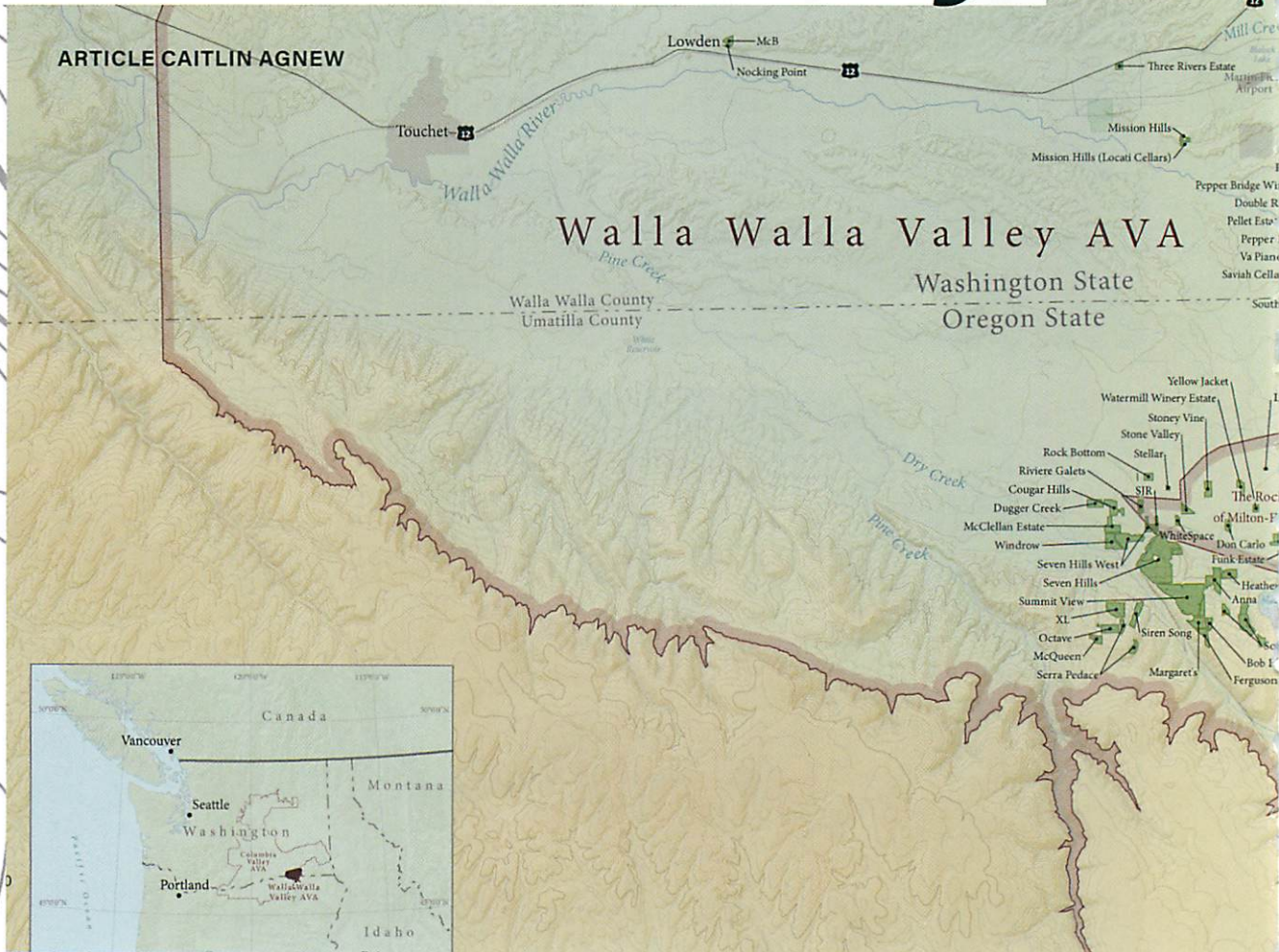


Vineyards of  
**Walla Walla Valley**  
and The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater  
American Viticultural Areas

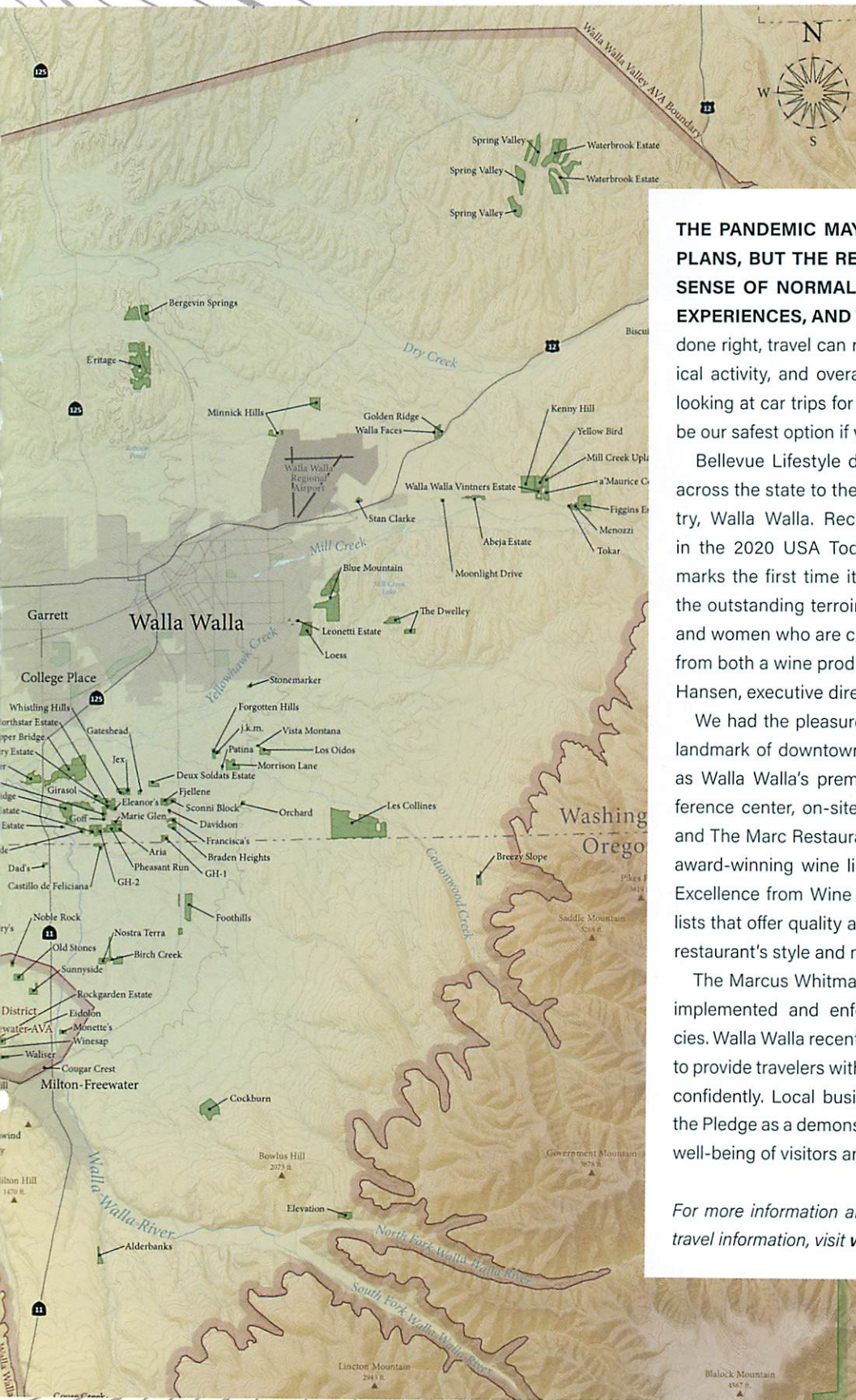
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# Road Trip to Wine Country

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**THE PANDEMIC MAY HAVE PAUSED MOST OF OUR TRAVEL PLANS, BUT THE REALITY IS WE ARE STILL ITCHING FOR A SENSE OF NORMALCY IN LIFE, AND SEEKING FRESH NEW EXPERIENCES, AND TRAVEL IS ONE AVENUE FOR THAT.** When done right, travel can relieve stress, boost creativity, promote physical activity, and overall make us happier. People are increasingly looking at car trips for their vacation plans, and road tripping might be our safest option if we want to venture away from home.

Bellevue Lifestyle decided to jump on the trend, and road trip across the state to the unofficial capital of Washington wine country, Walla Walla. Recently named America's Best Wine Region in the 2020 USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice awards, which marks the first time it has earned first place. "It's a testament to the outstanding terroir, meticulous craftsmanship, and to the men and women who are committed to elevating the Walla Walla Valley from both a wine production and tourism perspective." said Robert Hansen, executive director of the Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance.

We had the pleasure of staying at the Marcus Whitman Hotel, a landmark of downtown Walla Walla for nearly a century. Reigned as Walla Walla's premier hotel, it features a state-of-the-art conference center, on-site wine tasting rooms, The Vineyard Lounge, and The Marc Restaurant, home to the region's most extensive and award-winning wine list. The Marc recently received an Award of Excellence from Wine Spectator for the "thoughtfully chosen wine lists that offer quality and diversity, as well as compatibility with the restaurant's style and menu."

The Marcus Whitman, wineries and restaurants we visited kindly implemented and enforced social and physical distancing policies. Walla Walla recently created a "Peace of Mind Pledge", as a way to provide travelers with the Peace of Mind needed to visit safely and confidently. Local businesses are encouraged to voluntarily adopt the Pledge as a demonstration of their commitment to the health and well-being of visitors and residents alike.

*For more information about the pledge, and for the most up to date travel information, visit [wallawalla.org](http://wallawalla.org)*



## ROAD TRIP (CONTINUED)



Walla Walla is home to more than 120 wineries, and a nationally recognized culinary scene. If you plan on doing a couple tastings, we recommend booking a driver with Tesla Winery Tours, and enjoy being chauffeured through Walla Walla wine region in the comfort of a Tesla Model X 90D. Here are a few recommendations not to miss during your visit.

### ✦Valdemar Estates

There may be no clearer sign that Walla Walla has become a truly world-class wine region than the opening of Valdemar Estates. Born more than 125 years ago in an underground cellar in Oyón, Spain, the wines of family-owned Bodegas Valdemar are beloved in their native country. Now Bodegas Valdemar Estates has made its first foray into the U.S. with Valdemar Estates. Its new winery and tasting room, which opened in April, marks the first time a non-American winery has come to the region.

### ✦Revelry Vintners

Founded in 2005 by Jared Burns, with the goal of producing three wines from Washington, reflecting Jared's love for Columbia Valley wines. Revelry Vintners today offers a complete lineup of wines, each a pure representation of their origins in the Columbia Valley. Enjoy a tasting at their beautiful winery, which was honored for design excellence by the American Institute of Architects.

### ✦Abeja Winery

Spanish for bee, the name Abeja (pronounced 'ah-BAY-ha') was chosen to honor a deeply-rooted respect for the environment. Founders Ken and Ginger Harrison came to Walla Walla Valley in the late 1990s in search of land suitable for planting world-class Cabernet Sauvignon, and while doing so they discovered an extraordinary historic farmstead that they have turned into a gorgeous B&B. The Inn at Abeja and Abeja winery are excitedly progressing towards the shared goal of becoming a sustainable winery and world-class Inn.





### +Isenhower Cellars

Founded in 1999 by Denise and Brett Isenhower, Isenhower Cellars produces sustainable wines through low-input farming, traditional wine-producing methods, native yeast fermentation, and more. Its varietals include Blanc de Blanc Sparkling Roussane.

### +Long Shadows Vintners

Founded in 2003 by visionary Allen Shoup, the Long Shadows proposition was as simple as it was complex: recruit a cadre of the finest winemakers in the world; give each vintner access to Washington State's best grapes; and outfit a winery to accommodate a diverse group of winemakers' exacting cellar specifications. Long Shadows collectively has won numerous awards, including recognition as Food & Wine magazine's "Winery of the Year."

### +Amavi Cellars

A small family-owned, certified sustainable winery. Sweeping decks on both the east and north sides of the facility are ideal places to sit, sip, and get lost in the awe of Walla Walla wine country. Winemaker Jean-Francois Pellet is a third-generation winemaker and grape grower.

### +Walla Walla Steak Co

If you need a break from wine, this is your stop for a tasty cocktail or beer. Walla Walla Steak Co. is locally owned and deeply-rooted hometown steak house featuring award-winning food, served with warm and welcoming style.

