

←  
Never Napa

# Mapping Walla Walla's Best Wineries

Six distinct districts demand planning ahead.



## WESTSIDE DISTRICT

### 1 Woodward Canyon Winery

One of Washington's founding wineries, Woodward Canyon has made its name over the decades by creating age-worthy cabernet sauvignons and Bordeaux-style blends. Just as notable? The best in class chardonnay. [woodwardcanyon.com](http://woodwardcanyon.com)

### 2 L'Ecole No 41

Founded in 1983, family-owned L'Ecole No 41 produces a wide range of Columbia Valley and Walla Walla Valley designated bottles, all bearing a picture of their headquarters, a former schoolhouse. While the red wines get much of the attention—

and they deserve it—the whites, including chenin blanc, sémillon, and a sauvignon blanc-sémillon blend are easily their equals. [lecole.com](http://lecole.com)

### 3 Waterbrook Winery

Whether you want a six-pack of rosé cans or an exclusive 2013 cabernet for \$46, Waterbrook's wines—along with those at sister tasting rooms Canoe Ridge and Browne Family—span the price spectrum, delivering quality at each level. [waterbrook.com](http://waterbrook.com)

### 4 Long Shadows Vintners

This project from former Chateau Ste. Michelle CEO Allen Shoup brings renowned winemakers from around the world to make one

release each from Washington fruit. Napa Valley's Rand Dunn crafts the outrageously good Feather cabernet sauvignon. Bordeaux's Michel Rolland offers an unrestrained take on merlot with Pedestal. Whoever's at the helm, the lineup doesn't miss. [longshadows.com](http://longshadows.com)

### 5 Reininger Winery

There's something to be said for knowing a place. Tracy Tucker's family goes back five generations in Walla Walla Valley. She and her husband Chuck Reininger founded the winery in 1997, one of the first to focus exclusively on Walla Walla Valley fruit, then added a second label, Helix, that homes in on Columbia Valley. [reingerwinery.com](http://reingerwinery.com)

## DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

### 1 Gramercy Cellars

Master sommelier Greg Harrington left behind a restaurant career to come to Walla Walla and make wines that "taste like dirt" (read: earthy). But you can still sense that restaurant background in his lower oak, lower alcohol wines—clearly meant for the dinner table. These are some of the best wines in the state, with distinctly high acidity. [gramercycellars.com](http://gramercycellars.com)

### 2 Foundry Vineyards

Walla Walla is known for wine and (a little more quietly) its large foundry, dedicated to creating large-scale sculptures from local and international artists. Mark and Patty Anderson, who started the Foundry, brought this same vision to their winery, which includes a sculpture garden as well as exhibitions—all paired with wines made from fruit sourced throughout the state. [foundryvineyards.com](http://foundryvineyards.com)

### 3 The Walls

This winery offers both Rocks District savory reds and cutting-edge Red Mountain wines, with grape varieties that digress from cabernet norms. Taste, for instance, the touriga nacional and souzão based Stanley Groovy. [thewallswines.com](http://thewallswines.com)

### 4 Corliss Estate

Corliss makes a commitment few wineries in Washington can match: Vintages see extended time in the barrel and in the bottle before release. This fall, the winery is releasing 2015 vintages, instead of 2018. These are cult wines, made in a rich, luxurious style. They're ready to drink when released, but built for the long haul. [corliss.wine](http://corliss.wine)

### 5 Seven Hills Winery

Since 1988, Seven Hills has focused on making wines more reserved than



COURTESY ELEPHANT SEVEN



# Explore Wine Country

## EASTSIDE DISTRICT

### 1 Leonetti Cellar

Try the one that started it all in the valley in 1977. These are cellar-worthy wines, especially the winery cabernet sauvignon. While Leonetti is not open to the public, a careful eye will find bottles in Walla Walla and Seattle restaurants. [leonetticellar.com](http://leonetticellar.com)

### 2 Tranche Estate

Located in its estate Blue Mountain Vineyard, Tranche's winery presents grapevined and mountainous vistas. Luckily, what's in the glass doesn't disappoint either: consistently delicious Bordeaux- and Rhône-style wines. [tranche.wine](http://tranche.wine)

### 3 College Cellars of Walla Walla

College Cellars is the teaching winery for Walla Walla Community College's viticulture and enology program, where budding winegrowers and winemakers learn their skills. In the glass that means wild experimentation and innovation—like a white wine released about a month after bottling. [collegecellars.com](http://collegecellars.com)

### 4 Abeja

Abeja has one of Walla Walla Valley's most charming locations, on a century-old restored farmstead. The wines match—venerated grapes, like cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay, vinted with energy. [abeja.net](http://abeja.net)

### 5 Walla Walla Vintners

Located in the obscenely scenic Upper Mill Creek area, this valley stalwart changed ownership in 2017, but has continued doing its thing. While luscious, ripe Bordeaux- and Rhône-style reds remain the focal points, a mouthwatering rosé is a nice swerve. [wallawallavintners.com](http://wallawallavintners.com)

### 6 àMaurice Cellars

This winery's setting in the Upper Mill Creek area is among the prettiest in the valley. Winemaker Anna Schafer has made her name on viognier and malbec, but the whole lineup is a delight. [amaurice.com](http://amaurice.com)

### 7 Figgins

Chris Figgins's parents founded the first winery in the valley, Leonetti Cellar. His own, Figgins, takes an old-world approach—focusing on a single vineyard per bottling. The red wine offers dense flavors and firm, brawny tannins, while the riesling pays tribute to the first wine the family made. [figginswine.com](http://figginswine.com)

### 8 Reynvaan Family Vineyards

This cult winery works only with fruit from its estate vineyards in the Rocks District and in the relatively unexplored foothills of the Blue Mountains. The wines capture that area so singularly (black pepper!) that fans will know them with a whiff. Mailing list only but well worth seeking out. [reynvaanfamilyvineyards.com](http://reynvaanfamilyvineyards.com)



Eat / Play / Stay

## Walla Walla: Washington's Wine Valhalla

Long famed for its agriculture—hello, sweet onions!—the state's southeast corner has been reborn into a wonderland of vineyards, views, and luxury leisure.

