

ZOOM WINE TASTING

Washington and Oregon

July 23, 2020

#1

Joel Gott, Pinot Gris

Rating – 90 WW 13.2%

Willamette Valley, Oregon

This Oregon Pinot Gris has aromas of citrus, fresh peach blossoms, and melon. The wine opens with bright acidity followed by notes of key lime and Crenshaw melon on the mid-palate, with the light sweetness of stone fruit on the finish.



#2

Eroica, Riesling 2017

Rating – 92 W&S, 92 JD, 91 WE,
90 JS, 90 RP 11.5%

Columbia Valley, Washington

Eroica Riesling offers sweet lime and mandarin orange aromas with subtle mineral notes. The mouth-watering acidity is beautifully balanced by flavorful Washington Riesling fruit. To achieve our Eroica style we strive for bright fruit with crisp acidity and enhanced minerality. Pair with Asian dishes, Indian curries, crab and scallops.



#3

Elk Cove, Pinot Noir 2017

Rating – 92 JS, WW 90 13.5%

Willamette Valley, Oregon

A multi-faceted nose of cherry, tobacco, violets, and pastry introduces a wine with great purity of fruit. Its fresh, rounded notes of plums, currants, and fresh candied cherries give way to finely balanced tannins in this elegant, bright wine. Pair with grilled salmon.



#4

Intrinsic Red Blend, 2017

Rating – 93 JS, 89 RP 14.5%

Columbia Valley, Washington

51% Malbec, 49% Cabernet Franc. This wine opens with refined notes of raspberry, white tea leaves, a hint of fresh mint and lavender. The flavors are layered with milk chocolate, fig reduction, dark plum and licorice root, and the texture is angular, yet sophisticated, with chocolate ganache details in the finish. Pair with beef sliders, citrus marinated pork sandwiches, beef and pork meatballs in a chipotle sauce.



Willamette Valley, Oregon

Home to distinct and elegant interpretations of Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, and Chardonnay, Oregon's Willamette Valley is quickly becoming the spot for wine enthusiasts.

This pastoral landscape may seem picture-perfect, but growing grapes in this cool corner of the world is not easy. Sunlight is scarce for much of the year, frosts occur at the most inopportune times, and the number one grape here (Pinot Noir) is notoriously sensitive. Sitting on the same latitude as some of the great wine regions of the world (Bordeaux, Burgundy), this valley stretches from north of Portland to south Eugene.



The Willamette Valley sits on the Pacific Ocean's Ring of Fire, and is defined by a rather dramatic past. Think crashing tectonic plates, volcanic eruptions, and a two-thousand-year cycle of floods. The end result: a diverse mix of marine sedimentary, volcanic, and loess soils.

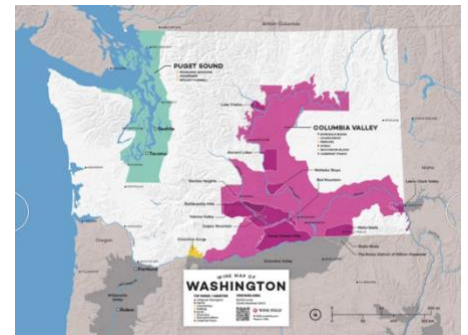
Pinot Noir takes up almost three-fourths of all plantings in the Willamette Valley. However, don't be fooled into thinking if you've tried one Pinot Noir from Oregon, you've tried them all. Wines can drastically differ from one Willamette Valley sub-region to the next. A temperature difference of just 3°C can greatly affect how the grape develops.

Pinot Gris from the region is outstanding, boasting flavors of creamy pear, melon, and cinnamon, with minimal sweetness.

Columbia Valley, Washington

If you're into bold, fruit-forward red wines and good values, then you're going to love the Columbia Valley. The eastern side of the state receives about 300 days of sunshine a year. (Compare that to the Napa Valley, which receives about 260 days/year.)

Washington also often enjoys a long, consistent growing season which allows it to produce some of the boldest red wine varieties around, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot, and even limited plantings of Petit Verdot, Mourvèdre, and Petite Sirah.



Annual rainfall in the Columbia Valley averages 6 to 8 inches (15-20 cm.) The Columbia River, as well as snowmelt from the Cascade Mountains, supplies the region's water for agriculture (including apples, of which Washington is the world's largest producer.) Columbia Valley soils are predominantly loess (wind-blown silt and sand soils created by the Missoula Floods) and result in wines with increased aromatics.

Originally known in the 1970s for its aromatic Riesling and Gewürztraminer, the Columbia Valley rose to prominence in the 1980s and 90s and impressed critics with their Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon wines. Today, nearly 60% of the region's vineyards are dedicated to full-bodied red wine varieties with Cabernet Sauvignon representing the state's top grape. What makes Columbia Valley red wines unique? Plush, fruity flavors paired with sweet-tart acidity and balanced tannins.

(Info from WineFolly.com)