



WILLAMETTE
VALLEY WINE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING 2024

New Openings, Story Ideas, and Events in Oregon's Willamette Valley Region

After a restful winter, spring has sprung in the Willamette Valley wine region. It's an invigorating time in Oregon's most famous wine-growing area, the Willamette Valley, with buds in the vineyard and flowers on the shrubs and trees—all to the soundtrack of birdsong. The days are longer and milder, and visitors are treated to the very first look at a new growing season.

Springtime in the Willamette Valley brings a cornucopia of delights, from the blossoming of outdoor tasting experiences to the unveiling of fresh menus at acclaimed restaurants, including newly minted James Beard award winners. New tasting rooms open their doors as the season unfurls, inviting enthusiasts to explore the latest vintages. Special events and innovative offerings mark holiday weekends, while the temperate weather encourages vineyard tours and outdoor escapades. The air is charged with palpable excitement, making every moment in the Valley an unforgettable experience.

Please visit www.willamettewines.com for additional information.

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NEW HAPPENINGS

Six Peaks Winery to Open New Tasting Room

This June, Six Peaks Vineyard in Hillsboro is set to unveil its newest tasting room. Established in the fertile soils of the Willamette Valley in 1981, the vineyard is renowned for its exceptional whites, such as Gewurztraminer and Sauvignon blanc, alongside clone-designate Pinot noir sourced from the region. The timing of the opening couldn't be better, aligning perfectly with the bustling summer season.

Cho Wines Announces Opening of New Tasting Room and Winery

As of April, Cho Wines has officially opened its new winery and tasting room in the Chehalem Mountains AVA. With floor-to-ceiling windows and incredible wines, the state's first Korean-American-owned label is pouring dazzling Aligoté, Chardonnay, Pinot noir, Sparkling wines, and wines co-fermented with other fruits. Cho has received much praise lately for its charismatic owners and creative approach to winemaking.

Corollary Winery Will Open a New Tasting Room in May

Focused entirely on Sparkling wine, Corollary is set to open its Eola-Amity Hills AVA estate tasting room in May. The label shows just how diverse the bubbly category is, making vineyard-designated versions, various kinds of Sparkling rosé, and extended tirage offerings. The owners acquired the 57-acre vineyard in 2022, having made their first vintage in 2017.

Artist Block Wine is Opening a Satellite Tasting Room in Newberg

Introducing Artist Block's latest venture: a new satellite tasting room in Newberg that seamlessly blends fine art with vibrant wines. Scheduled for a May opening, this elegant space will embody the brand's commitment to crafting wines of integrity and creativity. It invites guests to explore their boundary-breaking approach to winemaking and art collecting. Paired with a hidden speakeasy, it promises an unforgettable tasting experience in the heart of the Willamette Valley.



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Antica Terra Offers New Tasting Options

It's been a busy year for Antica Terra as the lauded wine label acquired a vineyard and is now working on a barrel hall tasting room, which is set to open in May. The hall will feature intimate tasting bays for thoughtful wine collectors. In June, the label plans to offer a tasting in the trees option wherein visitors gather around a concrete table (poured on site using materials from the land) set in the heart of the property, surrounded by natural beauty.

Domaine Lumineux Debuts New Tasting Room and Name Change

Domaine de Broglie, now rebranded as Domaine Lumineux, has unveiled its latest gem: a brand-new tasting room in downtown Newberg. Housed within a picturesque Victorian building, easily accessible from the street, this enchanting space offers the choice of indoor seating amidst the movie sets of Francis Ford Coppola's latest film or the serene ambiance of outdoor seating under the shade of cherry trees. Despite the name change, the heart and soul of Domaine Lumineux remain untouched, with its dedicated staff continuing to craft exceptional wines sourced from their cherished 42-acre vineyard in the Dundee Hills AVA.

Lachini Vineyards to Open Mediterranean-Inspired Tasting Room

Nearing its grand opening, the soon-to-be-unveiled Lachini tasting space promises to be an extraordinary destination. Boasting an on-site chef, an inviting open kitchen, and both indoor and outdoor tasting areas, this venue is set to impress. Adorned with remarkable stonework reminiscent of the Mediterranean countryside, it exudes charm and elegance. Situated just 30 minutes from Portland, it's also conveniently located near popular wineries like [Adelsheim](#), [Alexana](#), [Balsall Creek](#), and others, making it an ideal stop for wine enthusiasts seeking exceptional experiences.

Balsall Creek Vineyards Opens Tasting Room

Balsall Creek Vineyards, which opened its tasting room earlier this spring, has become one of the latest additions to the Valley's thriving wine landscape. This family-owned winery, situated in the Chehalem Mountains nested AVA, draws inspiration from its 35-acre vineyard, which cultivates an array of grape varieties, including Aligoté, Gamay noir, Sauvignon blanc, and more. Their wine journey began with their inaugural vintage in 2012.



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The Four Graces Winery Transitions

The Black Walnut Inn and Vineyard will be the new home of The Four Graces Winery. The longstanding Dundee outfit is setting up its tasting room at the storied inn. The new spot will be more intimate, away from the crowds along Highway 99W. It will offer indoor and outdoor experiences and bites from house chef Chase Williams.

Lytle-Barnett Winery and Aubaine Winery Share New Tasting Room Space

Lytle-Barnett, renowned for its expertise in Sparkling wines, is set to inaugurate a new tasting room in collaboration with its sister winery, Aubaine Winery. Aubaine Winery is a prestigious boutique project focusing solely on single-vineyard and estate Chardonnay and Pinot noir. Both labels are on the brink of unveiling their new venue, conveniently located adjacent to the Dundee Bistro.

Black Dog Vineyard Comes Inland

Black Dog Vineyard, renowned for its Oregon Coast tasting room, has expanded its presence with a new tasting room in the heart of the Yamhill-Carlton AVA, just steps away from their vineyard. Reflecting the charm of their original Manzanita location, this tastefully designed space offers a welcoming atmosphere where guests can enjoy small-batch wines amidst dog-friendly surroundings. Set against the backdrop of 20 acres of pristine organic Pinot noir vineyards, framed by majestic oak trees and breathtaking views, the location provides a serene setting for wine enthusiasts.

Sokol Blosser Now Offers Aperitif Wines and a New Walk-In Wine Bar and Gift Shop

Sokol Blosser just unveiled its new "Wine Bar and Shop," formerly the "Legacy Lounge." This transformed area now offers a cozy atmosphere where guests can enjoy a glass of wine at the bar, paired with delicious bites from the culinary team. The revamped space also provides ample room to showcase Sokol Blosser's extensive wine collection and expanded merchandise offerings. Additionally, Sokol Blosser introduced two new aperitif wines inspired by Mediterranean culture, perfect for mixing with soda water or crafting refreshing cocktails, enhancing the springtime experience.



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Potters Vineyard Expands Tasting Area

Nestled amidst a lush vineyard over two decades old in Newberg, Potters Vineyard unveils a newly revitalized tasting area within its existing room. Beyond pouring its signature wines, the label showcases exquisite clay pottery crafted by its owner, Bill Potter, who is not only a winemaker but also a skilled ceramist and food nutritionist. This inspiring and intimate setting in the heart of the Laurelwood AVA welcomes visitors for tastings every Friday through Sunday. Additionally, the tasting room proudly highlights works from other talented local artists.

La Biblioteca Hires New Winemaker

La Biblioteca Wine has proudly welcomed Burgundian icon François Millet as its esteemed winemaker. Millet, renowned for his expertise, commenced his journey with the label last fall, complementing the managerial prowess of James Cahill from North Valley Vineyards. Exciting developments include the imminent unveiling of a new tasting room, slated to open at the end of this month adjacent to the Dundee Hotel.

Big Name Partnership

McMinnville Mayor and lauded winemaker Remy Drabkin has teamed up with Bertony Faustin of Abbey Creek Vineyard for a special wine collaboration. The new industry trailblazers are longtime friends and are set to release a pair of wines under the [Remy + Bertony](#) moniker. The wines are co-ferments made of both Lagrein and Pinot noir.

A Flurry of Activity at Elk Cove Vineyards

Elk Cove Vineyards is buzzing with excitement as they announce their membership in 1% for the Planet and approach the final stages of B Corp Certification, aiming for approval in May. Don't miss their 1974 Throwback Weekend on May 25th and 26th, celebrating 50 years of grape growing with a retro-style open house, complete with a tree planting ceremony by co-founders Pat and Joe Campbell. Plus, stay tuned for the grand opening of their new event space in July 2024, promising a modern upgrade from the beloved 1981 tasting room. And for a musical treat, check out Vibes & Vines, their new outdoor music series set in the scenic amphitheater, with entry priced at just \$10.



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The AVP Wine Collective Incubator Program Announced

The AVP Wine Collective is launching an incubator program aimed at cultivating the next generation of Oregon winemakers. Led by Carrie Wynkoop, Corey Schuster, and Cristina Gonzales, this initiative aims to support diversity in winemaking by providing training, resources, and expertise to two to three aspiring winemakers annually. Applicants, regardless of experience, are encouraged to apply, especially those from historically underserved communities. Selected participants will receive access to production equipment, winemaker and business consulting, community networking opportunities, and discounted production fees for one year. Applications are due by April 30, with selections announced by May 15.

Cristom Vineyards Plants an Orchard

Grapes aren't the only thing Cristom is growing. The revered Salem producer has planted 40 fruit trees next to its Viognier in their Louise Vineyard. The so-called "Z orchard" is planted in nectarine, peach, pear, and apple trees, adding another layer of agriculture and biodiversity to the fertile estate.

Et Fille's Winemaker to Present at First Nikkei Wine Summit

More than 200 attendees are anticipated to participate in the inaugural Nikkei Wine Summit taking place this June in Los Angeles. This educational event aims to foster awareness about Japanese winemakers, proprietors, growers, and professionals, while also engaging wine enthusiasts and community members interested in Nikkei wine. Among the distinguished participants, Jessica Mozeico, the esteemed winemaker and owner of Et Fille, will proudly represent her brand and the Willamette Valley.

Farm Lunch at Alloro

Alloro Vineyard now features an elegant midday lunch by former JORY chef Chris Smith. The menu is inspired by the Alloro owner's Croatian and Italian heritage. It consists of dishes sourced from the on-site farm (and within a 100-mile radius, for the things they don't grow) and paired with their treasured Pinot noir, Riesling, and Sparkling wines.



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James Beard Love

The region was just handed some more culinary praise on behalf of the James Beard Awards. McMinnville restaurant [Hayward](#) was nominated for Best New Restaurant while Portland restaurants [Langbaan](#), [Lovely's Fifty-Fifty](#), and [JinJu Patisserie](#) received nods. It's yet another round of critical acclaim for the Willamette Valley's robust culinary culture.

[Nick's Italian Cafe](#) to Return

Wine country staple and James Beard Award-winning restaurant Nick's will reopen later this year. After shocking the community by shutting down last July, the restaurant is set to come back to life. New ownership from the founders of Earth & Sea in Carlton will see that Nick's bounces back and pledges to honor the many staples on the original menu. The restaurant originally opened in 1977 and will remain in its initial location on historic Third Street in McMinnville.

[SOMMTV Movie Streams 'Cup of Salvation'](#) featuring the [Maysara Team](#)

Currently available for streaming on SommTV, 'Cup of Salvation' is a celebrated new wine film captivating audiences. The storyline follows a family's captivating journey to resurrect ancient Armenian wine varieties. Notably, the film includes appearances by the esteemed Momtazi family from the Willamette Valley, renowned as the proprietors of the esteemed Maysara Wines. Having fled Iran before the revolution, the Momtazi family found refuge in McMinnville, where they established their winery. Today, with a second-generation winemaker at the helm, their legacy continues to flourish.

[Avelo Airlines](#) Launches New Routes to the Willamette Valley

It's getting easier and easier to get to Willamette Valley wine country. Avelo just launched some new flight paths to Salem, including direct routes from Sonoma and Las Vegas to Salem, right in the heart of wine country. These expanded flight options make wine tourism all the easier, even for quick trips.

[Chehalem Cultural Center](#) Gets New Performing Arts Wing

The new wing at Chehalem Cultural Center, set to open this September, will be a hub for the performing arts in the Willamette Valley. The 9,000-square-foot space will feature a 225-seat theater, a grand lobby, and dance and movement studios. It's a major development for the City of Newberg and Yamhill County, years in the making.

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STORY IDEAS

Cool Climate Syrah

Syrah, celebrated for its ability to express the terroir of its origin, is shining brightly in the Valley, showcasing finesse and distinctive character. Esteemed regional labels such as [Left Coast Estate](#), [Cana's Feast](#), [Coeur de Terre Vineyard](#), and [GC Wines](#) are exemplifying the remarkable potential of Syrah in this region. The allure of this variety is no longer a secret, with producers like [Cramoisi](#) eagerly planting new vines of this red grape variety.

Mother's Day Sparkling

Raise a glass to Mom with a proper pour of bubbles. The Willamette Valley has become synonymous with great Sparkling wine. These days, there are more options than ever, and many wineries are joining in the celebration of Moms everywhere. Check out the new Sparkling estate from Willamette Valley Vineyards' [Domaine Willamette](#), or pop over to [Andante Vineyard](#) in the Van Duzer Corridor to pour Gamay noir Sparkling wine. Drop by [Corollary](#), [Arabilis](#), [Argyle](#), or head to [ROCO](#); the [options are many](#).

Dog-Friendly Wine Tasting

We've all seen the vineyard dogs that roam the rows but where can tasters go with their own four-legged friends? Some tasting rooms are especially welcoming to pets, like [Black Dog Vineyard's](#) stunning Carlton location and [Lonesome Rock](#) in Yamhill. Head over to [Penner-Ash](#) with your pup in tow or wander the bucolic estate at [Johan Vineyards](#) with Spot before or after tasting some unique Willamette Valley wines. [Here's a list](#) of other dog-friendly wineries in the region.

Barrel Samples

Sampling wine from the barrel is an eye-opening experience. It allows tasters to check in on still-aging wine and get a sneak peek of the next vintage to be bottled. Many Willamette Valley wineries offer these glimpses into the crystal ball, like [Lachini Vineyards](#) and the sprawling barrel caves at [Archery](#)



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[Summit](#). Taste straight from the barrel at pioneering [Ponzi Vineyards](#), or do the same at [Willamette Valley Vineyards](#), where you can even create your own wine blend.

Mom-Made Wine for Mother's Day

Celebrate Mother's Day with a wine made by mothers. Hard-working moms are behind some of the best wines in the region; just ask Jessica Mozeico at [Et Fille](#), Anna Matzinger at [Matzinger Davies](#), Tahmiene Momtazi at [Maysara](#), Wynn Peterson-Nedry [Ribbon Ridge](#), and more. Come harvest, it's double duty as these vintners are looking after their own kiddos and the ones they're raising in the cellar.

The Best Winery Gardens

Wine and food are meant for each other and often in plain sight, with producers reserving at least a part of their estate for a garden. The ingredients may end up in tasting room snacks or on the house restaurant's menu, destined to be paired with the right wine. And there are some exquisite ones to peruse in the valley, from the sprawling grounds of [Durant Vineyards](#) in the Dundee Hills to [Saffron Fields'](#) Japanese gardens to [Soter Vineyards](#) in Carlton. Meanwhile, places like [Cristom](#) and [St. Innocent](#) are home to sprawling orchards. For a list of more Willamette Valley wineries set among gardens, visit [here](#).

Diversity Celebrated

The dynamic Willamette Valley wine landscape evolves, mirroring the rich tapestry of its community members. Embracing this diversity, innovative events such as the pioneering [Oregon AAPI Food + Wine Fest](#) in May and the [Queer Wine Fest](#) in June were the first of their kind in the nation. These gatherings serve as powerful platforms, spotlighting the significance of inclusivity and amplifying voices from historically marginalized sectors within the industry.



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A FEW SELECTED EVENTS

Bounty of the Willamette Valley Series

April-July, 2024

[The Allison Inn and Spa](#) hosts a dinner series featuring some of the valley's most prized labels. The wines are paired with food from the inn's award-winning [Jory Restaurant](#) and Chef Jack Strong. Featured wineries include [Lundeen](#), [Brick House](#), [Illahe](#), [Sealionne](#), and many more.

Pinot In The City

May 8, 2024

The Willamette Valley Wineries Association proudly presents the latest edition of Pinot In The City, this time gracing the vibrant city of Seattle. Originating over a decade ago, this esteemed showcase has captivated wine enthusiasts nationwide, making its mark in cities such as Houston, New York, and San Francisco. Set against the backdrop of Block 41 in the Emerald City, nearly 60 esteemed Willamette Valley wineries will gather to pour their exceptional creations, promising a memorable tasting experience for all attendees.

Bellingar Spring Market

May 11, 2024

Local is the name of the Bellingar Spring Market. Bellingar Estate in Newberg hosts it, attracting scores of artisans and craftspeople selling their art, flowers, home decor, wine, and more. It all goes down in the barn, and mocktails and wine will be available as refreshments.

Oregon AAPI Food + Wine Fest

May 18-19, 2024

In its second year, the Oregon AAPI Food & Wine Fest is a joyous celebration that pays tribute to the diverse and flavorful contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Chefs and Winemakers within the Willamette Valley. Held during both AAPI Heritage Month and Oregon Wine Month, attendees can experience the unique flavors and stories behind wines and dishes crafted by AAPI artisans, fostering connections and celebrating the rich culinary heritage of the AAPI community.

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Sauvage at Durant

May 18, 2024

Sauvignon Blanc has become a major player in the Willamette Valley wine landscape and this annual event celebrates as much. Hosted by Durant, the second-annual Sauvage features a dozen Willamette Valley Sauvignon Blanc producers pouring their wines, special pairings, and even a panel discussion moderated by esteemed wine writer Michael Alberty.

May in Wine Country/Memorial Weekend in Wine Country

May 1-31, 2024 / May 25-27, 2024

Oregon wine country's unofficial prelude to summer, Memorial Weekend, is a celebration of Willamette Valley style. What was once a weekend has now extended to the entirety of May. Throughout the month, particularly Memorial Day weekend, countless regional producers open their doors for special tastings, pairings, new releases, tours, and more. Alongside Thanksgiving Weekend, it stands as a marquee event in the valley, marking one of the most festive stretches of the year.

Magic in the Mountains

June 1, 2024

Secure your tickets for the fifth annual 'Magic in the Mountains,' hosted by Chehalem Mountains Winegrowers. Happening on June 1st at the luxurious Allison Inn & Spa in Newberg, this event promises an unforgettable experience. Sample 80 exceptional wines showcasing the region's diversity, paired with delectable bites by local artisans.

Queer Wine Fest

June 30, 2024

The Queer Wine Fest is a vibrant celebration that unites a diverse array of wines crafted by queer vintners, offering a unique platform to showcase their artistry. This tasting event serves as a joyful gathering, highlighting not only the wines themselves but also the stories and identities behind them. From coast to coast, the festival features an eclectic selection of wines, each bearing the mark of queer ownership, craftsmanship, or origin. It's not just a tasting; it's a celebration of inclusion, community, and the rich tapestry of queer culture within the world of winemaking.

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Stoller Pacific NW Eggfest

July 6, 2024

Stoller Family Estate proudly partners with Big Green Egg for the inaugural Stoller Pacific Northwest Eggfest. This unique event celebrates the brand's shared passion for people, wine, and food, featuring celebrity chefs alongside their Executive Chef Becca Richard and Winemaker Karl Weichold. Attendees can enjoy live grilling demonstrations, sample expertly paired bites with History and Stoller wines, and participate in a raffle for a chance to win their own Big Green Egg, with proceeds benefiting AHIVOY, a non-profit supporting Oregon's vineyard stewards.

International Pinot Noir Celebration (IPNC)

July 26-July 28, 2024

The IPNC provides Pinot noir enthusiasts and industry professionals with an extraordinary opportunity to indulge in a diverse selection of Pinot noir from across the globe. The event boasts a rich schedule filled with seminars, walkaround tastings, winery tours, and exquisite meals crafted by renowned Northwest chefs. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the historic Linfield University campus, the IPNC offers an immersive experience that showcases the essence of Pinot noir culture. Conveniently located in McMinnville, just an hour's drive southwest of Portland, attendees find themselves in the heart of Oregon wine country, making it easily accessible for all to enjoy.

About Willamette Valley Wineries Association

The Willamette Valley Wineries Association (WVWA) is a non-profit 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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