

I'm not a bot































If you're a wine lover, you must put the best wineries in Willamette Valley on your list of places to visit. This stunning region in western Oregon is home to some of the best wineries in the world. In 2016, Wine Enthusiast Magazine recognized the Willamette Valley as its Wine Region of the Year. If you're seeking guidance on where to start in Oregon wine country, we've got you covered. Each winery in this article produces spectacular wine; you will not be disappointed. My name is Mark, and I'm a certified sommelier with extensive knowledge from visiting many of the world's most significant wine regions. I've got some great Willamette Valley winery recommendations for you to see. So, let's explore what the Pacific Northwest offers! Vineyards in Southern Willamette Valley (photo: Tracie Caro) The Willamette Valley is in the western part of Oregon. It begins in Portland and extends about 150 miles (240 kilometers) south. The Cascade Range borders it to the east, the Coast Range to the west, and the Calapooya Mountains to the south. The Willamette River runs through the valley's center, and over 500 wineries dot the region (about two-thirds of the state's wineries). The Willamette Valley is one of the most picturesque wine regions in the world and a great place to visit if you love wine and nature. The Van Duzer Corridor AVA lies entirely within the Willamette Valley and is known for its cool breezes from the Pacific Ocean. Oregon's Willamette Valley is best known for its world-class Pinot Noir wines, but the region also produces excellent Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Riesling, and Sauvignon Blanc. The Willamette Valley's cool and wet climate is ideal for growing the best Pinot Noir grapes. The valley has a long growing season with warm days and cool nights, which helps the wine grapes develop a complex flavor profile. Vineyards at Trisaetum This is a quintessential family-owned boutique winery in the Ribbon Ridge ADA of Willamette Valley. Trisaetum comes from the two children's names, Tristen and Tatum. The winery specializes in producing single-vineyard designated organic wines. The estate includes four wineries, each with a different focus: Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, and Gewürztraminer. The vineyard is located in the heart of the Ribbon Ridge AVA, which is known for its volcanic soil and microclimate. The winery's commitment to sustainability is evident in its practices, including the use of organic fertilizers and integrated pest management. The tasting room is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations are recommended via OpenTable, and the standard tasting experience costs \$30 per person. Soter Vineyards is a family-owned winery in the Yamhill-Carlton AVA of Willamette Valley. Tony Soter, a world-renowned wine consultant, and his wife, Michelle, founded the winery in 1998. Soter Vineyards produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and sparkling wine. They are a certified biodynamic winery with a regenerative farming system focusing on biodiversity, plant and animal integration, and fertile soil. Why Visit? Soter Vineyards produces high-quality Pinot Noir, sparkling wines, and a new Rosé. The vineyards are beautiful, and the tasting room is intimate and cozy. The standard tasting fee is \$10 per person and can be reserved on Tokc. In addition, they offer a Mineral Springs Provisions Tasting, a guided culinary experience showcasing their biodynamic farm and winery. It's dependent on the season, so the pairing combinations will vary weekly based on what is being cultivated at the moment (100% from their farm). It's a fantastic experience that I highly recommend. If you live in the region, they also offer a private tasting exclusively to winery members at no cost, as long as you've got four people in your party. Tasting room Rex Hill is a family-run winery in the Willamette Valley AVA. Founded in 1988, it specializes in producing Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Rex Hill sources grapes from sustainably farmed vineyards, and the wines are made using traditional methods. Why Visit? Rex Hill is one of the oldest wineries in the Willamette Valley and has an excellent reputation. Its wines are high quality, and the vineyards are beautiful. The tasting room has been newly renovated. In addition, they have a "Music in the Garden" series throughout the summer, with local bands performing. During the event, wines are available by the glass and bottle, as well as wood-fired pizzas from Tastobud and Ruby Jewel ice cream sandwiches. Event tickets are only \$25 per person and can be purchased on Tokc. Rex Hill is located close to Portland city limits, so if you're planning a wine-tasting trip, consider using an Oregon limo service for a safe and comfortable ride there and back. Cheheleam is a family-owned winery that started in 1990 in the Willamette Valley AVA. It's known for producing single-vineyard Pinot Noirs and taking a forward-thinking approach to white wine, which it believes should accompany every meal. Cheheleam Estate in the Cheheleam Mountains AVA is their newest vineyard. They have a cozy tasting room in downtown Newberg with many tasting options. Why Visit? They have a very popular Chardonnay that you can try along with their Pinot Noirs. Their classic wine tasting features five wines and is \$25 per person. Reservations can be made through Tokc. Their Culinary Director and Executive Chef, Becca Richards, created an expanded food menu so you can nibble on something. There's also live music every Saturday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Entrance to Adelsheim Winery Adelsheim Winery was founded in 1971 and was one of the Willamette Valley's first wineries. It is still a family-run operation, now by the second generation. The winery specializes in Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and produces other varietals such as Gamay Noir, Pinot Gris, and Riesling. Why Visit? Adelsheim has been a pioneer in the Willamette Valley wine region, so it's worth visiting to taste their wines and learn about their history. The tasting room is on a patio overlooking their beautiful vineyards. They offer several different tastings, but their standard tasting is \$35 per person and can be reserved via Tokc. King Estate Winery is a family-owned winery that was founded in 1991. It is located on a 1,033-acre estate vineyard, making it the largest certified biodynamic vineyard in the United States. They have an extensive library of wines but specialize in Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and other wine varieties such as Pinot Gris, Riesling, and Gewürztraminer. Why Visit? They are one of the largest wine producers in the state of Oregon, so there is a variety of wines to taste. The tasting room is large and has a lot of natural light. There's also a lovely patio with views of the vineyards. In addition, they offer a full-service restaurant to make lunch reservations. Their standard wine tasting is \$20 per person, and reservations can be made through Tokc. This reservation is at their Tasting Room wine bar. You should contact them directly if you would like a tasting reservation at a table. Related: Chianti Wine Tour in Tuscany Wine tasting 7. Domaine Drouhin Winery Domaine Drouhin is a family-owned winery located in the Dundee Hills AVA. The Drouhin family has been making wine in Burgundy, France, for over five generations. They moved to Oregon in 1987 to start their Willamette Valley winery. They specialize in award-winning Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays. Why Visit? It's a must-visit for wine lovers because the Drouhin family is passionate about making high-quality, award-winning wines. They make some of my favorite wines in the Willamette Valley. The beautiful tasting room is modern and has a lot of natural light. There's also a lovely patio with views of the vineyards. They offer several different tasting options, but their standard wine tasting is \$30 per person, and reservations can be made through Tokc. Argyle Winery was founded in the Dundee Hills AVA in 1987. It is known for its award-winning sparkling wines, but it also produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, and Rosé. Argyle's beautiful indoor/outdoor tasting house attracts a regular crowd. Why Visit? If you love sparkling wines, Argyle Winery is a must-visit. They have a wide variety of sparkling wines, and the tasting house staff is very knowledgeable. The standard wine tasting is \$20 per person, and reservations can be made through Tokc. They also have a \$30 cheese and charcuterie option. Related: Russian River Valley Wineries Vineyard views Willamette Valley Vineyards was founded in 1983 and is one of the largest wineries in the Willamette Valley. It is located in Turner, Oregon, and has over 200 acres of vineyards. The company produces various wines but specializes in Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, and Pinot Gris. Why Visit? Willamette Valley Vineyards is a great place to learn about Oregon wines. They have a beautiful outdoor patio with views of the vineyards. The standard wine tasting is \$15 per person, and reservations can be made through Tokc. Sokol Blosser is a family-owned winery founded in 1971. It's located in the Dundee Hills AVA and has over 89 acres of vineyards. It produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, and Rosé. Why Visit? Sokol Blosser has a 75-minute guided tasting led by one of their wine experts and provides a variety of small dishes ideal for pairing with your wine tasting. The tasting room is modern and offers scenic views of the vineyards. A small patio overlooks the vineyards, making it a perfect place to relax and enjoy your surroundings. They offer several different tasting options, but their standard wine tasting is \$30 per person, and reservations can be made through Tokc. \*\*\* I hope you enjoyed this round-up of the best Willamette Valley wineries to visit! For additional ideas, check out the Willamette Valley Wineries Association website. For many Oregonians, visiting Willamette Valley is a rite-of-passage. As a lifelong local, the state's wine scene had eluded me for years so amends were in order. But how? Well, spending weekends wine tasting in the Willamette Valley felt like a proper start. Home to more than 500 wineries, Oregon's premier wine region accounts for two-thirds of the state's wineries. Talk about powerhouse! To date, I've visited more than 50 Willamette Valley wineries and narrowed down a list of my absolute favorites. I'm not a sommelier by any stretch of the imagination, but at this point I can tell the difference between a silky Pinot Noir and sophisticated Merlot. I hope my experience helps you create the perfect day trip to Willamette Valley for wine tasting (don't hesitate to reach out with questions - I'm here to help!) On that note, let's dive in! Your journey enjoying a good glass of Oregon wine starts at the Willamette Valley. There are three main ways to enjoy the Willamette Valley wine country: self-driving, taking a tour, or hiring a guide. Self-driving is the most flexible and allows you to visit multiple wineries in the same day without feeling rushed. Hiring a guide is ideal if you want a more structured experience and don't mind paying extra. Taking a tour is a great way to see the vineyards and learn about the winemaking process. The tours are typically 2-4 hours long and include transportation, tastings, and a picnic. The prices range from \$150 to \$300 per person. If you're looking for a more affordable option, self-driving is the way to go. The Willamette Valley is a beautiful area with rolling hills, vineyards, and small towns. The weather is usually mild, making it a great time to visit. The wine country is spread out, so you'll need to plan your route carefully. There are many wineries to choose from, so it's important to research ahead of time. The Willamette Valley is a wonderful place to visit for anyone who loves wine. It offers a unique experience and a chance to support local agriculture. Whether you choose to self-drive, take a tour, or hire a guide, you're sure to have a memorable day in the Willamette Valley.

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June 2022, provides a casual, comfortable venue for guests to sample Iris Vineyard’s still and sparkling wines. Music plays on weekends on the comfortable back patio of the wine bar. For a cost of \$12 per person guests can choose any three wines on the menu, sparkling, whites, and reds, plus a complimentary tasting of the 2019 Rosé of Pinot Noir, 2019 Quinta do Calice Port-style, or the 2019 Sweet Amalia. The tasting fee is waived with a \$60 purchase. Open weekdays through Sunday, 11:30 am – 9 pm, reservations required. The House Call Blend is one of the most popular, but the Willamette Valley Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir are also favorites. Specialty cheese and charcuterie boards are also available for purchase, perfect for sipping on a warm and lovely afternoon. Best of all, because the wine bar maintains later than usual operating hours, Iris Vineyards wine bar makes the perfect stop before or after dinner. 2007 Main Street, Forest Grove 971-727-0099 What Guests Like About It: It's location, and the adorable goats Chris and Candace Plevik, high school sweethearts, moved to Gaston's countryside in 2016, bought three goats, cleared the land, and planted grapes. Now those three goats, Melly, Graham, and Hershel, adorn the wine labels and walls of the 3 Goats tasting room that Chris and Candace opened in Forest Grove in November 2023. Their Sauvignon Blanc is their most popular and sells out quickly. Their wine club is unique. Members pay \$50 a month, early \$50 account credit, 20% off wine, and a free tasting for two people. Members use their credit to choose the wines they want. The tasting room is open Wednesday from 3:00 - 9:00 pm for the farmers' market and again from 3:00 - 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. 2003 Main Street, Forest Grove 971-517-5004 What Guests Like About It: Military themed wines and tasting room And while you're already in Forest Grove, stop next door to Dauntless Wine Company and enjoy a flight or a glass of wine. Food is available from the tasting room's neighbor at Urban Decanter. This veteran owned winery features military themed wine labels and military memorabilia. The 2023 Lost at Sea Bubbly Pinot Blanc is winemaker/owner Ben Martin's nod to his year at sea. The 2021 Sherman Syrah label features a photo of a Sherman tank, widely used in World War II. Martin also runs a foundation to benefit veterans and hires veterans to work in the business. So, a visit to Dauntless will not only offer some great-tasting wine, but you'll be doing your part to help those who have served our country. Open Wednesday - Saturday 3:00 - 9:00 pm. 1410 Oregon 99W, Dundee (503) 538-7666 The Dundee Hotel in the town of Dundee offers 22 modern upscale rooms featuring bold colors inspired by the Willamette Valley. With a stylish vibe, spacious rooms, friendly staff, and an onsite restaurant, the Dundee Hotel provides some of the best accommodations in a central location. Not only is the hotel surrounded by five Willamette Valleys AVAs, but there are also five luxury tasting rooms on site. Evening Land, Angela Estate, Le Cadeau Vineyard, Cougar Crest, and Tertulia Cellars all maintain tasting rooms within the same building as the Dundee Hotel. There are 20 more tasting rooms within 10 blocks of the hotel, and 40 more in the Dundee Hills. Each questroom and suite features luxurious showers, stylish bedding, and bathrobes. Local art decorates the walls of each room and furnishings are created by artisans from reclaimed, wine-infused oak. For dog lovers, the hotel is dog-friendly. 310 N. Evans Street, McMinnville (503) 472-8427 If McMinnville is set in the "heart of the Willamette Valley wine country," then McMenamins Hotel Oregon on Main Street is the heartbeat. This four-story hotel, built in 1905, is decorated throughout with artwork, historic photographs and inspirational thoughts. The vibrant first floor pub spills out to the sidewalk with outdoor seating. The Rooftop Bar offers a 360-degree view of this nostalgic town and surrounding region. You'll feel like you stepped back in time when you stay in one of the hotel's 42 guestrooms. Be sure to specify that you want a room with a private bathroom. Like many refurbished hotels of yesteryear, a few rooms share a bathroom down the hallway. 14667 SW Winery Lane, Beaverton 503-746-9067 To really immerse yourself in the Willamette Valley wine experience, try a stay at a "villa in the vineyard." The Sosta House in Beaverton is the former home of the Ponzi Family, well-known in the Willamette Valley wine industry. Recently renovated to accommodate overnight guests, the Bed and Breakfast features three suites and overlooks the acres of vineyards planted by the family in 1969. Guests also have access to the great room, the kitchen, and outdoor amenities. A stay at Sosta includes a free wine tasting next door at Hamacher Wines and a gourmet breakfast. 1410 Oregon 99W, Dundee (503) 487-6215 Located in the same building as the Dundee Hotel, this bar and restaurant makes full use of the region's bounty of wild game, fish, and farm fresh foods in a friendly and inviting atmosphere. Also open for breakfast. 155 SW 7th Street, Dundee (971) 832-8414 Locally owned and operated, this country-style market offers gourmet sandwiches and wood-fired pizzas with craft beer and wine. Dine in or take out. Good source for picnic supplies. 100 A SW 7th Street (503) 554-1650 Popular with local vintners and tourists, this warm, inviting restaurant offers sophisticated culinary options and a wide selection of Pinot Noirs. 521 NE 3rd Street (503) 434-4471 A classic in McMinnville, Nick's Italian Café has a strong wine country history. Originally started by Nick Peirano, now run by his daughter, it was a home base for wine industry pioneers in the '70's-80's. Nick's features authentic Italian fare and an extensive wine list of local and Italian wines, including more than 50 Oregon Pinot Noirs. Its "back bar," popular with locals and wine industry professionals, provides a lively atmosphere. 238 NE 3rd Street, McMinnville (503) 435-2126 This award-winning restaurant blends fresh ingredients from the Pacific Northwest with Spain's exciting cuisine. Paella, tapas, pinchos, and charcuterie plates are ideal for sharing. The restaurant's two-bedroom, two-bathroom luxury loft is another great choice for lodging in McMinnville. If you have more questions or require deeper insight from our team of travel experts who constantly visit Willamette Valley, please use the comment section below and we'll respond as soon as possible. The Willamette Valley, situated in the Pacific Northwest of the United States, in Oregon, is renowned worldwide primarily for its exceptional Pinot Noir wines. This region's cool climate and unique terroir make it an ideal location for this notoriously finicky grape variety.Thanks to the cool climate, similar to Burgundy in France, where Pinot Noir originates, the grape produces wines in the Willamette Valley that are often described as elegant and complex. They can showcase a range of characteristics from bright and fruity, with flavors of cherry and raspberry, to more earthy and floral, with notes of forest floor, rose petal, and spice.In addition to Pinot Noir, the Willamette Valley also produces excellent white wines, particularly Chardonnay and Pinot Gris. Like their Pinot Noir counterparts, these wines often display a balance of fruit and acidity, with Chardonnay showing less of the oak and butter characteristics seen in warmer climates and Pinot Gris expressing a lush, full-bodied texture and ripe fruit flavors.Additionally, Willamette Valley wineries are recognized for their commitment to sustainable and organic farming practices, with many producers employing dry farming (i.e., no irrigation) and being certified organic or biodynamic.Beyond the wines themselves, the Willamette Valley is also known for its welcoming and laid-back wine tourism. The region is home to a multitude of small, often family-run wineries where #Winetravelers can enjoy personal and informative tastings, often with the winemakers themselves. The picturesque valley, with its rolling hills and expansive vineyards, adds to the overall experience, making it a favorite destination among wine enthusiasts. That Oregon, with its wet weather and short summers, could ever be famous for wine was in doubt until as recently as 40 years ago, when the state began to receive international acclaim. Today the Willamette Valley is the epicenter of a world-class wine region famous for some of the United States' best Pinot Noir. Here are 20 destination Oregon wineries to visit. CWK Photography The Adelsheims were among the first wave of Oregon wine pioneers in the 1970s, and their family winery remains a benchmark for Willamette Valley Pinot Noir. Visitors can taste a range of small-batch, winery-only bottlings in the tasting room. Choose from a variety of tasting experience options and book online. Richard Knapp This well-funded winery produces high-end Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and other bottlings at its picture-postcard location in the Dundee Hills. There is a roster of experiences to choose from here, ranging from the \$50 seated estate tasting to a combination tasting and tour of the underground barrel caves carved into volcanic rock (up to \$80). Alan Brandt Photography You might not run across the ghost said to inhabit the old Dundee City Hall that serves as Argyle's main building (the namesake of its Spirithouse Pinot Noir), but you can visit the Nuthouse (the old hazelnut plant and namesake of its Nuthouse Pinot) and taste its range of single vineyard still wines — and the sparkling wines that are among America's best. Visit during the slack season in February and enjoy the Oregon Truffle Festival. Cephas Picture Library / Alamy Stock Photo These highly regarded, biodynamically grown wines are a family affair — the talented, Burgundy-trained winemaker Josh Bergström is the owners' son. The picturesquely situated frame farmhouse amid the rolling vineyards in Dundee offers private tastings year round, with an \$80 fee. Clay McLachlan Wine lovers who want to step outside the mainstream tasting rooms and sample the new and artisanal have a one-stop tasting destination in the Carlton Winemakers Studio, where 16 quality-oriented small producers like Andrew Rich, Hamacher, and Lazy River have banded together to produce "liquid synergy." The sleek, wine bar-like tasting room is an ode to Oregon's cutting edge. Andrea Johnson The tasting room for Chehalem (pronounced sha-HAY-lem) is in a historic brick building in Newberg that offers an Old World-style twist on the usual: Fill or refill your Chehalem souvenir liter-size bottles from the tap with wines like the no-oak INOX Chardonnay or a Pinot like the Three Vineyard. There are also regular tasting flights offered, from \$25. John D'Anna One of Oregon's longest-running acts, Cristom's winemaking and vineyard team have been in place since the winery's founding in 1992, and their naturally produced Pinot Noirs are among Oregon's most acclaimed wines. The standard tasting fee for five wines in the homey Salem tasting room is \$25, but Cristom also has a semi-private, guided tasting program (\$65). Serge Chapuis Visitors are drawn to this U.S. outpost of Burgundy's Maison Joseph Drouhin by the reputation of the Pinot Noirs, including the very fine Dundee Hills entry-level bottling, and are captivated by the sweeping views from these hilltop vineyards. Visits are by appointment only; choose from a few different options, including a comparison tasting of Drouhin's Oregon and French wines. Domaine Serene This stylish producer of highly regarded Pinots and Chardonnays occupies a Tuscan-style hilltop building in Dayton, marked by its mascot Wooly, a 14-foot high wooly mammoth sculpture — a memorial to the Ice Age events that formed the Willamette Valley. Reservations are required to visit; estate tastings begin at \$40. Anna M Campbell Elk Cove is one of Oregon's pioneering wineries, established by the Campbell family back in the 1970s in the foothills of the Coastal Range (which also provides mountain views out the windows). The wine has reached new heights under second-generation Adam Campbell, whose portfolio includes the luscious dessert wine blend Ultima. Basic flights in the modern tasting room start at \$30; it's recommended to reserve ahead as walk-in availability is limited. Diana Lett / The Eyrie Vineyards Eyrie was the winery that kicked off Oregon's modern wine era back in 1965 and bottled America's first Pinot Gris. Now under the direction of founder David Lett's son Jason, Eyrie continues its emphasis on wines of finesse and balance rather than sheer power. Eyrie combines the charm of a hands-on, small, family-run winery with very high quality. The cozy tasting room in McMinnville hosts signature tastings for \$40; reservations are required. Carolyn Wells Kramer California wine juggernaut Kendall-Jackson jumped into the Oregon wine business with both feet. It purchased a wide swath of vineyard land in the rolling hills of the Carlton-Yamhill AVA and built an impressive winery producing a line of super-premium Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays. Visits are by appointment only; the estate tasting is \$40. RJ Studio of McMinnville, OR Ken Wright is a name to conjure with among Oregon Pinot Noir lovers, and his long-established winery has never lost its place among the handful of the state's most sought-after producers. The Carlton tasting room is the place to sample the fine Pinots; reservations are encouraged. King Estate One of Oregon's largest producers, King Estate is known for terrific Pinot Gris — in various styles and at different prices — and its vast organic ranch, located southwest of Eugene, which includes gardens, orchards, a restaurant, and wetlands. The tasting room is open Thursday through Sunday by appointment. Leslie Kossoff Environmental lawyer Eric Lemelson's frame-barn winery conceals a high-tech, carefully thought-out facility for highlighting the natural nuances in his organically farmed grapes. The wines — including Pinot Noir and Riesling — are the draw, but the design-magazine stone and oak building (including the sleek tasting room) in Carlton lends an extra charm. Closed mid-week. Andrea Johnson Burgundy-trained Luisa Ponzi has taken over the keys to the cellar from her parents in this foundational winery, which sources most of its wines — including the flagship Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris — from its own, sustainably farmed Chehalem Mountains vineyards. The beautiful modern winery in Sherwood offers both signature and estate tasting flights; check their calendar for winery events. John Valls Rex Hill's esteemed roster of estate-grown wines are farmed biodynamically, and the lineup includes offerings from top Oregon growers. Visitors have the opportunity to sample these wines in a variety of ways, up to a \$90 legacy tour of the vineyard and winery with a tasting of matured wines. Carolyn Wells-Kramer This path-breaking Dundee Hills winery is now under the guidance of the second generation of Sokol Blossers, who opened the strikingly designed, cedar-lined Dundee tasting room in 2013. The lineup here includes the image-making Pinot Noir bottlings and the popular, affordable Evolution line. Standard tasting flights are \$35; reservations are required. Carolyn Wells-Kramer Tony Soter, long one of California's most respected winemakers and consultants, took his expertise north to found this small winery, one of America's benchmark producers of Pinot Noir and sparkling wines, all in Soter's refined, nuanced style. The winery is open by advance appointment only, for semi-private, guided seated tastings (\$45) and more extensive "Provisions" tastings (\$150) including food grown on the estate. Andrea Johnson One of Oregon's largest producers — partly owned by thousands of small shareholders through an ongoing public offering — WVV occupies a fairytale site high on a vine-covered slope and offers visitors to the Turner estate a range of tasting and dining experiences, including wine-pairing meals prepared by the estate chef. If you'd prefer not to drive home afterward, you can book one of the estate's luxury suites. WVV also has five other Oregon tasting room and restaurant locations.