday Canada (\$32.95)  
**The awards:** The winners will be announced Tuesday at 10 a.m.

spring. It is a wonderfully intricate tale set in mid-1960s South Vietnam as that country confronts the growing war that would eventually lead to the victory of the communist North. And in my opinion it is a worthy nominee for such a prestigious award.

See LAM on page D7