

WINE PRESS

N O R T H W E S T

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**THE
ULTIMATE
GUIDE TO**
*Northwest
Wine*

PLUS

SPARKLING
WINE

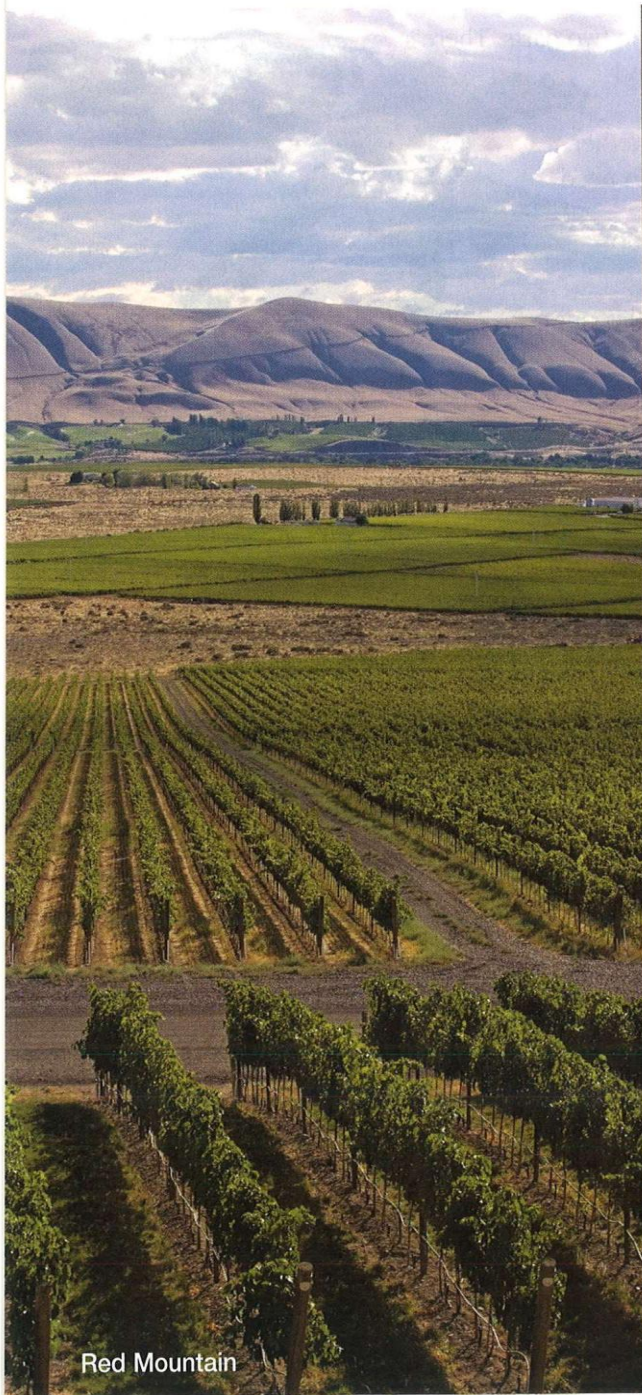
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the ultimate guide

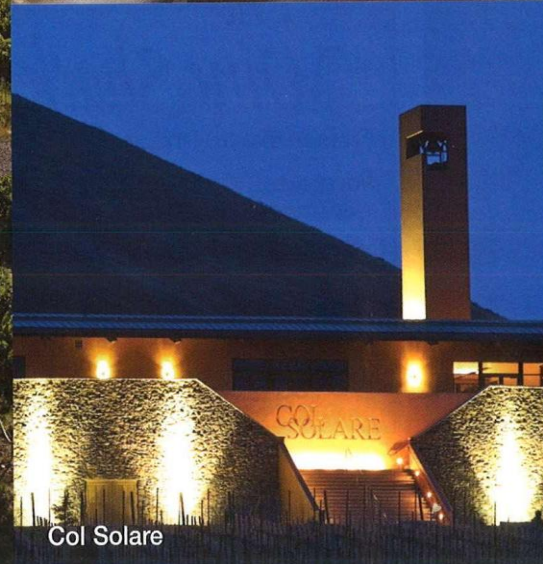
We take you on a tour of the wineries, tasting rooms, restaurants and lodging of Northwest Wine Country



Red Mountain



Snoqualmie rosé on ice.



Col Solare

Washington Wine Country

Washington is — by far — the largest wine region in the Pacific Northwest. In fact, one winery (Columbia Crest) makes more wine than all of New York or Oregon, the Nos. 3 and 4 wine-producing states respectively.

Is bigger better? In Washington's case, more than 700 wineries produce wines from four dozen varieties of grapes, providing plenty of diversity and giving wine lovers the opportunity to explore products from giant producers as well as those crafting just a few hundred cases.

Washington is a stunning wine region to explore. In the state's traditional wine-producing area east of the Cascades, conditions are arid and generally lacking in trees, providing near-perfect conditions for 40,000 acres of wine grapes.

Yet only about half the wineries are near the vineyards, while the rest of the industry is closer to the majority of Washington's population: The Puget Sound region. From there, wineries dot the Interstate 5 corridor from the Columbia River to the Canadian border. And they spread out through the San Juan Islands, the Olympic Peninsula and right to the Pacific Coast.

We love the Pacific Northwest. We were born here, and we prefer nothing more than exploring every corner of our region.

So when we began brainstorming what we would do with

our Summer issue, we hit upon the idea of an "ultimate guide" to Northwest wine country. It's quite a task to fit the Northwest and its more than 1,200 wineries into 22 pages, so there are compromises on what to include, but we have put together

a group of articles that spans the Northwest and provides a glimpse of the breadth and depth of wine country.

We hope you enjoy this overview of Northwest wine country and use it as a springboard for your own explorations.

Woodinville/ Seattle

While you'll find wineries scattered throughout Western Washington, Woodinville, east of Seattle, has become the center of winemaking in Western Washington. What started with Chateau Ste. Michelle in 1976 has grown into more than 80 wineries and tasting rooms in close proximity.

wineries

From I-405, take exit 20 to NE 124th Street, then turn north onto Highway 202 and start making some choices among the wineries clustered around Chateau Ste. Michelle and Columbia. A short drive away is the warehouse district, which includes dozens of tasting rooms mostly within walking distance.

In Seattle, check out **The Tasting Room** at the Pike Place Market. A more recent addition to Seattle is **Urban Enoteca** on First Avenue South, while the **Library Lounge** offers small plates in addition to the wine.

restaurants

Isn't this the year you check off **The Herbfarm** in Woodinville from your bucket list? Also in the Woodinville area, check out the **Barking Frog, Purple Cafe and Wine Bar, Italianissimo** and **The Twisted Cafe**.

In Seattle, the choices are even more numerous, in the Pike Place Market neighborhood, check out **The Pink Door, Chez Shea, Matt's in the Market** and **Steelhead Diner**. Also in Seattle look for the **Waterfront Seafood Grill, Icon Grill, Poco Wine Room, Smash Wine Bar, Portfolio, Place Pigalle, Canlis, Lark** and **El Gaucho**.

lodging

In Woodinville, your best lodging choice is **Willows Lodge**, next to Columbia Winery. Several chain hotels and motels are not far away.

In Seattle, consider the **Fairmont Olympic, Sorrento Hotel, The Roosevelt Hotel**, the **Inn at the Market**, the **Edgewater Hotel, Hotel Deca** and, if you're saving your cash for wine and dinner, the **Green Tortoise Hostel**.