



2025 Vintage Overview

Washington's 2025 growing season is easy to paint in broad strokes. It was a warm – but not hot – growing season with well above average heat in September. Beyond that, it was a straight-by-the-numbers, textbook season.

“As a grower, it was an easy year. No surprises. No challenges,” one vineyard manager said. “Sometimes easy doesn't translate to quality, but I think in this case, it really did.”

Winter was wet with mild temperatures. Much of the year's precipitation in eastern Washington occurred in the first half of January.

Bud break started slightly ahead of historical averages, as much as a week in some cases. That trend of slightly ahead of historical average growing season markers continued through bloom, veraison, and harvest.

Spring was relatively dry, even by eastern Washington's standards. Once summer began, it was warm. However, there were not the long stretches of triple digit days that can be common during the height of summer. Rather, there was sustained warmth.

Given this, vines did not shut down much, if at all. This pushed the growing season forward, with harvest beginning in the third week of August.

September temperatures were above average, though, again, not hot. It was, however, one of the warmer Septembers that the Columbia Valley has seen.

The warmth in September led to sugar ripeness preceding phenological ripeness, which is fairly common in the Columbia Valley. As temperatures cooled in late September into October, it provided continued hang time for those who wanted it.

Quality from the 2025 vintage is expected to be very high. As Washington and the broader west coast continue to have excess grape supply, growers noted that the fruit that was brought in was the best of the best.

Growing Degree Days in 2025 ended up as one of the warmest on record, akin to the hot 2021 growing season. However, this was almost entirely due to the warmer-than-average September. Prior to late August, the vintage was tracking just slightly above long-term averages for heat accumulation.

Overall, what was most remarkable about the growing season was how unremarkable it was. The ease of the year was welcome.



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WINE

| Indicator | Overview | Detail |
|---|--|--|
| Vintage hallmark | -- | -- |
| Growing season summary | A warm year marked by above averages temperatures in September | The 2025 season was marked by how unremarkable it was in terms of growing conditions, outside of overall warmer temperatures and above average September heat. |
| Bud break | Slightly ahead of historical averages | 3-7 days ahead of historical averages |
| Bloom | Slightly ahead of historical averages | 3-7 days ahead of historical averages |
| Veraison | Slightly ahead historical averages | 3-7 days ahead of historical averages |
| Harvest | Slightly ahead of historical averages | Harvest started in the third week of August, slightly ahead of historical averages. |
| Berry size/Cluster size | Average | Average berry size |
| Yields | Average to slightly below average | Yields were largely average, though for some varieties, slightly below |
| Brix | Above average | September heat led to generally elevated Brix. |
| Acids | Slightly below average | Acids were slightly lower than average due to the warmth of September |
| Disease, Pest, and Environmental pressures | Low to moderate | There was some mildew pressure in places and more bug pressure than seen in most years. |