



WILLAMETTE VALLEY WINE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Willamette Valley Wines Achieve Top Honors on Prestigious Global Wine Lists

- *ROCO Winery's Sparkling Wine Secures #1 Spot in Wine Enthusiast's Top 100* -

Portland, Ore. (November 25, 2024) – Willamette Valley wines have once again cemented their reputation as world-class, earning significant recognition on two renowned wine lists: [Wine Spectator's Top 100](#) and [Wine Enthusiast's 100 Best Wines of 2024](#). This year, [ROCO Winery's](#) sparkling wine claimed the #1 position on Wine Enthusiast's list—the first time an Oregon wine has achieved this distinction.

Wine Enthusiast blind-tasted over 23,000 wines from across the globe, ultimately spotlighting four Willamette Valley sparkling wines. ROCO's historic win highlights the leadership of Rollin Soles, who pioneered Oregon's sparkling wine movement by founding Argyle Winery in 1987 before launching ROCO in 2003 with his wife, Corby. ROCO's ascent continues to elevate the region's reputation for exceptional Méthode Champenoise sparkling wines.

Joining ROCO on *Wine Enthusiast's* list were [CHO Wines'](#) 2018 Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Pinot noir (#32), [Corollary Wines'](#) 2019 X-Omni Blanc des Blancs (#36), and [Domaine Serene's](#) 2015 Vintage Brut Sparkling (#40). Notably, this marks the first time all Willamette Valley wines featured on Wine Enthusiast's list were sparkling, underscoring the region's rising dominance in this category.

Michael Alberty, Oregon's wine reviewer for *Wine Enthusiast*, said, "People are always talking about, over the last five to seven years, how the future for sparkling wine in the Willamette Valley is so bright. I don't think it's the future anymore. I think it's now."

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Wine Spectator's Top 100 celebrated five Willamette Valley Pinot noirs, with [Drouhin Oregon Roserock's](#) 2022 Eola-Amity Hills Pinot noir leading at #6. Other notable mentions included [Bergström's](#) Ribbon Ridge La Spirale Vineyard Pinot noir (#34), [Bethel Heights'](#) Estate Pinot noir (#47), [Lavinea's](#) Eola-Amity Hills Pinot noir (#52), and [Domaine Roy & Fils'](#) Dundee Hills Incline Pinot noir (#74).

“Seeing Willamette Valley wines earn such prestigious accolades on both lists is a testament to the region’s unparalleled quality and dedication,” said Morgen McLaughlin, executive director of the [Willamette Valley Wineries Association](#). “With representation across the nested Willamette Valley AVAs, these wines reflect the complexity and excellence that define our region.”

Further highlighting the region’s growth, recent data from [Community Benchmarks](#) indicates rising visitation and sales in the Willamette Valley last month. This recovery, paired with accolades from *Wine Enthusiast* and *Wine Spectator*, solidifies the Willamette Valley’s place as one of the world’s premier wine regions.

With Wine Country Thanksgiving starting this Friday, hundreds of wineries across the Willamette Valley are preparing to welcome visitors for special tastings and events. This annual celebration offers an excellent opportunity to explore these award-winning wineries and many others. For maps, hours, and event details, visit www.willamettewines.com.

About Willamette Valley Wineries Association

The Willamette Valley Wineries Association (WVWA) is a nonprofit industry association dedicated to achieving recognition for Oregon’s acclaimed Willamette Valley as a premier Pinot noir-producing region. Currently, the WVWA has more than 400 members representing wineries, vineyards, industry, and hospitality businesses throughout the Willamette Valley region. To learn more about the Willamette Valley Wineries Association, visit willamettewines.com.

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