

## Oregon's Willamette Valley Welcomes Two New Nested Appellations

*The winemaking state of Oregon now boasts 21 unique American Viticultural Areas (AVAs)*

PORTLAND, Ore. ([PRWEB](#)) June 24, 2020 -- With the recent addition of Tualatin Hills and the Laurelwood District AVAs, the state of Oregon is now home to 21 federally recognized winegrowing regions. The regions, called American Viticultural Areas (AVAs), offer unique winemaking conditions thanks to a combination of widely varied physical geology and climate.

Both areas are situated in the northern Willamette Valley and were granted approval on June 3rd. Local wineries had petitioned the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) years earlier for the additions to the wine country map, citing distinctive features like soil type and elevation, which in turn lead to distinctive wines. They join fellow Oregon AVAs including Eola-Amity Hills, Umpqua Valley and The Rocks Districts of Milton-Freewater and more, adding to the state's eclectic winegrowing landscape. The expansive Willamette Valley now totals ten AVAs.

Tualatin Hills is the larger of the two new zones, composed of 144,000 acres encompassing the northern hills of Tualatin River watershed, minutes west of Portland, Oregon's most populous city. The elevation of the AVA ranges from 200 to 1,000 feet, set in a temperate rain shadow cast by the nearby Coast Range. It's the northernmost AVA in the Willamette Valley and includes the towns of Helvetia, North Plains and Forest Grove and is bordered to the south by Gaston.

With its 21 AVAs ranging from the Willamette Valley south to the Rogue Valley and spanning 600 miles east to the Snake River Valley bordering Idaho, Oregon's list of AVAs is second only to California's (which has a total of 107). Reflecting the ever-growing wine industry at large, the U.S. now has 248 AVAs from coast to coast.

Sally Murdoch, communications manager for the Oregon Wine Board said, "Oregon has almost 12% of the AVAs in the country, yet we produce only about 1.5% of the nation's wine." She added. "With two new AVAs, this is great recognition for our almost 800 wineries and our state's clearly differentiated regions, underscoring that Oregon truly is unique in the global landscape."

Leading the charge for recognition was Alfredo Apolloni of Apolloni Vineyards, along with Mike Kuenz of David Hill Vineyard and Winery and Rudy Marchesi of Montinore Estate. Producers note the elegant style of Pinot noir made in this distinctive stretch of land, often showing blackberry, cherry and spice notes. All told, 40 wineries and vineyards are located in the Tualatin Hills AVA, including Patton Valley Vineyard and Elk Cove Vineyards.

"It's terrific to spotlight such a singular spot of the Oregon wine country map," says Apolloni. "With an incredible diurnal shift and grape-friendly soils, it's no wonder some of Oregon's first wineries settled here. We can't wait to further the story of the Tualatin Hills through expressive wines beyond Pinot noir."

The Laurelwood District AVA is smaller at 33,600 acres, and is situated on the northeast facing flank of the Chehalem Mountains, near Beaverton and Sherwood. The Laurelwood District extends throughout the northeastern reaches of the Chehalem Mountains, where the topography reaches more than 1,600 feet above sea level. The name refers to the prevalent soil type that defines the wines from this area. Unlike other Oregon

AVAs, this AVA is defined by a unique soil type that is predominantly found in this part of the Willamette Valley. Here, Laurelwood soils dominate; this windblown loess soil type was brought in by the Missoula Floods thousands of years ago.

Spearheading the call for the nested appellation was one of the state's most established winemaking families, the Ponzis. Second-generation proprietors Maria and Luisa Ponzi teamed up with Kevin Johnson and Beth Klingner of Dion Vineyard in requesting federal approval. Ponzi Vineyards joins 29 other producers and 70 vineyards operating within the new appellation, including Cooper Mountain Vineyards and Hawks View Winery.

Luisa Ponzi says the process has taken more than a decade. "We're thrilled to be able to officially advertise the unique qualities at play due to our soil in our very specific pocket within the Willamette Valley," the winemaker says. "Consumers are more and more interested in the origin story of their goods and wine has always told that story. With the addition of the Laurelwood District, wine drinkers will become aware of why and how what's bottled from this area stands out."

The two newest AVAs are the toast of both the industry and consumers who look to celebrate Oregon's one-of-a-kind appellations and the "sense of place" in a wine's flavor and makeup. Wineries and vineyards within these designations, on July 6 2020, can market their work as such, whether it be on the wine label itself or in other branding narratives.

#### About the Oregon Wine Board

The Oregon Wine Board is a semi-independent Oregon state agency managing marketing, research and education initiatives that support and advance the Oregon wine and wine grape industry. OWB works on behalf of all Oregon wineries and independent growers throughout the state's diverse winegrowing regions. Visit [oregonwine.org](http://oregonwine.org) for more.

#### About the Willamette Valley Wineries Association

The WVWA is a nonprofit industry association dedicated to achieving recognition for Oregon's acclaimed Willamette Valley as a premium Pinot noir-producing region. The WVWA has more than 230 members representing wineries, tasting rooms and vineyards throughout the Willamette Valley. Memorial Weekend in the Wine Country and Wine Country Thanksgiving are the two oldest WVWA-sponsored touring events in Oregon. Visit [www.willamettewines.com](http://www.willamettewines.com) for more info.

#### List of wineries and vineyards in the Laurelwood District AVA:

A Blooming Hill Vineyard and Winery  
Alloro Estate Vineyard  
Anne Amie Twelve Oaks Estate Benjamin Vineyard  
Anne Amie Twelve Oaks Estate Boisseau Vineyard  
Anne Amie Twelve Oaks Estate Louise Vineyard  
Anne Amie Twelve Oaks Estate Marilyn Vineyard  
Anne Amie Twelve Oaks Estate Robert Vineyard  
Anne Amie Twelve Oaks Estate Justin Grand Vineyard  
Arbre Vert Vineyard  
Archer Vineyard

Ardiri Winery and Vineyards  
August Cellars Vineyard  
Bailey Estate Vineyards  
Barking Frog  
Blakeslee Vineyard Estate  
Buteo Vineyard  
Chateau Lebeau Vineyard  
Chehalem Corral Creek Vineyard  
Chehalem Schaad Vineyard  
Chehalem Crossing Family Estate Vineyards  
Cloudrest Vineyard  
Cooper Mountain Vineyards Johnson School Vineyard  
Dion Vineyards  
Domaine Sardine  
Elk Cove Five Mountain Vineyards  
Finnigan Hill Vineyard  
Freja Hughes Vineyard  
Freja Musso Vineyard  
Freja Vineyards  
Gemini Vineyard  
Grapehead Vineyard  
Gresser Vineyard  
Hamacher Wines Paloma Vineyard  
Hawks View Vineyard  
J. Albin Winery Laurel Vineyard  
Jesse Estate Vineyard  
JNF Vineyard  
La Cantera  
La Luce Vineyard  
Linda Vista Vineyard  
Madrona Hill Vineyard  
Manissa-Jo Vineyard  
Manuela Vineyard  
Mooney Vineyard  
Nicholas Vineyard  
Owen Roe Anna's Vineyard  
Ponzi Abetina Vineyard  
Ponzi Aurora Vineyard  
Ponzi Avellana Vineyard  
Ponzi Madrona Vineyard  
Raptor Ridge Estate Vineyard  
Rex Hill Burnt Tree Vineyard  
Rex Hill Estate Vineyard  
Rex Hill Hoy Vineyard  
Ross Vineyard  
Ruby Vineyard  
Sheets Vineyard

Starling Crest  
Sufi Vineyard  
Tannehill Vineyard  
The Potter's Vineyard  
Three Cedars Vineyard  
Triple H Vineyard  
Tuenge Vineyards  
Vista Grande Vineyard  
Xander Taryn Vineyard

Wineries and Vineyards in the Tualatin Hills AVA:

Aggravation Hill Vineyard  
Apolloni Vineyards  
Bednarik

Bramblett Vineyards  
Cancilla Cellars  
Carpenter Creek Farms Vineyard  
Cherry Grove  
Cochran Vineyard  
Courting Hill  
Covey Ridge  
David Hill Vineyards  
Eagles Nest Reserve  
Echo Hill Vineyard  
Elk Cove - Windhill Vineyard  
Helvetia

Highgrove Farms  
Loeza Vineyard  
Mason Ridge Farms  
Mason Ridge Vineyard  
Meier Vineyards  
Merten Vineyards  
Montinore Estate  
NV Hill Farm  
Patton Valley Vineyard  
Petalous Vineyard  
Plum Hill Vineyards  
Provincial Vineyards  
Purple Cow Vineyards  
R. Marchesi Vineyard  
Scotch Church Road Vineyard  
Shafer Vineyards



Shumaker Vineyards  
Stormy Morning Vineyard  
Tualatin Estate Vineyard  
Willamette Valley Vineyards – Peter Michael  
Willamette Valley Vineyards – Meadowview  
Windearth Vineyard  
Wirtz Vineyard

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