



AUTO TOUR

AAA Washington Travel Services

Washington Wine Touring

Washington is the second largest producer of premium wines in the United States (after California). The Evergreen State shares the same latitude as the renowned French wine regions of Burgundy and Bordeaux and its varied geography embraces microclimates offering prime growing conditions. The state's northerly latitude brings up to two hours more sunlight per day during the growing season than California. These long, warm days permit grapes to ripen fully, while cool nights maintain high fruit acidity. In consort, these factors produce wines described as rich, flavorful and well-balanced.

Wine making in Washington dates back to vines planted at Fort Vancouver (present-day Vancouver) in 1825. The first hybrid grape varieties appeared in the Puget Sound region as early as 1854 and the Walla Walla Valley by 1860. By the first decade of the 1900s, French, Italian and German immigrants had planted vineyards in many parts of the state. Kennewick held its first annual Columbia Valley Grape Carnival in 1910.



Kiona Vineyard, in the Red Mountain AVA near Benton City

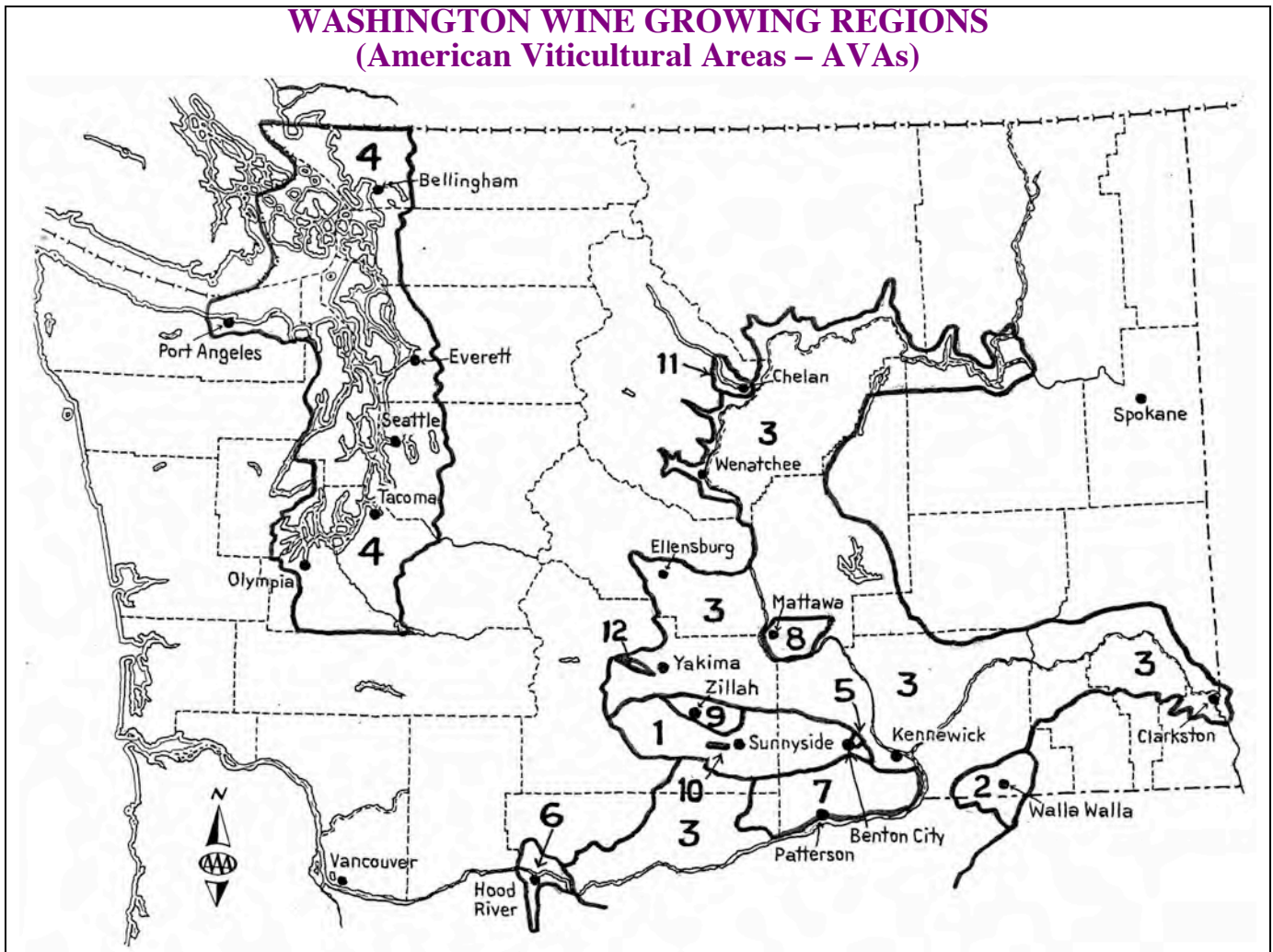
Prohibition (1920-1933) ended commercial production, but it revived in the 1930s. Stretch Island Vineyard, in southern Puget Sound, was the first port-Depression bonded winery in the state. By 1938 Washington had 42 wineries. Large-scale commercial production began in the 1960s and expanded rapidly in the 1970s. The industry established the Washington Wine Commission in 1987, to develop winemaking and labeling standards and to market the state's wines.

Today, the Evergreen State has more than 750 wineries, 50,000+ acres of vineyards with new wineries opening every month.

Wine grapes are grown in many parts of Washington, although most commercial vineyards are in the sunnier regions east of the Cascade Mountains. The federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau designates wine growing regions, officially called **American Viticultural Areas**, or AVAs, sometimes called *appellations*. The

designation recognizes the district's climate, soils and topography, which lend unique characteristics to wines produced from grapes grown in that region. A bottle of wine bearing an AVA name on its label indicates that a minimum 85 percent of its grapes were grown in that AVA.

The Yakima Valley was the first AVA in Washington (1983), followed by Walla Walla Valley (1984), Columbia Valley (1984) and Puget Sound (1985). The following map shows the location of the state's eleven AVAs – numbers refer to descriptions below the map.



1. **YAKIMA VALLEY** (AVA established 1983) – The Lower Yakima Valley, downstream from Union Gap to Benton City, contains 11,000 vineyard acres and more than 50 wineries. Primary wine grape varieties include: Chardonnay, Reising, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Major cities and towns in this AVA include Sunnyside, Grandview, Prosser and Toppenish.

2. **WALLA WALLA VALLEY** (1984) – More than 1,200 acres in vines and 90+ wineries. Principal varieties include Carbernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. Walla Walla is the major urban area.

3. **COLUMBIA VALLEY** (1984) – The Evergreen State's largest AVA extends along the Columbia River downstream from the Spokane River to the eastern flank of the Cascade Mountains and eastward along the Snake River to the Clarkston area. A number of separate AVAs have been established within Columbia Valley. With more than 16,000 vineyard acres, this AVA has 100 wineries. Major grape wine varieties are Chardonnay, Reising, Carbnernet sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. Major cities and towns include Tri-Cities area (Kennewick, Pasco, Richland), Yakima, Wenatchee, Quincy, Othello and Grand Coulee.

4. **PUGET SOUND** (1985) – This AVA covers the lowlands along Puget Sound from south of Olympia to the Canadian border, including the northeastern part of the Olympic Peninsula, Whidbey Island and the San Juans. While vineyards total less than 140 acres, there are 100+ wineries in the region, most importing grapes from eastern Washington. Primary grape varieties grown include Madeleine Angevine, Müller Thurgau, Siegerrebe, Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris. Woodinville, northeast of Seattle, has the largest concentration of wineries.

5. **RED MOUNTAIN** (2001) – At the eastern end of the Yakima Valley, Washington's smallest AVA has over 710 acres in vineyard and a dozen wineries. Red Mountain produces Cabernet sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Lemberger, Malbec, Cabernet

franc and Sangiovese. Benton City is the closest town to the AVA, but the Tri-Cities are less than 15 miles east.

6. **COLUMBIA GORGE** (2004) – The eastern flanks of the gorge in both Washington and Oregon contains 350 vineyard acres and 15+ wineries. Principal varieties include Chardonnay, Gewürtztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir and Zinfandel. Hood River is the major city, with Bingen and White Salmon on the Washington bank.

7. **HORSE HEAVEN HILLS** (2005) – Located between the Yakima Valley and the Columbia River, this AVA has over 6,600 acres in vines and 5+ wineries. Major varieties produced are Cabernet sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Riesling, Chardonnay and Sauvignon blanc. The major urban area is Tri-Cities, just northeast of the AVA.

8. **WAHLUKE SLOPE** (2006) – Located between Saddle Mountain and the Columbia River, Wahluke Slope has 5,200 vineyard acres, but less the 5 wineries. Primary grape varieties: Riesling, Merlot, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Mattawa is the largest town in the AVA; Othello is about 20 miles east.

9. **RATTLESNAKE HILLS** (2006) – Encompassing the southern flanks of its namesake range of hills south to the Sunnyside Canal, this AVA has 1500 acres of wine grapes and 17 wineries. Prime grape varieties are Cabernet sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Riesling and Chardonnay. Zillah is the major gateway town; Toppenish and Sunnyside are nearby.

10. **SNIPES MOUNTAIN** (2009) – Covering 4,145 acres on its namesake ridge rising above the Yakima Valley floor, this AVA has nearly 600 vineyard acres and 1 winery. Major varieties include Cabernet sauvignon, Pinot noir, Semillon and Syrah. Sunnyside lies at the eastern end of Snipes Mountain, Granger at the west.

11. **LAKE CHELAN** (2009) – Wrapping around the eastern end of Lake Chelan, this 24,000-acre AVA has 260-acres in vineyards and 15 wineries. Two dozen varieties of grape are grown on the mountain, including Semillon, Chardonnay, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. Chelan and Manson are the largest towns in the area.

12. **NACHES HEIGHTS** (2012) – Located on an 11-mile long plateau northwest of Yakima, this 13,254-acre AVA has more than 37 acres in vineyards and 7 wineries. Varietals grown here include Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot, Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah, Mourvedre, Voignier, Barbera, Nebbiolo, Sangiovese, Sagrantino, Pinot Gris, White Muscat, Souzao, Tinta Cao, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz. The towns of Tieton and Cowiche lie within the AVA.

WINE TOURING



With such a large number of wineries it isn't surprising that there is a range of wine touring options available. To some, the best experience is a visit to a winery located amid vineyards. These so-called **estate wineries** bottle wines from grapes grown on their property or from vineyards owned by the winery. Many wineries, however, are located in areas remote from vineyards.

The **tasting room** is where visitors sample wine. Tasting rooms are often located at a winery. Some, however, are located in or near urban areas to take advantage of the larger market and are not located at a winery. Another trend is for smaller wineries to share production facilities and/or tasting rooms – these are usually located in a city or town.

Most wineries in Washington are open to the public. Opening times may vary by day of week and season and some wineries are closed during the slower winter months. Some smaller wineries are open very limited hours or by appointment. Some wineries offer tours, which may be either on request or by prior arrangement. A few offer public tours on a regular schedule. Wineries listed in AAA's *Washington TourBook* offer some type of tour. Pick up wine touring brochures at wineries or area tourist information centers. These feature helpful locator maps.

The following areas have concentrations of wineries and/or tasting rooms and are conducive to wine touring. Suggested touring routes are included, as well as cities or towns that have a cluster of wineries and/or tasting rooms. Individual wineries are mentioned below if they are open to the public a minimum of five days per week on a regular schedule.

Wenatchee Valley

The Wenatchee Valley, between Leavenworth and the Columbia River is an emerging wine growing region within the Columbia Valley AVA. Vineyards are found scattered among the valley's apple and pear orchards and along the Columbia River downstream from Wenatchee. Wineries are located near Leavenworth, Peshastin, Wenatchee and East Wenatchee.

TOURING ROUTES – U.S. Highway 2 traverses the valley from Leavenworth to Wenatchee (east of Peshastin it shares the route of US-97). Highway 28 runs south from US-2 through East Wenatchee to Rock Island.

WINE TOURING TOWNS – LEAVENWORTH is a popular destination for travelers. Located near the base of high mountains at the western extreme of the Wenatchee Valley, the town has a Bavarian architectural theme. Front Street and surrounding blocks offer colorful shops, cafes and restaurants. Accommodations range from quaint bed and breakfasts and

European-style boutique properties to small-scale hotels. More than half a dozen **tasting rooms** are located in town – most are on Front Street or Ninth Street. The **Leavenworth Wine Tasting Festival** occurs on the third weekend in August.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Icicle Ridge Winery** (www.icicleridgewinery.com) – 4 mi. e. of Leavenworth on US, 2, then 1 mi. n. of Peshastin on Main Street and North Road to 8977 North Road. Open daily noon-5. Phone (509) 548-7019
- **Wedge Mountain Winery** (www.wedgemountainwinery.com) – 4 mi. e. of Leavenworth via US-2, to 9534 Saunders Rd. in Peshastin. Phone (509) 548-7068

WENATCHEE is the major urban area in the district, enjoying a scenic setting on the Columbia River at the base of Mission Ridge. The city has a plethora of restaurants and accommodations.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Chateau Faire le Pont** (www.fairelepont.com) – North side of Wenatchee, off US-2/97 next to railroad tracks at 1 Vineyard Way. Open daily 11-6. Phone (509) 667-9463 or (888) 874-9463
- **Saint Laurent Winery** (www.saintlaurent.net) – 5 mi. s.e. of Wenatchee on Malaga-Alcoa Hwy., then s. on W. Malaga Rd. to 4147 Hamlin Rd. in Malaga. Open Friday and Saturday 11-6, Sunday 12-5. Phone (509) 888-9463

Lake Chelan



The benches and hillsides overlooking the east end of Lake Chelan, long known as apple country, are sprouting new vineyards every year. More than a dozen wineries pepper this scenic area. The Lake Chelan Valley earned Washington's 11th AVA designation in May 2009.

TOURING ROUTES – From Chelan, take SR-150 northwest to Manson – signs direct you to nearby wineries. A few more wineries are found on the lake's south shore; take US-97 Alt. west from Chelan.

← *Benson Vineyards overlook Lake Chelan*

WINE TOURING TOWNS – **CHELAN** is a popular destination at the eastern end of its namesake lake. Downtown Chelan has many interesting shops, galleries and boutiques. Lakeside beaches beckon during the warm summer months. Slidewaters, a family water park, is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. For more information on area wine touring, visit www.lakechelanwinevalley.com.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Benson Vineyards Estate Winery** (www.bensonvineyards.com) – 5 mi. n.w. of Chelan on SR-150, then e. on Winesap Ave. Open daily 11-5. Phone (509) 687-0313
- **Lake Chelan Winery** (www.lakechelanwinery.com) – 5 mi. n.w. of Chelan on SR-150 at 3519 SR-150. Open daily 11am-9pm May-Oct.; daily 11-5 Nov.-Apr. Phone (509) 687-9463
- **Tildio Winery** (www.tildio.com) – 7 mi. n.w. of Chelan at 70 E. Wapato Lake Rd. in Manson. Open Weds.-Sun. noon-5, until 6 Fri.-Sat. Phone (509) 687-8463
- **Tsillan Cellars** (www.tsillancellars.com) – west of Chelan on US-97 Alt. at 3875 Highway 97A. Open daily 11-7 May-Oct.; Wed.-Sun. noon-5 Nov.-Apr. Phone (509) 682-9463
- **Vin du Lac** (www.vindulac.com) – just n.w. of Chelan on SR-150. Open daily 11-6 (11-7 Fri.-Sat.) Phone (509) 682-2882
- **Wapato Point Cellars** (www.wapatopointcellars.com) – 7 mi. n.w. of Chelan via SR-150 at 200 Quetilquason Rd. in Manson. Open daily noon-7. Phone (509) 687-4000

Yakima Valley

The Yakima Valley is one of Washington's most popular wine touring areas. The valley encompasses three separate basins from Selah in the north, to Yakima proper in the middle, and the lower Yakima Valley, which extends southeastward. The great majority of the wineries are concentrated in the lower valley, north of the

Yakima River between Wapato and Benton City. The valley includes the Yakima Valley AVA, Rattlesnake Hills AVA and Red Mountain AVA.

Yakima Valley wineries participate in a series of annual events: *Red Wine and Chocolate* (President's Day weekend); *Spring Barrel Tasting* (last full weekend in April); *Thanksgiving in Wine Country* (Thanksgiving holiday weekend).



Chandler Reach Vineyard at the east end of Yakima Valley, near Benton City.

TOURING ROUTES – Interstate 82 travels the length of the valley from north of Selah to the Tri-Cities area. The Wine Country Road, also known as Yakima Valley Highway, is a parallel alternative route between I-82 exit 44 near Wapato and Prosser. Side roads branch north into the vineyards – winery directional signs are plentiful.

For more information on this wine region visit the **Wine Yakima Valley** Web site - www.wineyakimavalley.org. The **Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail** links 17 wineries in its namesake AVA (see under Zillah, below).

Motor coach, limousine, van tours: **Moonlit Ride Limousine** (www.moonlitride.com), 3908 River Rd., Yakima; phone (509) 575-6846. **Top Hat Limousine** (www.tophatlimos.com), 1711 Birchfield Rd., Yakima; phone (509) 469-6400.

WINE TOURING TOWNS – YAKIMA is the metropolis of the region and a great base for exploring the valley's wine country. The city is a popular convention venue, so it's a good idea to make advance lodging reservations (contact your nearest AAA office). The **Yakima Valley Visitor Information Center**, built in the Tuscan style, has a wealth of information on wine touring. The center is at 101 N. Fair Avenue, off I-82 southbound exit 33B, northbound exit 33; phone (509) 573-3388 or (800) 221-0751.

The historic district on N. Front Street north of Yakima Avenue has several **restaurants** (Café Melange and Greystone) that pair eastern Washington wines with their cuisine. Gasperetti's, 1013 N. First Street, is another local favorite with an extensive wine list. There are a number of tasting rooms in downtown Yakima.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Kana Winery** (www.kanawinery.com) has a downtown tasting room at 10 S. 2nd St. Open Mon.-Sat. noon-6:30, Sun. noon-5. Phone (509) 453-6611

WAPATO, a dozen miles south of Yakima, has adopted a Southwest Desert architectural theme for buildings in its central business district. There are a number of wineries north of town along Interstate 82.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Piety Flats Winery** (www.pietyflatswinery.com) is s. of I-82 exit 44 near Wapato. Open daily 10-6 Apr.-Oct.; daily 10-5 Nov.-Dec.; Sat.-Sun. noon-5 Jan.-Feb. Phone (509) 877-3115

TOPPENISH, 3 miles south of I-82 exit 50, is one of the valley's most interesting towns. Seventy colorful murals decorate the exterior of buildings mostly in the central business district, lending Toppenish its nickname, the "City of Murals." Horse-drawn carriage rides offer a fun way to see the sights and learn about the mural program. Attractions include the American Hop Museum, Northern Pacific Railway Museum and the Yakama Nation Cultural Center.



Claar Cellars production facility.

ZILLAH is the major gateway to the **Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail** (www.rattlesnakehills.com), linking the 17 wineries of its namesake AVA (north of Wapato, Zillah and Outlook); for information call (888) 375-7498. The *Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail Passport* (\$5) offers discounts on wines purchased at their wineries.

The town has adopted a Tuscan architectural theme. One of Zillah's more interesting attractions is **El Ranchito**, on the east side of town on the Yakima Valley Hwy., is an authentic Mexican restaurant, store and cultural center serving the area's Latino community.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Bonair Winery** (www.bonairwine.com), n. of Zillah on Cheyne, w. on Highland Dr. to 500 S. Bonair Rd. Open daily 10-5. Phone (509) 829-6027
- **Claar Cellars** (www.claarcellars.com) n.w. of I-82 exit 52 in Zillah. Open daily 10-6. Phone (509) 829-6810
- **Hyatt Vineyards** (www.hyattvineyards.com) , n. of Zillah via Cheyne Rd. to 2020 Gilbert Rd. Open daily 11-5. Phone (509) 829-6333
- **Maison de Padgett Winery** (www.maisondepadgettwinery.com), n. of Zillah on Cheyne Rd. & Highland Rd. to 2231 Rosa Dr. Open Thur.-Mon. 11-5, Apr.-Nov. Phone (509) 829-6412
- **Paradisos del Sol** (www.paradisosdelsol.com) is n. of Zillah on Cheyne Rd. to 3230 Highland Dr. Open daily 11-6. Phone (509) 829-9000
- **Portteus Vineyards** (www.portteus.com) is n. of Zillah on Cheyne Rd., then e. on Highland Dr. to 5201 Highland Dr. Open daily 10-5. Phone (509) 829-6970
- **Silver Lake at Roza Hills** (www.silverlakewinery.com/zillah.htm) is n. of Zillah via Cheyne Rd., e. on Highland Dr. to 1500 Vintage Rd. Open daily 10-5 Apr.-Nov.; Thu.-Sun. 11-4 Dec.-Mar. Phone (509) 829-6235
- **Tefft Cellars** (www.tefftcellars.com) is 3 mi. n. of Outlook on N. Outlook Rd., w. to 1320 Independence Rd. Open daily 10-5. Phone (888) 549-7244
- **Two Mountain Winery** (www.twomountainwinery.com) is 2 mi. n. of Zillah on Cheyne Rd. Open daily 10-6 mid-Feb.-Nov. Phone (509) 829-3900

GRANGER, at I-82 exit 58, bills itself as the place *Where Dinosaurs Roam*. Dozens of colorful replicas of prehistoric creatures can be seen throughout the town. The biggest cluster is in **Hisey Park**, also known as Dino Park, embracing an artificial lake on the town's south side. The park is a half-mile south of I-82 exit 58 on SR-223, then right on Main Street. It's a pleasant spot for a picnic and the dinosaurs, many placed amid playground equipment, are endlessly fascinating for children, especially the younger kids. A path encircles the lake and on summer weekends you can rent paddleboats. Completing the prehistoric theme, the park's restrooms are shaped like a volcano and the snack bar is called the Dino-Store.



PROSSER anchors the southern part of the Yakima Valley. Located on the south bank of the Yakima River with the grassy Horse Heaven Hills forming its southern backdrop, Prosser is known as the “Birthplace of Washington’s Wine Industry.” The city’s link to wine dates back to the 1930s, when Walter Clore (1911-2003) began growing some of the state’s first *vinifera* grapes at Washington State University’s Prosser research facility. Dr. Clore discovered that Eastern Washington was well suited to viticulture, and growers slowly started experimenting with the crop. Hogue Cellars opened Prosser’s first winery in 1982, a time when Washington’s viticulture was in its infancy.

There are some interesting shops in downtown Prosser. Many of the buildings have been spruced up – check out the restored Princess Theater. For a panoramic view of the valley and distant Cascade volcanoes, head 2½ miles south on SR-221 to **Horse Heaven Vista** [NOTE: no left turn into vista for southbound traffic; continue past the vista and make the first safe turn so you can approach the viewpoint from the south].

□Irrigation makes the Yakima Valley a gardenlike patchwork of vineyards and row crops.

Wine related events in Prosser: *Wine Country Spring Fair* (May, Mother’s Day weekend); *Prosser Wine and Food Fair* (second Saturday in August); *Great Prosser Balloon Rally & Catch the Crush* (last full weekend in September).

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Alexandria Nicole Cellars** (www.alexandrianicolecellars.com) is e. of I-82 exit 82 via Wine Country Rd., left on Benitz, right on Lee Rd. Open daily 11-5. Phone (509) 786-3497
- **Desert Wind Winery** (www.desertwindwinery.com) is just w. of I-82 exit 82. Open daily 10-5 May-Sept., 11-5 Oct.-Apr. Phone (509) 786-7277
- **Cowan Vineyards** (www.cowanvineyards.com) is e. of I-82 exit 82 via Wine Country Rd., left on Benitz, right on Lee Rd. Open daily 12-4 (10-5 Saturdays). Phone (509) 788-0200.
- **Hogue Cellars** (www.hoguecellars.com) is e. of I-82 exit 82 via Wine Country Rd., left on Benitz, right on Lee Rd. Open daily 10-5; call for hours Dec.-Feb. Phone (800) 565-9779
- **Kestrel Vintners** (www.kestrelwines.com) is e. of I-82 exit 82 via Wine Country Rd., left on Benitz, right on Lee Rd. Open daily 10-5. Phone (888) 343-2675
- **Snoqualmie Vineyards** (www.snoqualmie.com) is s. of I-82 exit 82 on SR-221 at 660 Frontier Rd. Open daily 10-5. Phone (800) 852-0885
- **Willow Crest Winery** (www.willowcrestwinery.com) is e. of I-82 exit 80 on Merlot Rd. Open daily 10-5. Phone (509) 786-7999
- **Yakima River Winery** (www.yakimariverwinery.com) is w. of Prosser on N. River Rd. Open daily 10-5. Phone (509) 786-2805.

Tri-Cities Area

Composed of **KENNEWICK, PASCO** and **RICHLAND**, plus surrounding suburban communities, the Tri-Cities comprise the second largest urban area in eastern Washington. Despite the desert-like climate (annual rainfall is less than eight inches), water is a major feature of the landscape. The Columbia River – here three quarters of a mile wide – courses through the site from north to south. Between Richland and Kennewick, the Columbia receives the Yakima River and just downstream from Pasco, the Snake, mightiest of the tributaries, joins her parent stream.

Pasco, oldest of the Tri-Cities, started as a railroad construction camp in 1880. Sprawling railroad yards still dominate the city's east side. Downtown Pasco today more resembles a small Mexican city with block after block of shops and stores catering to the region's sizeable Hispanic population. Kennewick grew slowly, serving as a supply center for surrounding farms. Today it's the most populous of the triad. The region's economy changed drastically in 1942 when the government moved tens of thousands of people into the area to work on the top-secret Manhattan Project. This gave rise to the planned city of Richland. After World War II, the Tri-Cities economy diversified as industrial concerns moved in to take advantage of cheap power.



Harvest time at Badger Mountain Vineyard

Agriculture remains important and vineyards proliferate in all directions. The hot summer days and cool nights, in combination with rich, volcanic soils, create a perfect *terroir* for crafting premium wines.

The Columbia Valley AVA surrounds Tri-Cities. Other AVAs are nearby: Red Mountain near Benton City to the west; Horse Heaven Hills southwest; and Walla Walla lies southeast. With more than 160 wineries within an hour's drive, Tri-Cities has become a popular base for wine touring.

SELECTED WINERIES IN TRI-CITIES

- **Badger Mountain Vineyard / Powers Winery** (www.badgermntvineyard.com) is n. of I-82 exit 109 via Badger Mountain Rd., left on Leslie, left on Rachel to 1106 Jurupa St., in Kennewick. Open daily 10-5. Phone (800) 643-9463
- **Barnard Griffin Winery** (www.barnardgriffin.com) is s. of I-182 exit 3 via Columbia Park Trail and Windmill Rd. at 878 Tulip Ln. in Richland. Open daily 10-6 May-Oct., call for hours rest of year. Phone (509) 627-0266
- **Goose Ridge Estate Vineyard and Winery** (www.goosebridge.com) is off I-82 exit 104 at 16304 N. Dallas Rd., Richland. Open daily 10-6. Phone (509) 628-3880
- **J. Bookwalter Winery** (www.bookwalterwines.com) is s. of I-182 exit 3 via Columbia Park Trail and Windmill Rd. at 894 Tulip Ln. in Richland. Open daily 11-8 Sun.-Tue., 11-11 Wed.-Sat. March-Oct.; call for off-season hours Phone (877) 667-8300.
- **Preston Wine Cellars** (www.prestonwines.com) is 5 mi. n. of Pasco, via US-395 to 502 E. Vineyard Dr. Open daily 10-5:30. Phone (509) 545-1990 ext. 10

SELECTED WINERIES – RED MOUNTAIN A.V.A.

- **Fidelitas** (www.fidelitaswines.com) is n.e. of I-82 exit 96 on SR-224, then n. on Sunset Rd. Open daily 10-5 (summer), Thu-Sun 11-5 (winter) or by appointment. Phone (509) 588-3649
- **Kiona Vineyards Winery** (www.kionawine.com) is n.e. of I-82 exit 96 on SR-224, then n. on Sunset Rd. Open daily noon-5. Phone (509) 588-6716
- **Terra Blanca Winery and Estate Vineyard** (www.terrablanca.com) is n.e. of I-82 exit 96 on SR-224, then n. DeMoss Rd. Open daily 11-6. Phone (509) 588-6082

Walla Walla Area

WALLA WALLA has been described as “the next Napa,” for its dynamic wine scene. Grape growing in the surrounding valley dates back to pioneer plantings in the late 1850s. Italian immigrants established the region's first bonded post-Prohibition winery in the early 1950s, which lasted only a few years. The first commercial winery started in 1977 and by the end of that decade several boutique wineries had gained a reputation for quality wines. In 1984, the Walla Walla Valley had four wineries and 60 acres in grapes. Early growth of the industry

was slow, but accelerated in the mid-1990s. Today there are more than 1,800 acres in vineyard and the number of wineries exceeds 100 – these numbers are increasing every year.



Northstar Winery, set amid vineyards south of Walla Walla, specializes in Merlot

The city of Walla Walla is compelling as well. Carefully preserved buildings of brick and stone grace its downtown area. Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century homes nestle among trees in surrounding residential districts. The valley's bounty attracted settlers in the mid-1800s. Historical attractions such as Fort Walla Walla and Whitman Mission National Historic Site recall these early days. Whitman College, the oldest in Washington (1859), is a renowned institute of higher education.

The city has a collection of good restaurants and lodging venues. For a good meal try The Marc, Grapefields, Whitehouse-Crawford (the building also houses Seven Hills Winery), Maccarone's and Back Stage Bistro – all downtown. The beautifully restored Marcus Whitman Hotel is the city's landmark hostelry. More on things to see and do in and around Walla Walla are available on AAA Washington's *Destination Focus: Walla Walla*. Request it from your nearest AAA Washington office.

Wine Related Events in Walla Walla: *Spring Release Weekend* (first weekend in May); *Walla Walla Hot Air Balloon Stampede* (Mother's Day Weekend); *Holiday Barrel Tasting* (early Dec.).

Motor coach, limousine, van tours: **Black Tie Limos** (www.blacktielimos.net) offers customized limousine tours to area wineries (minimum 3 hours), phone (509) 525-8585.

SELECTED WINERIES

The following list of wineries, organized geographically, includes those open to the public at least five days per week. For more visit the **Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance** at www.wallawallawine.com.

CENTRAL WALLA WALLA WINERIES & TASTING ROOMS

- **Amavi Cellars** (www.amavicellars.com) – s. on SR-125 to Taumaron Rd, then s. to 3796 Peppers Bridge Rd. Open daily 10-4. Phone (509) 525-3541.
- **Canoe Ridge Vineyard** (www.canoeridgevineyard.com) – 1102 W. Cherry St. Open daily 11-5. Phone (509) 527-0885.
- **Forgeron Cellars** (www.forgeroncellars.com) – 33 W. Birch Street. Open daily 11-4. Phone (509) 522-9463.
- **Fort Walla Walla Cellars** (www.fortwallawallacellars.com) – downtown tasting room at 127 E. Main St. Open Thurs.-Mon., 10-4:30. Phone (509) 520-1095.
- **Foundry Vineyards** (www.wallawallafoundry.com) is at 13th Ave. and Abadie St. Open Tues.-Sat. 11-5. Phone (509) 529-0736.
- **Sapolil Cellars** (www.sapolilcellars.com) – 15 E. Main St. Open Tues.-Sun. 1 to 4. Phone (509) 520-5258.
- **Seven Hills Winery** (www.sevenhillswinery.com) – 212 N. Third Ave. Open Thurs.-Mon. 10-5. Phone (509) 529-7198.
- **Whitman Cellars** (www.whitmancellars.com) – 1015 W. Pine St. Open daily 11-5. Phone (509) 529-1142.

SOUTH OF WALLA WALLA

- **Basel Cellars Estate Winery** (www.baselcellars.com) – 5 mi. s. via SR-125 at 2901 Old Milton Highway. Open daily 10-4. Phone (509) 522-0200.
- **Northstar Winery** (www.northstarmerlot.com) – 6 mi. s. via Plaza Way, Braden Rd., Stateline Rd. to 1736 J.B. George Rd. Open Mon.-Sat., 10-4; Sun. 11-4. Phone (509) 525-6100.
- **Pepper Bridge Winery** (www.pepperbridge.com) – 6 mi. s. via Plaza Way, Braden Rd, Stateline Rd to 1704 J.B. George Rd. Open daily 10-4. Phone (509) 525-6502.

EAST OF WALLA WALLA

- **Dunham Cellars** (www.dunhamcellars.com) – Near Walla Walla Regional Airport at 150 E. Boeing Ave. Open daily 11-4. Phone (509) 529-4685.
- **Leonetti Cellar** (www.leonetticellar.com) – 1875 Foothills Lane. Storied Leonetti is the oldest winery in the region, established in 1977. Not open to the public.
- **Russell Creek Winery** (www.russellcreek-winery.com) Near Walla Walla Regional Airport at 301 Aeronca Ave. Open daily 11-4. Phone (509) 522-6515.

WEST OF WALLA WALLA

- **L'Ecole No. 41** (www.lecole.com) – 16 mi. w. on US-12 in Lowden. Open daily 10-5. Phone (509) 525-0940.
- **Reininger Winery** (www.reiningerwinery.com) – 6 mi. w. at 5858 Old Highway 12. Open daily 10-6 (till 5 in winter). Phone (509) 522-1994.
- **Three Rivers Winery** (www.threeriverswinery.com) – 6 mi. w. at 5641 Old Highway 12. Open daily 10-6. Phone (509) 526-9463.
- **Woodward Canyon Winery** (www.woodwardcanyon.com) – 16 mi. w. on US-12 in Lowden. Open daily 10-4:30. Phone (509) 525-4129.

Columbia Valley

Washington's largest AVA contains a wide variety of microclimates. Several its component districts areas are presented as separate wine touring areas: **Lake Chelan**, **Wenatchee Valley** and the **Tri-Cities**. Yet, there are a number of wineries scattered elsewhere in this sprawling AVA.

Cave B Inn at Sagecliff (www.sagecliffe.com/Inn.htm) is a lodging set amid vineyards on cliffs 900 feet above the east bank of the Columbia River, between George and Quincy. The resort also has a full-service health spa and **Tendrils Restaurant** (see Cave B Estate Winery, below).

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Cave B Estate Winery** (www.sagecliffe.com/Cave_B_Winery.htm) is 6 mi. n. of I-90 exit 143 on Silica Rd (between George and Quincy). Open daily 11-5:30 (11-7 Fri-Sat in summer). Phone (509) 785-3500
- **Cascade Cliffs Vineyard and Winery** (www.cascadecliffs.com) is on SR-14 near Wishram. Open daily 10-6. Phone (509) 767-1100.
- **Columbia Crest** (www.columbia-crest.com) is 1 mi. n. of Paterson on SR-221. Open daily 10-4:30. Phone (888) 309-9463
- **Maryhill Winery** (www.maryhillwinery.com) is 5 mi. w. of US-97 junction (Maryhill) on SR-14. Open daily 10-6. Phone (877) 627-9445

Columbia Gorge

The Columbia River has carved a magnificent path through the Cascade Range. The mountains form a climatic barrier between the mild, humid west and the drier east, where seasonal temperature ranges are more extreme. These diverse weather conditions make the Gorge a natural wind tunnel. The Columbia Gorge AVA occupies the eastern part of the Gorge, centered on Bingen, White Salmon and Lyle on the Washington bank and Hood River and its namesake valley on the Oregon side. Some of the vineyards are on benches above the river, others are on the flats facing the Columbia; still more cluster near Lyle and in the Hood River Valley and near Mosier, Oregon. Snowcapped volcanic peaks (Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood) form a backdrop, adding to the scenic allure of the region.



Vineyards dot the bench above Underwood – Mt. Hood forms a scenic backdrop.

Although some early settlers planted grapes in the late 1800s, it wasn't until the late 1980s and early 1990s that small-scale commercial wine production began.

TOURING ROUTES – The Lewis and Clark Highway (SR-14) follows the Columbia on the Washington bank between Underwood, Bingen and Lyle. Interstate 84 follows the Oregon shore. Several scenic routes lead south from Hood River to the half-dozen wineries in the Hood River Valley. East of Hood River, be sure to drive the spectacular 9-mile Rowena Loops Road, part of the old historic highway, between I-84 exit 69 at Mosier and exit 76 at Rowena.

Most of the wineries in the area are small, family operations and are open weekends or by appointment. For more information contact the **Columbia Gorge Wine Growers Association** (www.columbiagorgewine.com); phone (866) 413-9463.

WINE TOURING TOWNS – HOOD RIVER is the largest city in the area. It faces the Columbia River and spreads over a series of terraces between its namesake stream and Indian Creek. Views stretch across the river to Bingen and White Salmon on the Washington bank. The Hood River Valley, famous for its orchards, extends south toward the base of Mount Hood. The traditional fruit packing industries are still important, but contemporary Hood River, thanks to the persistent gorge winds, is increasingly renowned as a world mecca for the adventure sport of windsurfing. The small city is dynamic. Its central business district along Oak and Cascade streets, hums with activity, spruced up storefronts and new businesses. You'll find trendy eateries, a brewpub, eclectic shops, galleries and boutiques and numerous outdoor recreation outfitters, plus several winery tasting rooms and bistros.

There is also a wide range of lodgings in the area, including the historic **Columbia Gorge Hotel** (www.columbiagorgehotel.com), perched on a cliff west of the city, and the downtown **Hood River Hotel** (www.hoodriverhotel.com), another historic property

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Cathedral Ridge Winery** (www.cathedralridgewinery.com) is at 4200 Post Canyon Dr. Open daily 11-5. Phone (800) 516-8710
- **Mount Hood Winery** (www.mthoodwinery.com) is at 3185 Highway 35. Open daily 11-5, Apr.-Thanksgiving. Phone (541) 383-8333
- **Pheasant Valley Winery** (www.pheasantvalleywinery.com) is at 3890 Acree Dr. Open daily 11-6 May-Oct., daily 11-5 Nov.-Dec. & Feb.-Apr. Phone (866) 357-9463
- **Phelps Creek Vineyards** (www.phelpscreekvineyards.com) is at 1850 Country Club Rd. Open daily 11-5 (by appointment in January). Phone (541) 386-2607
- **Quenett Winery** (www.quenett.com) is downtown at 111 Oak St. Open daily noon-6 (noon-8 Fri-Sat). Phone (541) 386-2229

Across the Columbia from Hood River, **BINGEN** grew up as a supply point for area orchards. Neighboring **WHITE SALMON** is located atop a bluff above the confluence of its namesake river (named for the pale color of spawned out salmon) with the Columbia. Orchards and small vineyards fringe the outskirts. The bench-top location affords a panoramic view across the Columbia to Hood River and Mount Hood. The two towns have Bavarian architectural motifs – many early settlers came from Germany. White Salmon has the only **Glockenspiel Tower** west of the Mississippi, located at Jewett and Main streets.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Wind River Cellars** (www.windrivercellars.com) is n. of SR-14 at Underwood via SR-141. At Husum turn left on Spring Creek Rd., following signs. Open daily 10-6. Phone (509) 493-2324

LYLE, 9 miles east of Bingen on S-14, prospered as an outfitting center for surrounding ranches. There are a number of wineries off Canyon Road and the Old Highway, northwest of town.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Cor Cellars** (www.corcellars.com) is n.w. of Lyle via Canyon Road and Old Highway 8. Open Thurs.-Sun. 11-6 Apr.-Nov, by appointment rest of year. Phone (509) 365-2744
- **Marshal's Winery and Vineyard** (www.marshalsvineyard.com) is 9 mi. e. of Lyle on SR-14, then n. on Oak Creek Rd. (n.e. of Dallesport) Open daily 9-6. Phone (509) 767-4633

Spokane Area

Though not in a wine growing region, **SPOKANE** has a number of wineries and tasting rooms downtown and east of the city. The city also has a wealth of lodging and dining venues, a rich cultural life and a compelling architectural legacy. The scenic Spokane River slices through the heart of the city, thundering over Spokane Falls at Riverfront Park. The park is a legacy of Expo 74, a World's Fair that celebrated environmental awareness.



The historic Cliff House at Arbor Crest

Outdoor recreation abounds. The area is noted for its affordable golf and in winter nearby Mount Spokane beckons downhill and cross-country skiers and snowboarders. The **Centennial Trail** is a paved, multi-use recreational trail linking Riverside State Park, north of the city, with the Idaho border.

Spokane has a diverse collection of accommodations. The beautifully restored **Davenport Hotel and Towers** (AAA Four Diamond) recalls the city's Age of Elegance. Sip wine in the Davenport's **Peacock Room** or enjoy a delicious meal in the **Palm Court Grill**. Across First Avenue stands the **Hotel Lusso**, whose corner **Fugazzi** restaurant has a sleek, modern décor. **Niko's**, at Post and Riverside, features Greek and Middle Eastern cuisine and one of Spokane's most extensive wine lists. **Moxie**, 816 W. Sprague, offers Euro-Asian cuisine. Other great downtown eateries include: **Mizuna Restaurant and Wine Bar** (inventive International and Northwest cuisine at 214 N. Howard), **Steam Plant Grill** (located in an historic industrial building at 159 S. Lincoln); **Luigi's**, 245 W. Main, offers tasty Italian cuisine and a large selection of wine.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Arbor Crest Wine Cellars** (www.arborcrest.com) is 6½ mi. e. of Spokane on I-90 to exit 287, then n. on Argonne Rd., then e. on Upriver Dr. to 4705 N. Fruithill Rd. Open daily noon-5. Phone (509) 927-9463
Arbor Crest also has a **Tasting Room** in downtown Spokane at 808 W. Main St. Open daily. Phone (509) 747-3903
- **Knipprath Cellars** (www.knipprath-cellars.com) is in Spokane Valley near Felts Field airport at 5634 E. Commerce Ave. Open Wed.-Sun. noon-5. Phone (509) 543-5121
- **Latah Creek Wine Cellars** (www.latahcreek.com) is n.e. of I-90 exit 289 at 13030 E. Indiana Ave., in Spokane Valley. Open daily 9-5. Phone (509) 926-0164

Motor coach, limousine, van tours: **Spokane Winery Tours** (www.spokanewinerytours.com) offers guided van tours of the area's wineries and tasting rooms; phone (509) 280-2560

Western Washington

Western Washington has a large number of wineries, but is not a major wine growing region. The mild, relatively damp climate prevalent in much of the area precludes large-scale production. A number of wineries specialize in grape varieties that do well in this area. The major concentration of wineries is in the Woodinville area, northeast of Seattle. Smaller clusters are in the northern Olympic Peninsula between Port Angeles and Sequim, in Whatcom County and in the South Puget Sound area centered on Olympia, although the majority of these wineries are open very limited hours.

Motor coach, limousine, van tours: **Bon Vivant Wine Tours** (www.bonvivanttours.com) offers half-day and full-day wine tours of Woodinville wineries. They also have multi-day tours to other wine producing areas in Washington on selected dates. Phone (206) 437-1298.

WINE TOURING TOWNS – WOODINVILLE is western Washington’s “Wine Capital.” Located 15 miles northeast of downtown Seattle, just east of I-405 exit 23, the area has 35+ wineries. Many are small operations, open weekends only, open by appointment, or not open to the public. Yet, Woodinville also has some of the state’s largest wineries, including Chateau Ste. Michelle and Columbia. The wineries are scattered throughout the city, but there are two notable clusters. Highway 202 (Woodinville-Redmond Road) passes numerous wineries south of town. A smaller cluster is found in northeast Woodinville, off NE Woodinville Way on 144th Avenue NE.



[Photo: Ron Zimmerman]

Woodinville Village, on SR-202 at NE 145th Street, is a \$200 million mixed-use development. Capitalizing the city’s wine industry, the Tuscan-style complex will include residences, retail, restaurants, wineries and tasting rooms. The following wineries plan to relocate to Woodinville Village: Brian Carter, De Lille, Di Stefano and Washington Wine Company. The first phase opened in 2008.

Woodinville Wine Country (www.woodinvillewinecountry.com) promotes the area’s wineries; their Web site features information on each. In mid-April, the group sponsors *Passport to Woodinville Weekend*, which offers visits to area wineries, including many not generally open to the public.

Chateau Ste. Michelle is Washington’s oldest winery (1954) and is the world’s largest producer of Riesling. The winery hosts a series of outdoor summer concerts.

SELECTED WINERIES

- **Chateau Ste. Michelle** (www.chateau-ste-michelle.com) is 2 mi. s. of Woodinville on SR-202 at 14111 NE 145th St. Open daily 10-5. Phone (425) 425-3300
- **Columbia Winery** (www.columbiawinery.com) is 2 mi. s. of Woodinville on SR-202 at 14030 NE 145th St. Open Sun-Tue 11-6, Wed-Sat 11-7. Phone (800) 488-2347
- **Januik Winery and Novelty Hill Winery** (www.januikwinery.com / www.noveltyhillwines.com) share a production facility and tasting room, 1½ mi. s. of Woodinville at 14710 Woodinville-Redmond Rd. Open daily 11-5. Phone (425) 481-5502
- **Silver Lake Winery** (www.silverlakewinery.com) is 1¾ mi. s. of Woodinville on SR-202 at 15029 Woodinville-Redmond Rd. Open Mon.-Sat. 11-5, Sun. noon-5. Phone (425) 485-2347

NORTHEAST OLYMPIC PENINSULA – US-101 between Port Angeles and Sequim passes through a beautiful coastal plain extending from the base of the Olympic Mountains and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. There are a number of wineries in this district, most nestled in the foothills. **SEQUIM** is noted for its lavender farms. **North Sound Winery Association** (www.northsoundwineries.org) has information on wineries in the region, including nearby Whidbey and Bainbridge islands; phone (800) 785-5495.

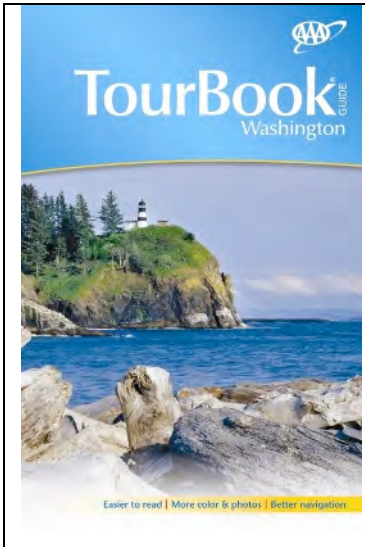
SELECTED WINERIES

- **Fair Winds Winery** (www.fairwindswinery.com) is at 1984 Hastings Ave. in Port Townsend. Open daily noon-5 late May-Labor Day, Fri.-Mon. noon-5 rest of year. Phone (360) 385-6899
- **Olympic Cellars** (www.olympiccellars.com) is e. of Port Angeles on US-101. Open daily 11-6 May-Oct., daily 11-5 Nov.-Apr. Phone (360) 452-0160

SELECTED WINERIES ELSEWHERE IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

- **Hoodsport Winery** (www.hoodsport.com) is on US-101 just n. of Hoodsport. Open daily 10-6. Phone (800) 580-9894
- **Mount Baker Vineyards** (www.mountbakervineyards.com) is n.e. of Bellingham on SR-542, near Deming. Open daily 11-5. Phone (360) 592-2300

The **Washington State Wine Commission** publishes the *Washington State Wine Tour Guide*, a comprehensive booklet providing contact information for the state’s wineries. This publication is available at many sites throughout wine country.



Be sure to pick up the latest edition of the **AAA Washington TourBook** at your local office!

Redesigned for 2012, the *TourBook* contains updated information on

- Attraction Pricing & Hours of Operation
- Exclusive Diamond Ratings for AAA-Approved Lodging & Restaurants

Best of all, *TourBooks* are FREE for members!

Download AAA Apps for Android & iPhone
Discounts, Roadside Assistance & TripTik Maps Available – Click www.aaawa.com to Download



Updated 5 May, 2012