



A QUEST FOR WINE EXCELLENCE

CREATED BY: L'ECOLE NO 41, MARCUS RAFANELLI, WINEMAKER

A LITTLE ABOUT ME



"As a graduate and former instructor at Walla Walla Community College's Institute for Enology and Viticulture, I love to see when dreams come to reality. This itinerary is full of wineries started by my students, and I couldn't be more proud of their success."

If you are looking for a unique place to stay, I recommend [The GG](#). Within walking distance of downtown, they offer artfully themed rooms and fantastic food. The GG is a premier destination for travelers who appreciate a life well lived.

8:00 AM | BREAKFAST AT BACON & EGGS

Start your day at the classic Walla Walla breakfast haunt, [Bacon & Eggs](#). They boast locavore breakfasts, morning cocktails, a wall of hot sauce and Victrola espresso. And they have the best biscuits and gravy I have ever had! BAKED IN A BUTTER BATH, their biscuits are crunchy outside and soft on the inside – be sure to add an egg on top.

10:00 AM | TOUR AT L'ECOLE NO 41 SCHOOL HOUSE

Now it's time to head out to the [L'Ecole N° 41 School House](#) and start your tour! We are one of the original wineries in Walla Walla, third in fact, and celebrating our 40th anniversary this year. As one of the most decorated wineries in the Valley, we strive to stay at the forefront of sustainable farming and handcraft quality wines that start in the vineyard. I was an intern at L'Ecole No 41 then after a few years making wine in Woodinville and instructing at the Walla Walla Community College, I returned as winemaker.

11:30 AM | TASTING AT SMOKY ROSE CELLARS

For your next stop, make a reservation at [Smoky Rose Cellars](#). They source every grape from the Walla Walla Valley AVA and its close-knit community of grape growers. Owner, winemaker Josh Roznowski graduated from the Enology & Viticulture (EV) program and along with his wife, Jodi, and sister, Amy, they craft great reds, whites and bubbles. The old-world winemaking techniques are alive and well at their charming tasting room & winery



12:30 PM | LUNCH AT GREEN LANTERN TAVERN

After your first two wineries, head back to town for lunch at the storied [Green Lantern Tavern](#). "The Green" is the preferred meeting place for many a thirsty winemaker, Whitman College students and well, pretty much every Walla Wallan. It's a casual hangout with cold beer, a multi-season patio, and consistently good food. The fries are a must with sides of both fry sauce & ranch.

2:00 PM | TASTING AT MOONBASE CELLARS

Time to head downtown to [Moonbase Cellars](#). Owner, winemaker Drew Pauk along with his wife Laine proudly showcase wine made from premier vineyards in the Walla Walla Valley including multiple sites within the coveted Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA. Drew paid attention in class, and it shows in his wines. His connections in the Valley have landed Moonbase some excellent fruit, and he is making outstanding wines.

3:30 PM | EXPLORE THE AIRPORT INCUBATORS

For the day's final tasting(s), explore the Airport Incubators. Established in 2000, the Port of Walla Walla founded this project to provide new winemakers with a low-cost location to start and build their businesses. All five of the incubators are filled with EV program alumni, and all express their own styles.

Try Carménère and Orange wine with Brad Binko at [Eternal Wines](#), there's Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon at [Golden Ridge Cellars](#) with Michael & Cindy Rasch and two different Semillons at [itā wines](#) with Kelsey Albro Itämeri. Robert Gomez at [Hoquetus Wine Co](#) is crafting Cabernet Franc, Riesling and Nouveau-style wines and don't miss a visit with Fiona Mak at [SMAK Wines](#) to sample a rosé for every season.

5:30 PM | VISIT THE LOCAL AIRPORT BREWERIES

Because it takes a lot of good beer to make good wine, finish your day at one of the local airport breweries [Burwood Brewing](#) or [Quirk Brewing](#) for a cold one before heading back downtown for dinner.

7:30 PM | DINNER AT WALLA WALLA STEAK CO.

Be sure to stop into one of my favorite dinner spots, [Walla Walla Steak Co.](#) Located at the gateway to downtown Walla Walla in the old train depot,

EXTRA CREDIT VISITS TO CURRENT STUDENTS & ALUMNI

I also love to taste what the students are up to at the EV Program. At [College Cellars of Walla Walla](#) they showcase student-grown and made wine. The school crafts a broad range of different wines and styles, from sparkling to port, there is something for everyone. You can also meet the students that run the tasting room.

Located across the Oregon border, [Ducleaux Cellars](#) is a "garagiste" family-owned winery making prodigious wines from their estate vineyard Belle Roche and others. Led by one of the Valley's few woman winemakers, Toby Turlay, and husband, Chris Dukelow, are so much fun to hang out with! If you can sample the pét-nats, DO IT, and their blends are fantastic!



QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE PLAYLIST

Listen to the Quest for Excellence playlist, curated by Marcus, on Spotify as you wander. Scan the QR code to start listening.

