



Woodinville

FIND GREAT WINES JUST MINUTES FROM HOME

GETTING THERE: FROM I-405 N, MERGE ONTO WA-522 E VIA EXIT 23 TOWARD US-2/WOODINVILLE/WENATCHEE. TAKE AN IMMEDIATE EXIT ONTO WA-202 E, AND THEN FOLLOW SIGNS SOUTH TOWARD WOODINVILLE/REDMOND. TOTAL DRIVE TIME: 25 MINUTES.

WASHINGTON WINE LOVERS don't have to travel to Walla Walla to get an authentic local vino experience. Woodinville, just 25 minutes northeast of Seattle, is chockablock with wineries and tasting rooms, not to mention top restaurants and cozy places to stay, in case a glass too many is consumed. And soon to come (the planned

opening is next summer) is a 24-acre "wine village" housing four wineries, condos, a spa and boutique hotel.


Woodinville, though sprawling and frustratingly congested with suburban traffic, already offers enough points of interest for a day or weekend getaway. At woodinvillewinecountry.com, you'll find a map with locations of the nearly 30 wineries that make the town home (though grapes for these wines are actually grown in eastern Washington). A good place to start sipping is Columbia Winery. It may be crowded with visitors disembarking from the nearby Spirit of Washington train depot, but the wine is good and the

WOODINVILLE


WINERIES AND MUST-TRY WINES

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE, 14111 NE 145th St.; 425.415.3300; ste-michelle.com. **MUST TRY:** 2004 Ethos Chardonnay

COLUMBIA WINERY; 14030 NE 145th St.; 425.488.2776; columbiawinery.com. **MUST TRY:** 2004 Barbera Alder Ridge Vineyard

DELILLE CELLARS, 14208 Woodinville-Redmond Road NE; 425.489.0544; delillecellars.com. **MUST TRY:** DeLille Cellars 2000 Chaleur Estate 

DISTEFANO WINERY, 12280 Woodinville Drive SE; 425.487.1648; distefanowinery.com. **MUST TRY:** 2003 Sogno Cabernet Franc

JANUIK WINERY, 19730 144th Ave. NE; 425.481.5502; januikwinery.com. **MUST TRY:** 2004 Cold Creek Vineyard Chardonnay 

MATTHEWS CELLARS, 16116 140th Place NE; 425.487.9810; matthewscellars.com. **MUST TRY:** 2001 Columbia Valley Red

NOVELTY HILL, 19730 144th Ave. NE; 425.481.8317; noveltyhillwines.com. **MUST TRY:** 2003 Syrah and 2003 Merlot 

employees who host the enormous tasting bars can answer questions about the region and its wines. Just across the street are the lovely grounds and tasting room of Chateau Ste. Michelle. The oldest winery in Washington celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. For a completely different experience, make an appointment for a private tasting at DeLille Cellars, a pretty winery with a lovely patio overlooking small gardens. At a private tasting of the Bordeaux-styled blends crafted here, serious buyers are often given the opportunity to talk one-on-one with the winemaker.

Nearby, in the rustic storage shed off a gravel parking lot you'll find the award-winning wines of Matthews Cellars. From there, head farther north to the dozens of wineries located in the hills—but be sure to call first to see which are open to the public for tastings.

End your day by heading home—or to the nearby Willows Lodge, a luxury hotel with an in-house spa. *Ali Basye*

 Limited hours or by appointment only; call before visiting

COURTESY OF CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE