

WASHINGTON WINE COMMISSION
PRESS KIT

WA
46°N
WINE



FAST FACTS

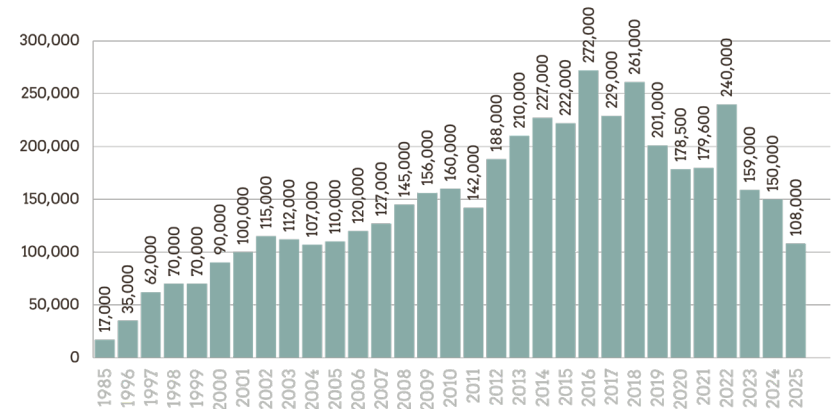
- Number of licensed wineries: 985
- National rank as wine producer in the United States: 2nd
- Wine grape acreage: 35,000 acres
- Number of wine grape growers: 300
- Varieties produced: 80+
- Total annual in-state economic impact: \$10.56 Billion
- Growing season diurnal shift: 30-40°F
- Annual wine production: 9 Million Cases
- Record harvest, 2016: 272,000 tons
- Most recent harvest, 2025: 108,000 tons
- Average summer sunlight: 17 hours per day, about one more hour during the peak of the growing season than California's prime growing region.
- Annual rainfall in Columbia Valley: 6-8 inches
- Wineries making less than 5,000 cases per year: 90%
- Number of AVA's: 22

**“NO ONE CAN TOUCH
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN
WASHINGTON STATE
RIGHT NOW.”**

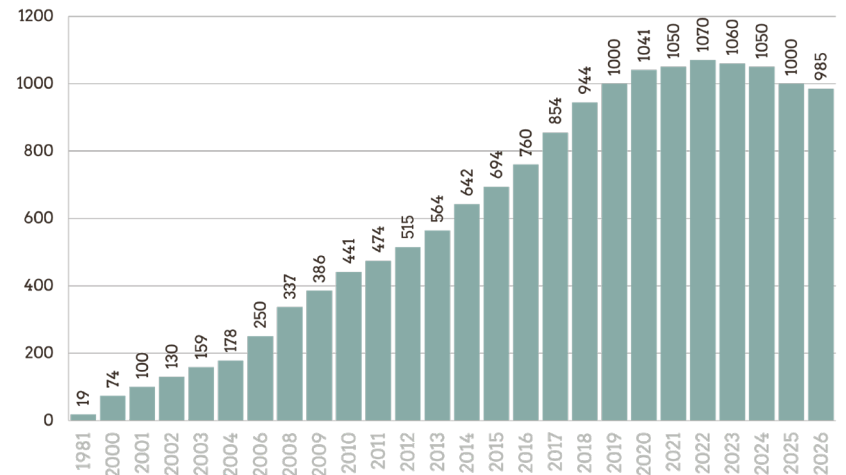
— CRAIG COLLINS, MASTER SOMMELIER, AUSTIN, TX

WASHINGTON WINE'S INDUSTRY GROWTH

Acreage Growth



Licensed Wineries



A large photograph of two men sitting on a wooden crate in a vineyard. The man on the left is wearing a white polo shirt, blue jeans, and brown boots. The man on the right is wearing a blue button-down shirt, blue jeans, a grey baseball cap, and brown boots. Two dogs are lying on the ground in front of them: a large golden retriever and a black dog. The background shows rows of grapevines and hills under a clear sky.

**“WASHINGTON IS A
HANDFUL OF SMALL,
OBSESSIVE PRODUCERS
PUSHING QUALITY
FORWARD UNTIL
IT’S WORLD-CLASS.”**

— JAMES SUCKLING, JAMESUCKLING.COM

GROWING SINCE 1825.

Washington wine’s earliest days date back to 1825, when the first grape vines were planted. Pioneer William B. Bridgman planted grapevines in Yakima Valley in the early 1900s. In subsequent years, Dr. Walter Clore, recognized as the father of the Washington wine industry, researched what varieties would grow well in Washington. Today the industry is thriving with more than 1,000 wineries and 80 different varieties planted.





WASHINGTON WINE TIMELINE



1825

First Grapes Planted

Washington's first grapes are planted at Fort Vancouver by the Hudson's Bay Company.



1914

Important vineyards spring up,

in the Yakima Valley—most notably the vineyards of W.B. Bridgman of Sunnyside.

1940

Dr. Walter Clore,

"The Father of Washington Wine," begins trials of grape varieties in eastern Washington to determine what would grow where and under what conditions. Later, he works closely with WSU scientist Chas Nagel to make research wines.



1960

Commercial vineyards are planted in Washington.



1967

Ste. Michelle Vintners is established.

Now known as Chateau Ste. Michelle, it is Washington's largest winery.



1983

Yakima Valley AVA is established

as Washington's first American Viticultural Area (AVA).



1998

Taste Washington

takes place in Seattle for the first time, later becoming the nation's largest single-region food and wine festival.

2015

Wine Science Center

The state-of-the-art, industry-funded Ste. Michelle Wine Estates WSU Wine Science Center opens in Richland, WA.

2019

1,000 wineries

1903

Large-scale irrigation, fueled by runoff from the melting snow-caps of the Cascade Mountains, begins in eastern Washington.



1933



1962

Associated Vintners is established, later becoming Columbia Winery.

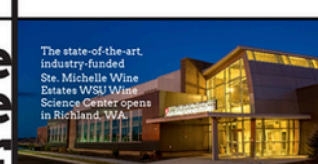


1970

10 wineries

2001

100 wineries milestone



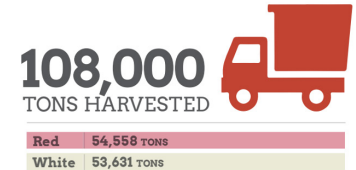
**“WASHINGTON STATE
CONTINUES TO PRODUCE
A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF
BEAUTIFUL WINES.”**

— JEBDUNNUCK.COM

2025 HARVEST

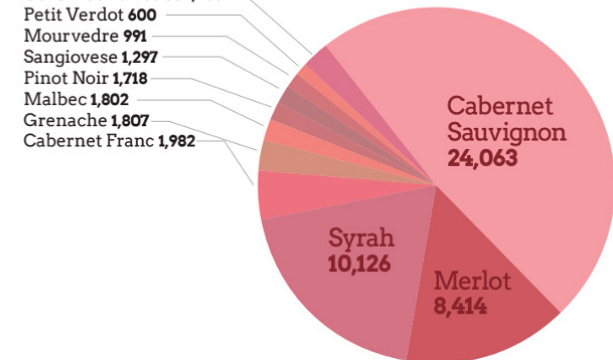
Winter was wet with mild temperatures, and growers saw bud break just a little earlier compared to historical averages. Spring was relatively dry, and summer was warm—but not too hot. Harvest began the third week of August, and September temperatures were above average. As temperatures cooled in late September into October, it provided continued hang time for those who wanted it.

2025 HARVEST KEY STATS



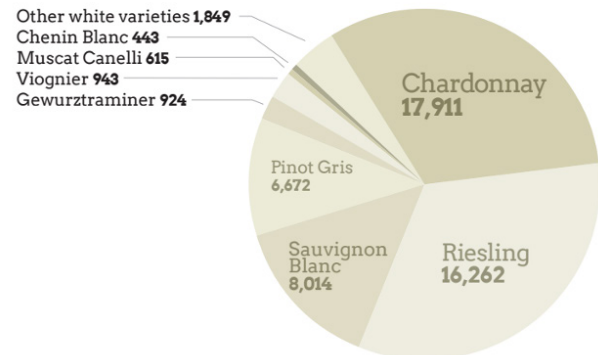
REDS 54,558 TONS

Other red varieties 1,758
Petit Verdot 600
Mourvedre 991
Sangiovese 1,297
Pinot Noir 1,718
Malbec 1,802
Grenache 1,807
Cabernet Franc 1,982

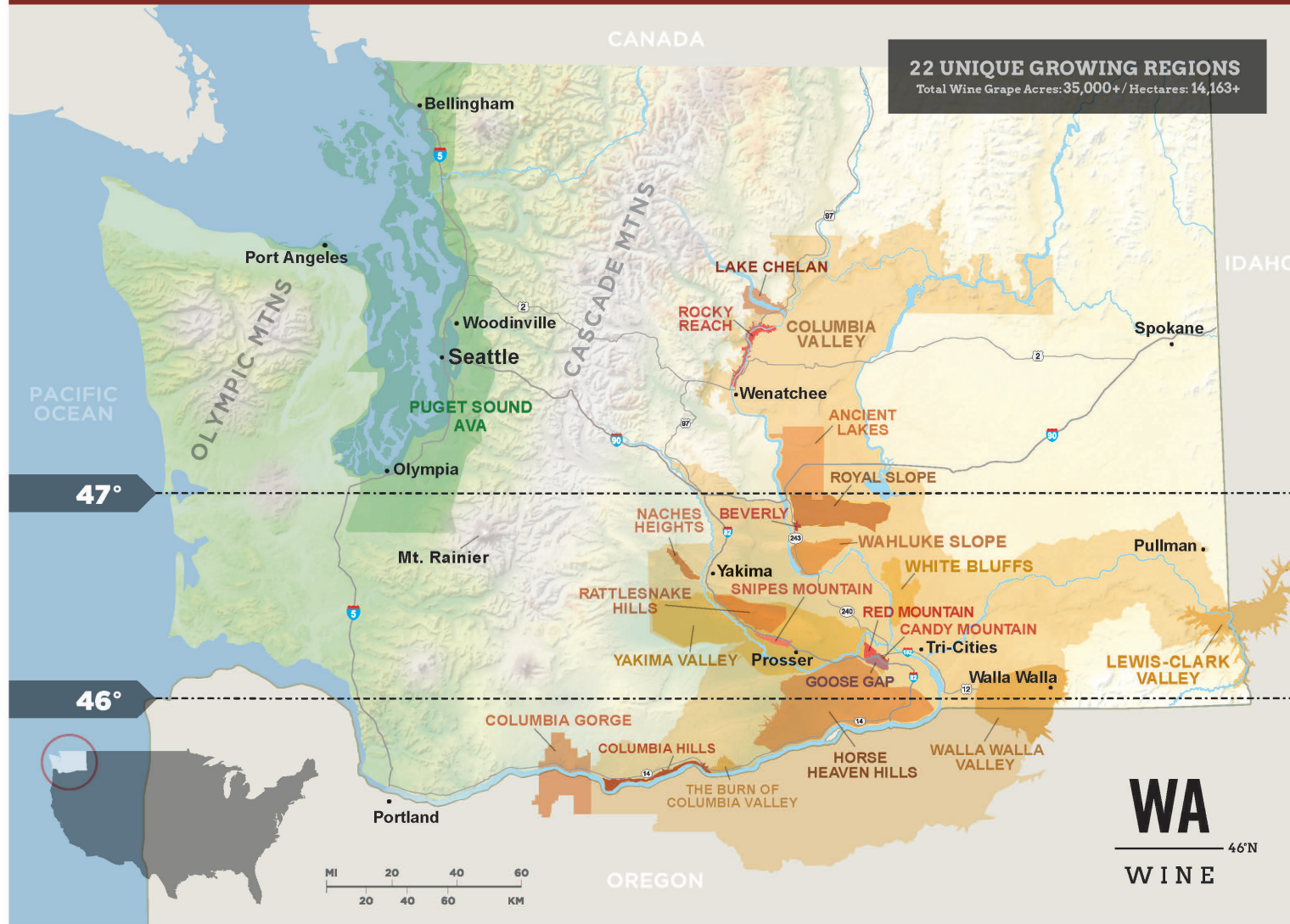


WHITES 53,631 TONS

Other white varieties 1,849
Chenin Blanc 443
Muscat Canelli 615
Viognier 943
Gewurztraminer 924

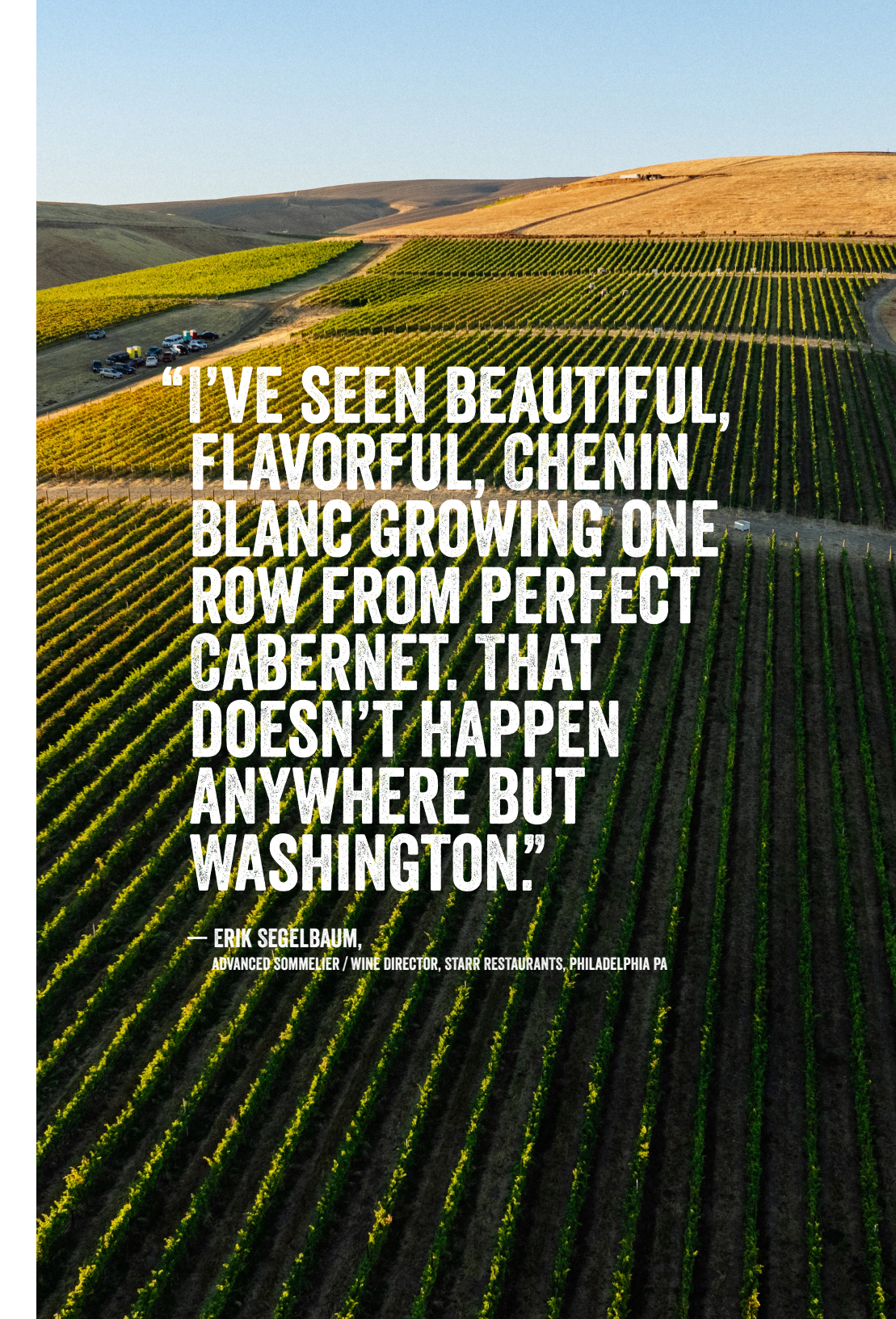


WASHINGTON STATE | AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS



WINE GROWING REGIONS

Washington is home to 22 American Viticultural Areas. Of these, four are cross-boarder AVAs. Columbia Valley, Columbia Gorge, and Walla Walla Valley are shared with Oregon. Lewis-Clark valley is shared with Idaho.



**“I’VE SEEN BEAUTIFUL,
FLAVORFUL, CHENIN
BLANC GROWING ONE
ROW FROM PERFECT
CABERNET. THAT
DOESN’T HAPPEN
ANYWHERE BUT
WASHINGTON.”**

— **ERIK SEGELBAUM,**
ADVANCED SOMMELIER / WINE DIRECTOR, STARR RESTAURANTS, PHILADELPHIA PA

AVA ESTABLISHMENT DATE AND AREA SIZE

Ancient Lakes

Est. 2012
1,603 vineyard acres

Beverly

Est. 2024
400 vineyard acres

The Burn of Columbia

Est. 2021
1,500 vineyard acres

Candy Mountain

Est. 2020
110 vineyard acres

Columbia Gorge

Est. 2004
381 WA vineyard acres

Columbia Hills

Est. 2026
300 vineyard acres

Columbia Valley

Est. 1984
59,234 WA vineyard acres

Goose Gap

Est. 2021
1,800 vineyard acres

Horse Heaven Hills

Est. 2005
17,082 vineyard acres

Lake Chelan

Est. 2009
269 vineyard acres

Lewis-Clark Valley

Est. 2015
9 WA vineyard acres

Naches Heights

Est. 2011
41 vineyard acres

Puget Sound

Est. 1995
121 vineyard acres

Rattlesnake Hills

Est. 2006
1,807 vineyard acres

Red Mountain

Est. 2001
2,382 vineyard acres

Rocky Reach

Est. 2021
117 vineyard acres

Royal Slope

Est. 2020
1,900 vineyard acres

Snipes Mountain

Est. 2009
859 vineyard acres

Wahluke Slope

Est. 2006
8,932 vineyard acres

Walla Walla Valley

Est. 1984
1,672 vineyard acres

White Bluffs

Est. 2021
1,127 vineyard acres

Yakima Valley

Est. 1983
18,924 vineyard acres

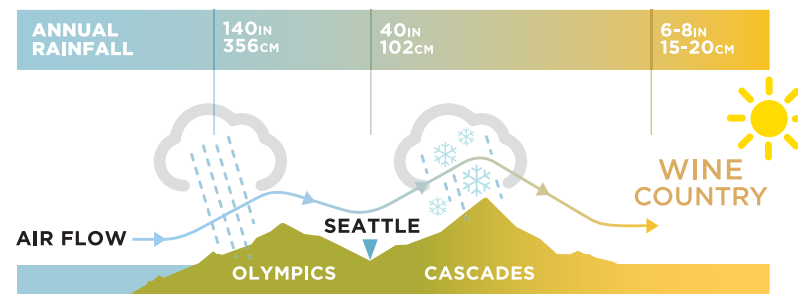
**“WASHINGTON’S
EXCEPTIONAL TERROIRS
AND MICRO-CLIMATES
SEEM TO ALLOW QUALITY
FROM JUST ABOUT
ANY GRAPE TYPE.”**

— NICK STOCK, JAMESSUCKLING.COM

WASHINGTON WAS MADE FOR WINE

RAIN SHADOW

Two mountain ranges create a rain shadow effect that protects the Columbia Valley from wet weather systems. This results in a perfect climate for growing grapes in the warm and dry eastern part of the state.



DIURNAL SHIFT

Warm days provide ripe fruit flavors while cool nights help maintain the natural acidity of the grapes. Washington State has some of the largest day and night temperature fluctuations of any wine region.



46°

LATITUDE MATTERS

Washington State shares the same latitude as top wine regions in Europe. With this northern latitude and a growing season that sees up to 17 hours of sunlight a day, Washington's geography and climate deliver a perfect balance of New World fruit with Old World structure.



THE MISSOULA FLOODS TRANSFORMED THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST LANDSCAPE

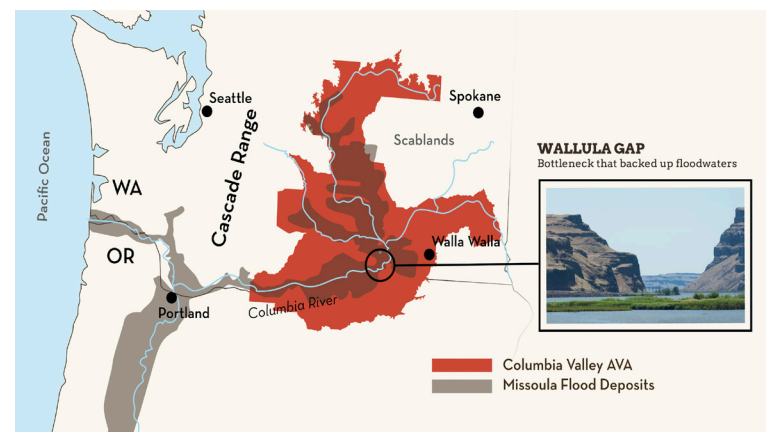
The Touchet beds shown here in the Walla Walla valley shows repeated flood deposits. Each layer represents a separate epic flood event.

**“THIS IS A PLACE
THAT HAS A STORY
OF ITS OWN THAT’S
STILL EVOLVING.”**

— **DOUG FROST**
MASTER SOMMELIER & MASTER OF WINE, KANSAS CITY, MO

MISSOULA FLOODS

Geologists estimate that the cycle of flooding and reformation of the Missoula Lake lasted an average of 55 years and that the floods occurred several times over the 2,000-year period between 15,000 and 13,000 years ago. The floods deposited nutrients all over eastern Washington up to 1,200 feet (366 meters) above sea level.





“...THE SOIL AND CLIMATE ARE ABSOLUTELY SPOT-ON, WITH HOT DAYS AND COOL NIGHTS GIVING NEW WORLD FRUIT AND OLD WORLD STRUCTURE.”

— JONATHAN RAY, SPEAR'S MAGAZINE

THE PERFECT MIX OF CONDITIONS

SOIL

Loess is a soil type ideal for growing wine grapes, as it is porous and well-draining. The composition of the soil is also a good source of minerals that grape vines need to thrive.

WATER

The Columbia River is the fourth largest river, by volume, in the US. The drainage basin of the Columbia River and its tributaries is roughly the size of France, covering seven US states.



SUSTAINABILITY

- Washington wine is sustainable by nature.
- Winter freeze kills many pests
- Arid temps, low humidity and wind help control development of fungal diseases (less need for spray)
- Fewer pests allows for planting on natural rootstock
- Less need for spraying and pesticides

**“SOME OF THE MOST
EXCITING WINES
IN AMERICA.”**

— JAMES SUCKLING, JAMESUCKLING.COM



Media Contacts

Heather Bradshaw

hbradshaw@washingtonwine.org

Averyl Dunn Mooney

admooney@washingtonwine.org

Connect with WA Wine.

Website: washingtonwine.org

Contact: info@washingtonwine.org

 [wa_state_wine](https://www.instagram.com/wa_state_wine)

 [@WashingtonStateWine](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateWine)

An aerial photograph of a vast vineyard at sunset. The vineyard is divided into sections by a dirt road that runs diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. The vines are a mix of green and yellow, indicating the season. In the background, a small town is visible under a bright, hazy sky with the sun low on the horizon.

WA

46°N

WINE