



## WILLAMETTE VALLEY WINE

CONTACT | *Emily Petterson*

EMAIL | *emily@ekpmedia.com*

PHONE | 503.550.8161

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## WHAT'S NEW IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

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### SUMMER 2022

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

Summer in the Willamette Valley is a special time of the year, ripe with activity. These glorious months are home to long days and countless wine country events, appealing to everyone from the curious imbibers to the seasoned wine enthusiast.

It's an important time of the year in the vineyard as well. The early summer months make up the heart of the growing season, with vines so vigorous and green you can practically watch them grow. There's hardly a better time to get out and enjoy the region's many wineries. Anticipation begins to bubble up about the coming harvest while restaurants are swimming in local produce, making it an ideal time to feast and sip in one of the country's finest gastronomic destinations.

That said, the pandemic lingers and public health is a top priority of the Willamette Valley Wineries Association (WVWA). Please check in with producers, restaurants and hotels beforehand to fully understand the current protocols in place. Visit [willamettewines.com](http://willamettewines.com) for more info.

### NEW OPENINGS, EXPANSIONS AND MORE

#### **VIDON OPTS FOR A NAME CHANGE**

Newberg winery VIDON has formally changed its name to [Compris Vineyard](#). The new title roughly translates to "understood" in French and comes after more than two decades under the original moniker. It's a refreshing change of pace from a Valley operation committed to a more sustainable, equitable and inclusive future for the industry at large. Compris Vineyard made history just over a year ago by hiring the first Black female president of an American winery, Tiquette Bramlett.

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### ***New Openings, continued***

#### **GROCHAU IN NORTH PORTLAND**

[Grochau Cellars](#) will soon pour wine from the bustling North Williams Street location in Portland. The intimate space located in The Crayons, a pedestrian-friendly alley space, will spotlight Grochau's wines as well as those from other producers from near and far, along with a few beer options. It's yet another addition to a vibrant Portland wine circuit, made up of bars and production spaces in many of the major neighborhoods. The new spot is tentatively slated to open in June.

#### **IRIS VINEYARDS TAKES TO SPRINGFIELD**

Southern Willamette Valley producer [Iris Vineyards](#) will open a satellite tasting room in Springfield in late May 2022. The label focuses on the iconic trio of Oregon varietals (Pinot noir, Pinot gris and Chardonnay) along with sparkling wine. The new location will allow the label to pour in a more urban environment, very different from its bucolic headquarters in the rolling hills of rural Eugene.

#### **MONTINORE EXPANDS TO MCMINNVILLE AND WOODINVILLE**

[Montinore Winery](#) is setting up The Grove on Third Street in McMinnville this August. The tasting venue, housed in the former Cornerstone Coffee Roasters building, will pour both Montinore and Landlines wines, both biodynamically farmed. Meanwhile, the sibling labels have also opened shop in Woodinville, Washington's bustling and wine-soaked Schoolhouse District, where visitors can enjoy an abundance of tasting options, cafes and restaurants just a short drive from Seattle.

#### **PIKE ROAD MOVES TO MCMINNVILLE**

Carlton winery [Pike Road](#) is changing locations, moving to nearby McMinnville. The sister label of Elk Cove Vineyards has grown out of its current space after six years and is taking over the former home of Great NE Insurance on Third Street. The plan is to move spaces by Memorial Day Weekend. Long term, Pike Road has a winery and tasting room in the works in nearby Yamhill (on Pike Road no less). This land has been purchased and planted as a vineyard, but the building for production is still just a blueprint for now. Pike Road specializes in Pinot noir and Pinot gris sourced from a wide range of vineyards representing six distinctive Willamette Valley nested appellations.

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### ***New Openings, continued***

#### **DAVID PAIGE SETS UP IN AMITY**

Vastly experienced winemaker [David Paige](#) is setting up a permanent location for his eponymous label in Amity, coming this summer. Paige, best known for his many years making award-winning wines at Adelsheim Vineyard, launched his own label in 2018. The vintner sources from two vineyards and focuses on cool-climate varieties such as Pinot noir, Chardonnay and Pinot blanc. It's one more reason to visit the charming small wine country town of Amity.

#### **PIONEER PRODUCER, NEW LOCATIONS**

[Willamette Valley Vineyards \(WVV\)](#) will open its ambitious new winery and sparkling wine center this August. Located in the historic Dundee Hills just off of Highway 99W, [Domaine Willamette](#) will showcase sparkling wine while becoming the primary home base for the production of WVV's wide family of wines. WVV and its original location in Turner have been turning out wines since 1983 and it remains the nation's first publicly-owned winery. Scheduled to open in August, Domaine Willamette joins WVV's other recently opened satellite tasting room, this one in the Portland suburb of [Lake Oswego](#).

#### **HIGHLY ANTICIPATED RESTAURANT AND HOTEL IN THE WORKS**

McMinnville is already home to a wide array of wonderful hotels and restaurants, like the Atticus and the James Beard award-winning Nick's Italian Cafe. This summer, the historic wine country town will also be home to [ökta](#). The restaurant marks the homecoming of chef Matthew Lightner, who formerly worked at Portland's Castagna before going to New York to work at the Michelin Star-awarded Atera. The restaurant and its progressive menu will be part of the forthcoming [Tributary Hotel](#), an eight-suite luxury hotel set in a century-old building downtown.

#### **HUMBLE SPIRIT TO WELCOME DINERS SOON**

Another player is entering the vibrant McMinnville culinary scene. [Humble Spirit](#), a fine-dining establishment that will look to take advantage of the Valley's many farms and purveyors of fresh ingredients, will open its doors in July. The addition makes McMinnville arguably one of the best restaurant destinations per capita on the West Coast.

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### ***New Openings, continued***

#### **LA RAMBLA DEBUTS SOCIAL ROOM**

Just in time for the triumphant return of large gatherings, beloved McMinnville restaurant [La Rambla](#) is debuting its new event space. Fittingly dubbed the [Social Room](#), the space will occupy the former Gem Saloon in a beautiful structure originally built in 1884, right next door to the restaurant. La Rambla welcomes all types of events to the private dining and bar area, from birthday parties to business meetings. The Spanish restaurant has become a wine country favorite over the years, set right on bustling Third Street in downtown McMinnville.

#### **WITNESS TREE ACQUIRED**

[Witness Tree Vineyard](#) was sold to a pair of real estate investors in mid-April. The sale sees the long-standing Eola-Amity Hills producer and its 58 planted acres change hands. The new owners are reportedly interested in a smaller-production label that will showcase the very best of the estate. They are considering opening the wine production facility to other producers, making it a custom-crush space.

#### **LINGUA FRANCA SOLD TO CONSTELLATION BRANDS**

[Lingua Franca](#), the revered wine label launched in 2012 by well-known Master Sommelier Larry Stone, has been purchased. The operation was bought by Constellation Brands in April and while there is new ownership, the winemaking team—which includes famed Burgundian vintner Dominique Lafon—remains the same. Stone remains involved as Lingua Franca's brand ambassador and has indicated that the focus will remain on world-class Chardonnay and Pinot noir, armed now with much broader resources.

#### **WINE AND CHOCOLATE**

[Brooks Wine](#) is in the Rose City (Portland), as part of a collaboration with [Woodblock Chocolate](#). The two brands are sharing a space in the Irvington neighborhood, fusing their work for some memorable pairing options. The union between the two, aptly called [Bon Amis](#), is focused on handmade chocolates served with Rieslings and Pinot noirs. Presently, the space is open to tasters on weekends.

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### ***New Openings, continued***

#### **A NEW WINERY FOR ANACRÉON**

Willamette Valley newcomer [Anacréon](#) is setting up the first stage of its winery this Memorial Day weekend. The label will open the doors to a stunning site in rural Newberg near pioneering Oregon winery Adelsheim Vineyard. The tasting room will be completed in 2023. Anacreon released its first wines last year, a mix of Chardonnay, Pinot noir and rosé. The label is rooted in the Chehalem Mountains, with a winery that overlooks the Belle Colline vineyard, originally planted in 2012. Special consumer events will begin Memorial Day weekend.

#### **REMY BUILDING A WINERY**

Dundee Hills producer [Remy Wines](#) is hard at work on a new winery building on its Dayton estate. The structure will be a first in the Valley, made of net-zero carbon concrete. It's another environmentally conscious and progressive move from founder Remy Drabkin, a beloved Willamette Valley winemaker. The new spot will include an indoor equity bathroom open to vineyard workers all hours, along with upcycled materials from the old barn on the property.

#### **THE RETURN OF THE MACK THEATER**

Downtown McMinnville will soon welcome back an iconic fixture. The folks behind McMinnville's luxury Atticus Hotel and locals Charlie Hays and Bob Komin have acquired [the Mack Theater](#), a historic structure set right on Third Street. The sale also includes Hotel Yamhill and the adjoining Macy Building. It's a fitting passing of the torch, as the Atticus team—made up of Erin Stephenson, Brian Shea and Ben Perle—has a history of celebrating and reviving the history of the charming wine country town. The trio is behind Third Street Flats in downtown McMinnville, and they designed the Atticus Hotel very much with the town and its historic flair in mind. In taking over the Mack Theater, which will reopen as an entertainment venue, the group will again breathe some new life into McMinnville's storied past. An opening date still is to be determined.



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### ***New Openings, continued***

#### **A WINE FOR SHELLFISH**

One of the state's oldest biodynamic producers has released a wine that goes with and benefits local shellfish. In early May, [Cooper Mountain Vineyards](#) released its zippy Oyster White, a wine created in tandem with [Hama Hama Oyster Company](#). The crisp blend of Tocai Friulano, Pinot gris and Gewürztraminer is now available, with proceeds funding the [Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#). The outfit looks to restore the many regional aquatic systems oysters depend on.

#### **THE OREGON PROMISE**

Ken Wright Cellars has launched the [Oregon Promise](#) with the release of its 2021 Pinot noir. The pledge focuses on label transparency so that consumers know exactly what they're drinking. It's an important move amid looser regulations both on the federal level and in other states that allow other producers to follow misleading practices. The promise ensures that information listed on the label, specifically the variety and AVA, is entirely as advertised.

## STORY IDEAS

#### **CHEHALEM WINERY PAIRS IT UP**

Newberg producer [Chehalem Winery](#) is offering some unique pairing programs. The label has partnered with local purveyors to deliver some wonderfully delicious nibbles to accompany their work. The winery has teamed up with both [Miss Hannah's Gourmet Popcorn](#) and [Tillamook Creamery](#) and created special menus built around both wine-friendly snacks. It's an approachable pair of pairing flights that will change the way you snack, for the better.

#### **LATINO LEADERSHIP**

[AHIVOY](#) celebrated the graduation of its third cohort of wine students this spring. Fifteen students completed the Professional Training Program. Founded in 2019 and led by successful Latino wine professionals, the Asociación Hispana de la Industria del Vino en Oregon y Comunidad (AHIVOY)



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### ***Story Ideas, continued***

provides education and professional development opportunities to vineyard stewards in the Oregon wine industry. In partnership with Chemeketa Community College and Linfield University, AHIVOY developed a wine industry professional training curriculum to further technical knowledge while also creating awareness of potential career, entrepreneurial and leadership opportunities in the wine industry.

#### **IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE**

Like many Willamette Valley wineries, [King Estate](#) has actively looked for ways to support the people of Ukraine during the recent war. The Eugene winery showed some serious solidarity this spring, donating \$50,000 to relief organizations. They then took it a step further, producing an estate Pinot gris named [Onip](#) (the Ukrainian word for resistance), with proceeds donated to similar causes. The wine has already sold out and added another estimated \$20,000 to relief efforts. The heartfelt gesture has inspired many others to follow suit, well beyond Oregon.

#### **WHERE TO OVERNIGHT AMONG THE VINES**

The toughest thing for most Willamette Valley visitors to do is leave. That's why more and more wineries are offering accommodations, often onsite or very close to their beautiful vineyards. Places like [Abbey Road Farm](#) allow guests to stay in former silos while [Archery Summit Winery](#) offers a guest house in the popular Dundee Hills. Restaurants have followed suit, offering places for diners to wind down and stay the night after a fulfilling meal. Newberg restaurant [The Painted Lady](#) has a guest cottage right next door.

#### **SIPPING BESIDE PICTURESQUE PARKS**

Most of the wineries of the Willamette Valley provide picturesque backdrops for tastings. But it's tough to beat a winery situated near a park, where you can hike before a tasting or picnic afterwards. Wineries like [Lady Hill](#) are perfect, set next to recreational hotbeds like [Champoeg State Park](#). There's [Bluebird Cellars](#), just a short trek away from the [William N. Finley National Wildlife Refuge](#), or [Van Duzer Vineyards](#) and [Left Coast Estate](#), positioned right next to [Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge](#).



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### ***Story Ideas, continued***

#### **SURPRISING PINK WINES**

When most people think of Willamette Valley rosé, they think of Pinot noir. Yet there are all kinds of other pink wines being made here, emphasizing lesser-known grapes and ideal for enjoying on a warm afternoon. There's [Illahe](#)'s version, made from the adored Spanish grape Tempranillo. Others include the summery Syrah rosé from [Distaff](#) in Newberg, [Day Wine](#)'s mashup of Cabernet franc, Malbec and Tannat, and the delicious take from [Cana's Feast](#), made from 12 different grape varieties.

#### **ELEVATED EXPERIENTIAL TASTINGS**

While many tasting rooms have switched to more experiential tasting options, some are swinging for the fences. [Abbot Claim Vineyards](#) is launching a program this June that takes hospitality to a new level, treating guests to an immersive affair set at their estate at the base of Mt. Pisgah. Abbot Claim is now offering a forest tasting set in a patch of Douglas fir trees fit with a white table cloth tasting, emphasizing the viticultural benefits of biodiversity. Unique settings like [Archery Summit](#) walk guests through their meandering barrel cave system, wine in hand.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY AND THE BEES**

One of the Valley's leading sustainability organizations has partnered with a group supporting agriculture's favorite insect. [LIVE](#) has teamed up with [Pollinator Partnership](#) to bring awareness to the importance of bees and help create environments where our winged friends can thrive. The fertile and biologically diverse terrain of Willamette Valley wine country is ideal for bee populations and many LIVE-certified wineries, like [Fairsing Vineyard](#), will participate in the partnership, creating homes for bees on their estates.





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### EVENTS

#### MAY IN WINE COUNTRY

##### **May 2022**

May is [Oregon Wine Month](#), and wineries and tasting rooms welcome guests to a host of events celebrating the season of bloom. The month is capped by the marquee holiday stretch, [Memorial Weekend in Wine Country](#). This late-spring tradition kicks summer into gear and is celebrated by producers throughout the Valley as they open their doors for special tastings, new releases and more.

#### MCMINNVILLE FARMERS MARKET

##### **May–October 2022**

A tradition wine country visitors look forward to every summer, the [McMinnville Farmers Market](#) is among the best in the Valley. Featuring 60 local producers, the gathering happens downtown every Thursday from May 12th to October 13th. The eclectic market has everything from handmade arts and crafts to flowers, locally raised meats, an abundance of produce and prepared foods.

#### LIVE MUSIC SERIES AT COELHO

##### **May–October 2022**

[Coelho Winery](#) is hosting musical acts all summer long. The series takes place the last Saturday of the month, spanning May through October. Acts range from folk-rockers like Falcon Heart to indie-pop musicians like Hayley Lynn. Wine will be available by the glass and bottle and food will be offered by fellow Amity business Fred's Bistro.

#### 4 AMIGAS TASTING EVENT

##### **May 28, 2022**

[Cramoisi Vineyards](#) is hosting the [4 Amigas Tasting Event](#) at the end of May, featuring four locally based Latina winemakers. Vintners Cristina Gonzales, Yuliana Guillen, Elena Rodriguez and Sofia Torres have combined to create a special four-pack of wines for the event, at which they'll be pouring their work alongside charcuterie. Part of the proceeds (20%) will go towards [AHIVVOY](#), a local organization striving to educate, empower and diversify the wine industry landscape.

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### ***Events, continued***

#### **WINE COUNTRY PRIDE**

##### ***June 2022***

In its second year, [Wine Country Pride](#) (WCP), a nonprofit dedicated to creating community and support systems for the North Willamette Valley's rural LGBTQIA+ community, will celebrate Pride Month with various events in Oregon Wine Country this June, including the world's first [Queer Wine Fest](#) and the area's first ever large-scale Pride event: the [2022 Street Fair](#). Wine Country Pride kicks off June 1st with [Rainbow Quest](#), where 53 local coffee shops, wineries, restaurants, bars, and retailers in the North Willamette Valley will offer Pride-inspired drinks, food, and products throughout June to raise money for WCP and to show their love for the LGBTQIA+ community.

#### **MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAINS**

##### ***June 4, 2022***

The Allison Inn and Spa is having a [party](#) with an esteemed guest list that includes 26 area wineries. All operating within the unique Chehalem Mountains AVA, the wineries will join local restaurants like the Allison's award-winning in-house restaurant Jory and Newberg pizzeria Honey Pie for an afternoon of world-class pairings.

#### **CRUSH ON OREGON**

##### ***June 5, 2022***

The Oregon Winegrowers Association will host [Crush On Oregon](#) on June 5th in NW Portland. The event will showcase what makes Oregon wine so special and dynamic—from the state's unique climate to its world-class winemakers. Come cultivate your love for what the entire state of Oregon has to offer.

#### **QUEER WINE FEST**

##### ***June 24, 2022***

The inaugural [Queer Wine Fest](#) champions queer-owned, queer-made and queer-grown wines from 16 different wineries featuring over 30 wines from Oregon, California and Washington, taking place at



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### ***Events, continued***

[Remy Wines](#) this June. The event is the first of its kind and curated by the Willamette Valley's first lady of wine and McMinnville interim mayor, Remy Drabkin. The beloved industry member is perhaps best known for her eponymous label, focused on Italian-style wines. It is one of the most anticipated gatherings as wine country celebrates Pride Month all June through [Wine Country Pride](#).

### **FUELED BY FINE WINE**

#### ***July 17, 2022***

One of the prettiest half and quarter marathons in existence returns to Oregon wine country this summer. [Fueled by Fine Wine](#) runs several races through picturesque vineyards throughout the Dundee Hills. Largely considered one of the most challenging yet rewarding races in the nation, the half marathon features a grand tasting at the finish line and is open to 1,000 participants.

### **IPNC**

#### ***July 29-31, 2022***

The International Pinot Noir Celebration (IPNC) is back, toasting to 35 years. The annual event is a love letter to Pinot noir, showcasing winemakers from all over the planet and set within the grounds of Linfield University in McMinnville. One of the globe's preeminent gatherings devoted to Pinot noir will feature its usual lineup of events, including the awe-inspiring Salmon Bake and the Passport to Pinot, featuring more than 70 producers of the famed Burgundian grape.

### ***About the Willamette Valley Wineries Association (WVWA)***

*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. The organization also hosts Willamette: The Pinot Noir Auction, Oregon Pinot Camp, Pinot in the City, May in Wine Country, The Giving Season and the Cellar Season. Visit [www.willamettewines.com](http://www.willamettewines.com) for more info.*

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