



Photo: Andrea Johnson

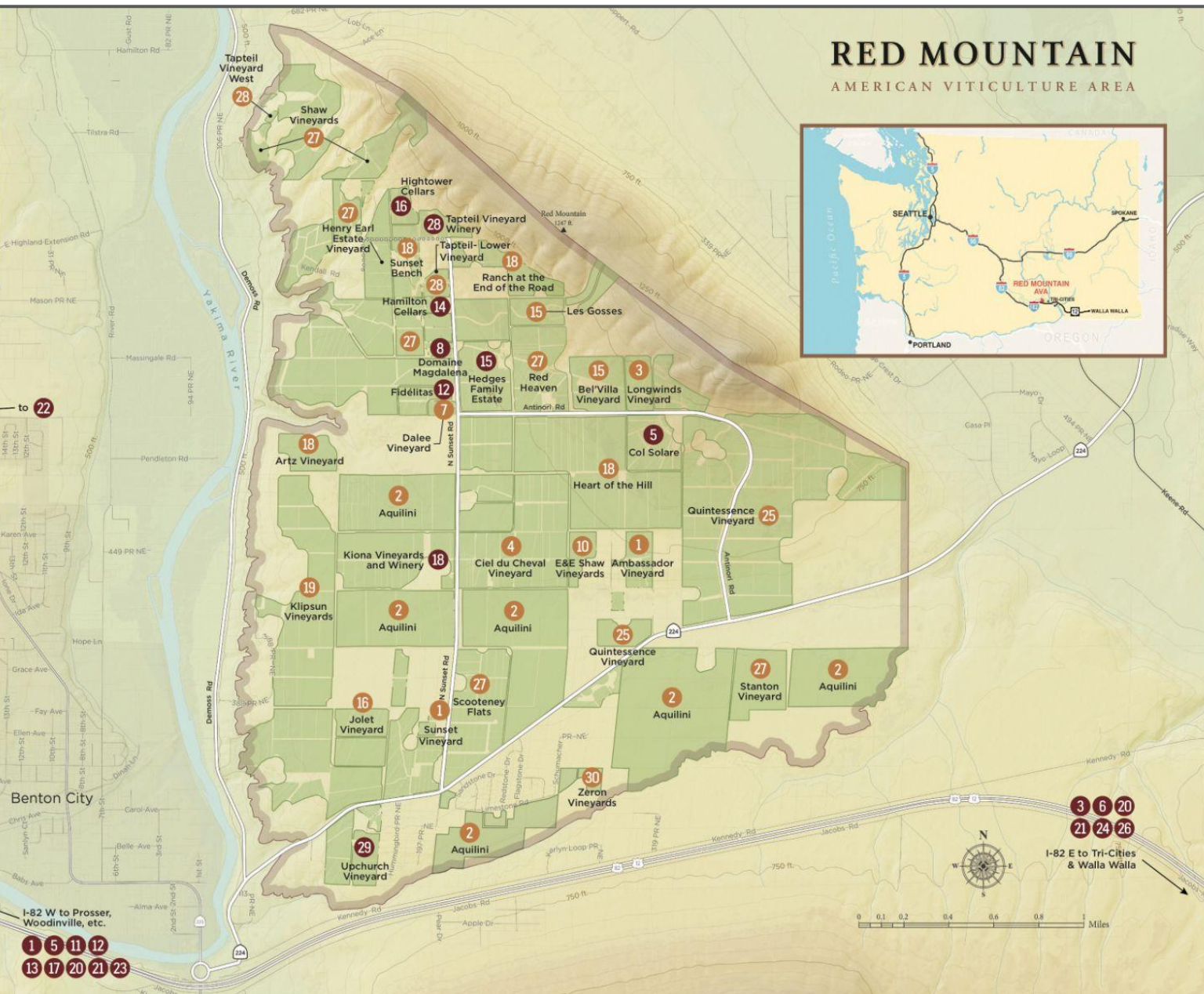


**RED MOUNTAIN**  
AVA ALLIANCE

*Acclaimed by critics, superior by nature.*

“While there are no guarantees in the world of wine, Red Mountain AVA on the label is a pretty good bet for a delicious glass.”

- Alder Yarrow, *Jancis Robinson*



Red Mountain is a premier wine region in southeast Washington where world-class Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot and other varieties are grown. With the first vines planted in 1975, the AVA is now home to many of the state’s most celebrated vineyards. Red Mountain wines have intensity, power and elegance.

## A Focus on the Vineyard

Red Mountain's excellence is rooted in the vineyard.

Red Mountain AVA's singular *terroir* has attracted winegrowers, viticulturists and winemakers the world over to this small corner of southeast Washington, and for very good reason. The region's sandy loess soils, high winds, southwest slope, low precipitation and an intense temperature swing create near perfect growing conditions for Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah.

However, it's not the extraordinary place alone that is responsible for Red Mountain's storied reputation, it's the people.

Over the course of its 20 years as an American Viticultural Area, a growing community of viticulturists with grit, determination and continued commitment to experimentation have led to fascinating innovations in the vineyard.

Grapes grown on Red Mountain have gone on to become some of Washington's most sought-after wines, bringing an international spotlight to the region. This is why we say: acclaimed by critics - superior by nature.

Photo: Robert Holmes



# The History of Red Mountain

Red Mountain is relatively new to the fine wine scene.

The first wine pioneers to the region initially walked the land in the summer of 1972. They found a gently sloping sagebrush covered hillside that had been largely overlooked by both early settlers and local indigenous peoples. There were no roads, wells, power-lines or any other signs of civilization.

These wine pioneers were John Williams and Jim Holmes. They had been greatly influenced by the wine grape research conducted by Dr. Walter Clore and his staff at the WSU agricultural station in Prosser.

Three years later in 1975, after obtaining power, water and rights-of-way to the property, they planted the first ten acres of vineyard on Red Mountain. As wine hobbyists, they had imagined that planting a vineyard might be fun, and maybe even profitable. While they hoped that their efforts may one day produce acceptable wine, they had not envisioned the greatness that was to follow.

The first wines produced were remarkably good, and the reputation of Red Mountain began to grow. Vineyard expansion grew steadily and the pioneers sold their grapes to some of the wineries that are now recognized as some of the best.

The first Red Mountain winery was bonded in 1980. After that time, more people began to purchase land and plant vineyards, recognizing the superior quality of Red Mountain grapes and the potential for world-class wines.

AVA status was achieved in 2001. Red Mountain now hosts approximately fifty-four vineyards covering more than 2300 acres, making Red Mountain one of the most densely planted AVA's with 57% of the AVA currently planted.

Photo: Kim Fetrow





# Red Mountain Timeline

**10,000 BC** Catastrophic floodwaters from repeated breaks of the ice dams forming Lake Missoula sculpted the landscape of southeastern Washington, depositing high-mineral, high-carbonate glacial eroded sands, gravels, cobbles and boulders on the shoulders of a shallow ridge, now called Red Mountain

**1972-75** Holmes, Johnson, Lovell, Ward and Williams families created infrastructure (wells, electricity and irrigation) for first vineyard

**1975** First plantings; 4 acres of each of Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Riesling

**1978** First harvest sold for commercial sales

**1980** First bonded winery on Red Mountain

**1990** First internationally distributed wine from Red Mountain fruit

**2001** Red Mountain AVA formally established, April 3

**2007** First international joint venture; Ste. Michelle and the Antinori family open winery on Red Mountain

**2008** Red Mountain AVA Alliance formed

**2015** Kennewick Irrigation District finalize system to deliver enough water to cover 1,785 acres on Red Mountain



## A Sense of Place

Since the dawn of time, natural forces have worked powerfully and mysteriously, and in rare circumstances have aligned to collectively create earthly wonders, such as exquisite gems that are singular in all the world.

One of those gems remained hidden in plain view, waiting patiently for thousands of years until such time certain adventurous, wine loving souls, would have the wisdom and foresight to reveal it to the world. This is the story of Red Mountain's *terroir*.

The small geographic region that comprises the Red Mountain AVA was formed by the repeated Ice Age flooding of Glacial Lake Missoula over 10,000 years ago. The flood waters redesigned the landscape, configuring the soft mountain slopes and depositing nutrient rich topsoils over sand, silt and gravel.

Wines made from Red Mountain fruit express a unique *terroir* with exceptional color, strength and richness, while demonstrating remarkable balance of fruit, acidity, and tannin. This is thanks five essential factors of Red Mountain's *terroir*, which we call The Five Pillars.

Photos: Kim Fetrow (1, 4) Andrea Johnson (2, 3)



# The Five Pillars of Red Mountain

## SOIL

The high alkalinity and calcium carbonate content of the soil, along with its granular consistency, allows for each vine to form a well established root system. In soils with this composition, root systems are able to reach deep to obtain the necessary nutrients and moisture.

## SLOPE

The southwest slope of the Red Mountain AVA provides the vineyards in the region with a directional aspect to the sun that is ideal for prolonged sunlight exposure and warmth. These highly desirable conditions allow for a ripeness in tannins that is recognized as a primary characteristic of Red Mountain fruit.

## PRECIPITATION

The Cascade Mountain rain shadow has its greatest effect in Red Mountain, where the desert climate experiences an average annual rainfall of seven inches, and almost no precipitation during the growing season. The result is dramatically lower mold and mildew pressure compared to most vineyard regions.

## WIND

The prevailing winds come out of the Southwest and are notable for their frequency and velocity. The regular gusts of warm air flow through the AVA's vineyards during the growing season, keeping the grape clusters small and concentrating the flavors of the fruit - which contributes to their richness and intensity. In the autumn, the cooler air from the north flows down the slope of the mountain, toward the river. This natural air drainage provides continual air movement which helps prevent frost from settling in the vineyards and damaging the grapes.

## TEMPERATURE

The high latitude (N 46\*) and topography contribute temperature swings experienced during the growing season, with daytime temperatures averaging 90 °F (32 °C) and night time temperatures dropping below 50 °F (10 °C). In the evenings, the AVA experiences a notable drop in temperatures with the Yakima River playing a moderate role in the providing a cooling effect to Red Mountain's gentle slopes. The cooler evenings help to retain acidity levels which allows for the exceptional balance and structure found in Red Mountain grapes, and the wines crafted from them.

Photos: Kim Fetrow (L), Robert Holmes (R)



# Why Red Mountain?



**Premium wines:** Red Mountain's unique *terroir* lends itself to excellent quality wines that draw fine wine collectors from across the country. Fruit from the region's top vineyards goes on to become some of Washington state's most acclaimed wines, earning Red Mountain the reputation of a premier new world wine destination.

**Celebrated vineyards:** With one of the most densely clustered collections of tasting rooms in Washington State, Red Mountain makes an ideal destination for two to three days of wine tasting. Red Mountain is home to some of the most celebrated vineyards in Washington, and many can be seen along a quick stretch of Antinori Road.

**Vineyard stays:** For those who want the full immersion into Washington wine country, a number of vineyards and wineries in the region offer guest houses and AirBnBs for overnight stays, including at Tapteil and Klipsun Vineyards.

**Great hospitality:** Red Mountain is a premier viticultural area and a welcoming destination for wine tourism. As such, there is a variety of experiences offered on Red Mountain. The full list of tasting rooms can be found here: [redmountainava.com/visit](http://redmountainava.com/visit).

**The Tri-Cities:** Red Mountain is just 20 minutes from Tri-Cities, Washington, which includes the cities of Pasco, Kennewick and Richland. The area boasts excellent dining experiences, shopping centers, vintage shops and antique hubs, a beautiful riverwalk, trails for bikes and hikes, fun watersports, and plenty of exciting events year-round.



# Red Mountain AVA Fact Sheet

<b>First planted:</b>	1975
<b>Planted Acres:</b>	4,040 acres. The vast majority of vines on Red Mountain are own-rooted.
<b>Elevation:</b>	From 540 feet to 1,400 feet above sea level
<b>Geology:</b>	Warden, Hezel, and Scootenev soils
<b>Climate:</b>	Desert
<b>Sunlight:</b>	3,200 degree days
<b>Rainfall:</b>	Five to six inches annually
<b>Wineries:</b>	34
<b>Vineyards:</b>	30
<b>Varieties:</b>	Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Petit Verdot, Sémillon
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://redmountainava.com">redmountainava.com</a>
<b>Social Media:</b>	Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/redmtnav">@redmtnav</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/redmtnav">@redmtnav</a>
<b>Press Images:</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>

Photo: Robert Holmes





**RED MOUNTAIN**  
AVA ALLIANCE

**Winery Members**

Ambassador Wines of Washington

Aquilini

Aviam

Canvasback

Casad Vineyards

Ciel du Cheval

Col Solare Winery

Côtes de Ciel

Dalee Vineyard

Domaine Magdalena

E&E Shaw Vineyards

Eagle Harbor Wine Co.

Fidélitas

Force Majeure

Gamache Vintners

Hamilton Cellars

Hedges Family Estate

Hightower Cellars

JM Cellars

Kiona Vineyards and Winery

Klipsun Vineyard

Mark Ryan Winery

Market Vineyards

Muret–Gaston Wines

Obelisco Estate Winery

Pacific Rim Winemakers

Quintessence Vineyards

Schooler Nolan Winery

Shaw Vineyards

Soos Creek Wine Cellars

Tapteil Vineyard Winery

Tinte Cellars

Upchurch Vineyard

Zeron Vineyard

**Vineyard Members**

Ambassador Vineyards &  
Sunset Vineyard

Aquilini

Aviam

Bel Tramanto Vineyard

Casad Vineyards

Ciel du Cheval

Col Solare Estate Vineyard

Dalee Vineyard

E&E Shaw Vineyard

Fidelitas Estate Vineyard

Force Majeure Vineyards

Hedges Vineyard Partnership:

Hedges Estate Vineyard

Bel' Villa Vineyard

Les Gosses Vineyard

Jolet Vineyard

Hightower "Out of Line" Estate Vineyard

Klipsun Vineyard

Kiona Vineyards:

Kiona Estate

Heart of the Hill

Ranch at the End of the Road

Sunset Bench

Artz Vineyard

Longwinds Vineyard

Magdalena Vineyard

Quintessence Vineyards

Shaw Vineyards Inc.

Tapteil Vineyard

Tinte Cellars

Upchurch Vineyard

ZERON Vineyards