

WHAT NOT TO MISS IN WASHINGTON'S BEAUTIFUL WINE COUNTRY

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Washington is a state of many talents—mountains that take your breath away, stunning water views and a wine country that is unlike any other location within its borders. Walla Walla, the heart of Washington wine's capital, has been described as "Napa in blue jeans" and has grown into an award-winning wine producing town not to be missed.

Taking just a little under one hour to fly, or a little over four hours to drive—you have your options with a smooth, easy and comfortable travel across the state—the journey is even equipped with Tesla superchargers along the way (in Ellensberg, the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla). Rolling hills, smiling neighbors, and award-winning wine— Walla Walla, Washington is a weekend getaway to experience. With hundreds of vineyards and growing tourist attractions, *Bellevue Lifestyle* set out to help narrow down what not to miss.

DOUBLEBACK WINERY

Offering an award-winning cabernet sauvignon, Doubleback Winery is the prodigy of renowned NFL Quarterback Drew Bledsoe. A winery that welcomes family home—Doubleback built its empire with the success of accolade-winning wine.

KONTOS CELLARS

Run by sixth-generation Walla Walla family and second-generation winemakers, Kontos Cellars prides themselves on being true to the grape and true to the Valley. The Main Street tasting room is inviting with its modern industrial interior and spacious back patio. Their Progeny Series, named after their daughters, and The Boss, a wine created by winemaker Cameron Kontos and his father, show that family is at the center and heart of all they do.

VA PIANO VINEYARDS

Va Piano brings the beauty and taste of Italy to you. The 13-acre Tuscany-inspired vineyard is an escape worth finding. With plenty of outside seating, the natural ambiance is as spectacular as the exclusive Black and Yellow label wines. This fall, Va Piano opens its doors to its newest, most luxurious project, Eritage Resort, including 10 luxury suites and a restaurant served by Seattle-based chef Jason Wilson.

TRANCHE CELLARS

Sitting amongst rolling hills, the Tranche tasting room is modern and sleek. The space is fitting for a contemporary special occasion, while still maintaining a relaxed vineyard charm. Get lost in conversation on the back patio, while tasting the varietals and red blends they have to offer.

FOOD

PASSATEMPO TAVERNA

New to the Walla Walla scene, Passatempo is owned by Bellevue local Mike Martin. Get ready for a delicious, fresh Italian meal—and be sure to leave room for dessert. Enjoy a sophisticated yet relaxed ambiance while dining—modern, comfortable, and colorful. Spend your spring and summer evenings with a reservation outside, sitting amongst an open sky ceiling. Owning The Walls Vineyard as well, Passatempo is a local powerhouse amidst Walla Walla.

OLIVE MARKETPLACE AND CAFÉ

Olive Marketplace and Café offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinks. Baked goods are made from scratch daily, coffee beans are roasted locally and their chefs market is impeccably curated. Their antipasto board pairs perfectly with any wine of your choice. Dining with a group for lunch? Don't miss the heirloom caprese pizza, made with fresh basil pesto.

OX & CART

From the owners of the Olive Marketplace and Cafe, Ox & Cart is the haven for Walla Walla's best fresh produce and finest meats. Intimate lighting, praiseful cocktails and an impeccable medium-rare steak, Ox & Cart shines brightly as a fabulous dinner destination.

STAY

THE INN AT ABEJA

A tucked away property that sits on 35 acres of pure goodness. Welcoming visitors from all over the world, the Inn at Abeja offers a luxurious home a away from home feel. The staff is warm, hospitable and kind. The property is quiet, well-kept and perfectly picturesque. Specializing in cabernet sauvignon, this wine sits high on its pedestal of awards. If you're lucky, you'll be greeted by "Little Dude," the miniature horse who lives on site. Leave feeling refreshed, well fed and already looking forward to your next visit.

BASAL CELLARS

An estate to suit a king and queen, Basal Cellars is sure to give you its royal treatment. The clear sky and full vineyards make for a charming view as you enjoy the array of vintage reds that the tasting room has to offer. Stay for the day or stay for the night—Basal is known for holding stunning events of all kinds. Basal Cellars can be rented as a whole for events and weddings. A backyard oasis with a pool and sun umbrellas, as well as vineyards in bloom, this is sure to be your hardest goodbye yet.

FUN

OLD HOMESTEAD ALPACAS

Take a break from wine tasting and stop at the Old Homestead Farm for a true countrylike experience. You'll be greeted by 35+ adorable alpacas and their friendly owners, Mike and Elaine. The farm is situated on the last remaining 10 acres of an old 164-acre homestead originally settled by Nathaniel S. Gholson, a pioneer from Iowa. Each year the herd's annual fiber harvest is professionally processed into luxury knitwear and then hand-dyed using farm-grown plants and flowers.