



Wine Tasting
**IN WALLA WALLA,
WASHINGTON**

The Complete Guide to Walla Walla Wine Country

Walla Walla, Washington, is one of the most respected and authentic wine regions in the United States. Known for world-class Cabernet Sauvignon, distinctive Syrah, and an unusually personal tasting experience, Walla Walla wine country offers something Napa and Sonoma no longer can: access to winemakers. Walla Walla was recently recognized by Wine Enthusiasts as one of the best places to taste wine in the US.

With over **120 wineries** spread across Washington and Oregon, Walla Walla delivers intimate tasting rooms, winemakers pouring their own wines, and a relaxed pace that rewards curiosity rather than rush.

This is your **complete guide to wine tasting in Walla Walla**, from where to go and when to visit, to how to plan the perfect tasting route using the interactive Walla Walla Winery Map.

Plan Your Trip With the Interactive Walla Walla Winery Map

Before visiting, start with the Walla Walla Winery Map, the most complete and up-to-date way to explore wine tasting in the valley.

The map allows you to:

Browse 120+ wineries by location

Filter by AVA (Walla Walla Valley, Rocks District, Columbia Valley)

Sort by varietal (Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Grenache, Chardonnay, and more)

See reservation requirements and tasting fees

Check current hours, events, and seasonal updates

Build logical tasting routes by region

Start planning here: wallawallawinerymap.com

Understanding Walla Walla Wine Country

Where Is Walla Walla?

Walla Walla Valley is located in **southeastern Washington**, extending into **northeastern Oregon**. The region sits at the crossroads of multiple climate and soil influences, creating exceptional conditions for premium wine grapes.

- 4 hours from Seattle
- 4 hours from Portland
- 2.5 hours from Spokane
- 3.5 hours from Boise
- 5 hours from Bend



Walla Walla Wine AVAs Explained

Walla Walla Valley AVA

Established in 1984, this is the original and primary AVA.

Known for:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah

- ✓ **Soils:** Loess, basalt, alluvial deposits
- ✓ **Style:** Structured reds with balance and aging potential

The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA

A globally recognized sub-AVA located on the Oregon side of the valley.

Known for:

Syrah, Grenache, Rhône varietals

- ✓ **Soils:** Ancient cobblestones
- ✓ **Style:** Savory, mineral-driven, expressive wines

Columbia Valley AVA

A broader appellation that includes Walla Walla Valley and many surrounding regions. Some wineries source fruit from both areas.

Wine Tasting Districts in Walla Walla: Where to Go

Walla Walla wine country is divided into six distinct tasting areas. Each offers a different experience.

Downtown District

Perfect for first-time visitors, downtown Walla Walla is filled with 20+ walkable tasting rooms and several restaurants. Many boutique producers pour here, making it possible to sample several wineries within a few blocks. Stop by [House of Bones](#), [Time and Direction](#) or [Bartholomew](#) for distinctive, small-lot expressions. If you are on a short timeline, visit [The Thief Wine Shop](#) and taste a variety of locally produced wines.

Best for: Walkable tasting, casual visits, dining and wine combined

Southside Vineyards

This is where vineyard landscapes take center stage. Rolling hills with views of the Blue Mountains frame estates like [Pepper Bridge](#), [Kinhaven](#), [Gifford Hirlinger](#), [Caprio Cellars](#) and [Everen Wines](#). Tastings are slower here, often paired with small bites or vineyard tours. This is the area to spend a few days exploring the variety of wines found in the many beautiful wineries.

Best for: Estate wineries, vineyard views, immersive tastings

Airport District

Once military hangars, these spaces now house some of the valley's most innovative producers, including [Dunham Cellars](#), and [Devium](#). It's the perfect area to easily explore and try many different wineries. Expect intimate tastings, usually with the winemaker, and an opportunity to explore what's next in wine.

Best for: New winemakers, incubator wineries, relaxed atmosphere

Westside

With sweeping views across the valley, the Westside is the place to enjoy some of the area's most memorable tastings. From small, family-run cellars to established estates, each offers something unique to discover. Visits to [L'Ecole No. 41](#), [Woodward Canyon](#), [The Walls](#) and [Reali Family Wines](#) make up a perfect day. Ask to walk to vineyard at Reali.

Best for: Some of valley's most established wineries alongside newer producers

Eastside

Walla Walla's Eastside wineries are nestled among vineyards, rolling hills, and wide-open skies, an idyllic background for a day of tasting and exploring. It offers inviting and often exclusive tastings. [Aluvé](#), [Abeja](#), [Echolands](#) and [Walla Walla Vintners](#) are just a few of the beautiful estates found on the Eastside.

Best for: Quiet tastings, boutique wineries, elevated views

Oregon District

Here you will find the famed [Rocks AVA](#). The wineries and tasting rooms here are not to be missed. Some of the best Rhône varietals come from this area. [Rotie Cellars](#), [Ducleaux Cellars](#), and the beautiful [Mongata Winery](#) are worth the trip.

Best for: Serious wine enthusiasts, Rhône lovers



Top Wineries in Walla Walla (By Experience)

Rather than “best” wineries, Walla Walla is best approached by experience type.



Best Views:

Estate wineries in the Southside and Eastside districts



Best for Beginners:

Downtown tasting rooms with seating and outdoor space



Best for Picnics:

Westside Estate wineries with grounds and vineyard access

When to Visit Walla Walla for Wine Tasting

Spring (April–May)

- Spring Release Weekend (early May)
- New vintage releases
- Cooler temperatures, fewer crowds



Summer (June–August)

- Peak season
- Long days, outdoor tastings
- Live music and winery events
- Reservations essential



Fall (September–October)

- Harvest season
- Crush activities underway
- Ideal weather, vibrant energy



Winter (November–February)

- Quiet, intimate tastings
- Best access to winemakers
- Reduced lodging costs
- Limited winery hours



Best overall times:

May, late June, September, and winter release weekends

Insider Tips for Wine Tasting in Walla Walla

Most wineries require reservations on weekends

Tastings typically include 4-6 wines over 45-60 minutes

Fees range from \$15-\$50, often waived with bottle purchase

Start with lighter wines and work toward fuller reds

Stay hydrated and eat between tastings

Buy what you love, many wines are small-lot and sell out

Transportation for Wine Tasting

Hiring a local wine tour or driver allows you to slow down and enjoy the experience without worrying about directions, timing, or safety.

Multiple local tour operators specialize in Walla Walla wine routes and custom itineraries.



Where to Stay in Walla Walla Wine Country



Winery Inns & Vineyard Stays

- Immersive, romantic experiences
- Ideal for wine-focused trips



Downtown Hotels

- Walkable tasting rooms and restaurants
- Best for first-time visitors



Vacation Rentals

- Ideal for groups and longer stays
- Available throughout wine country

Where to Eat in Walla Walla

Walla Walla's food scene rivals its wine. Expect farm-to-table menus, thoughtful wine lists, and relaxed fine dining.

Downtown offers the highest concentration of top restaurants within walking distance of tasting rooms.

Sample Walla Walla Wine Weekend Itinerary

Day 1: Downtown + Southside

- Morning tasting experience
- Scenic Southside wineries in the afternoon
- Dinner downtown

Day 2: Eastside + Airport District

- Estate winery visit
- Lunch picnic or casual café
- Emerging winemakers at the airport district

Frequently Asked Questions About Wine Tasting in Walla Walla

01

How many wineries are in Walla Walla?

Over 120 wineries in the Walla Walla area

02

Are they local experts who could introduce me to new wines?

Yes, there are several. [WallaWallaSomm](#) is a local sommelier who does curated tastings at your location or will make recommendations of places to visit.

03

Do I need reservations?

Yes, especially May–October and weekends.

04

What wines is Walla Walla known for?

Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Grenache, Merlot, and Rhône varietals.

05

Can I walk between wineries?

Yes, in downtown Walla Walla area there are more than 20.

Start Planning Your Walla Walla Wine Tasting Experience

Walla Walla wine tasting is defined by authenticity, access, and connection. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or a deeper wine exploration, the valley rewards thoughtful planning.



Explore wineries, build routes, and plan your visit:

wallawallawinerymap.com



To learn about the best places to taste wine recommended by locals visit

[WineTasting Walla Walla](#).



To learn about some of the wines that only locals know about visit

WallaWallaSomm.com.