



## WALLA WALLA VALLEY WINE AVA FACT SHEET

### AVA FORMATION

- The Walla Walla Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA) was formally established on February 6, 1984, making it the second oldest AVA in the state of Washington after Yakima Valley was number one in 1983. (Columbia Valley was approved on 11/13/84.)
- The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA was formally established in February 2015.
- The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA wholly lies within the Walla Walla Valley AVA.
- The Rocks District is the only AVA in the U.S. whose boundaries have been fixed by virtue of a single soil series (Freewater Series) and a single land form (alluvial fan).

### GEOGRAPHY

- Latitude 46° N, Longitude 118.5° W
- In France, latitude 46°N lies midway between Bordeaux and Burgundy.
- Area of AVA\*:
- 1306 km<sup>2</sup> = 504 mi<sup>2</sup> = 322,794 acres = 130,630 hectares
- 31% in Oregon, 69% in Washington
- Maximum elevation: 2080 ft (610 m)
- Minimum elevation: 400 ft (122 m)
- Median elevation: 990 ft (302 m)

*\*This section is for total area of AVA, not total planted vineyards. See viticulture section for facts on plantings.*

### CLIMATE

Average Growing Season (April 1 - October 31) temperature

- Cool sites: 62° F (16.7°C)
- Warm sites: 65° F (18.3°C)
- Average for AVA: 63.5° F (17.5°C)

Average Growing Degree-Days 50° F (10°C)

- Cool sites: 2670 (1483)
- Warm sites: 3250 (1805)
- Average for AVA: 2900 (1611)



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#### Average precipitation

- Minimum on west (dry) side of AVA: 9 in (22.9 cm)
- Maximum on east (wet) side of AVA: 22 in (55.9 cm)
- Average for AVA: 15 in (38.1 cm)

Maximum hours of daylight: 15:46 (summer solstice)

Average hours of daylight during growing season: 13:52

Average number of frost-free days: 200

- On average, last frost occurs during the last week of March
- On average, first frost occurs during the last week of October

## GEOLOGY

- Bedrock is Basalt (dark volcanic rock) of Miocene age (15 million years)
- Below 1200 ft. (valley floor), bedrock is overlain by (in order) ancient gravels, Missoula flood sediments (silt, sand, and gravel), and wind-deposited silt (loess).
- Above 1200 ft. (foothills) bedrock is overlain by loess of varying thickness

## SOILS

Four distinct soil terroirs:

1. Soil type: Wind-deposited silt (loess) overlying Missoula flood sediments
  - a. Location: Valley floor
  - b. Representative soil series: Ellisforde silt loam
  - c. Example vineyards: Pepper Bridge, Birch Creek, Lower Seven Hills, Windrow
2. Soil type: Thick wind-deposited silt (loess) overlying basalt bedrock
  - a. Location: Foothills
  - b. Representative soil series: Walla Walla silt loam
  - c. Example vineyards: Les Collines, Leonetti Loess, Spring Valley, SeVein
3. Soil type: Basalt cobblestone gravels
  - a. Location: floodplains of Walla Walla River and Mill Creek near cities of Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla. The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater
  - b. Representative soil series: Freewater very cobbly loam
  - c. Example Vineyards: Cayuse Armada, Zerba Winesap, Waliser Yellowjacket, Dusted Valley Stoney Vine
4. Soil type: Very thin wind-deposited silt (loess) on basalt bedrock
  - a. Location: Steep slopes in foothills and canyons
  - b. Representative soil series: Lickskillet very stony loam



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## VITICULTURE

Total acreage planted in the Walla Walla Valley AVA as of Summer 2018 survey = 2,933 acres (1,187 hectares)

- Within The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA, there are 314 acres of planted wine-grape acres.

Walla Walla Valley AVA Planted Varieties: reds 95%, whites 5%

Top 5 Varieties Planted in the Walla Walla Valley AVA:

1. Cabernet Sauvignon 36%
2. Syrah 18%
3. Merlot 16%
4. Cabernet Franc 7%
5. Malbec 4%

Top 5 Varieties Planted in The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater:

1. Syrah 40%
2. Cabernet Sauvignon 32%
3. Merlot 10%
4. Grenache 7%
5. Cabernet Franc 6%

Percentage of Plantings by State:

- Washington: 57%
- Oregon: 43%
  - 26% of the Oregon plantings are within The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater, or,
  - 11% of the Walla Walla Valley AVA plantings are within The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater

## WINERIES

- There are approximately 135 wineries in the Walla Walla Valley AVA.
- The Walla Walla Valley AVA has the highest concentration of wineries in Washington State.



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