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The Development of Washington's Oldest Wine Region

Yakima Valley Appellation

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The following article is the first in a series of stories on Washington's oldest Wine region, the Yakima Valley, and how it is transforming itself to become one of the most populated wine regions in Washington State.

The Yakima Valley appellation has many small wine towns within the eighty mile stretch from its eastern to western borders.

This series of stories will feature updates, renovations, and new wine related construction in the wine towns of Yakima, Zillah, Prosser, and Benton City (Red Mountain).

The Birthplace of the Washington Wine Industry is Growing

Prosser ~ A Yakima Valley Wine Town

Prosser, Washington, the "birthplace" of Washington's modern-day wine industry. This charming town is positioned at the confluence of Washington's major wine grape producing areas, the Yakima Valley and Columbia Basin, where the vast majority of the state's wine grapes are grown.

The charm of this small town has created a magnetism that is currently transforming the wine industry in central Washington. Prosser is proud to be home to 21 wineries, seven of which are new in the past twelve months.

[Wineries currently open and operating in Prosser,](#)

Washington.

- Alexandria Nicole Cellars ~ moved to new location April 2006
- Chinook Wines
- Columbia Crest Winery
- Cowan Vineyards
- Coyote Canyon Winery ~ opened May 2006
- C.R. Sandidge Wines
- Hinzerling Winery
- Hogue Cellars
- Kestrel Vintners
- Pontin Del Roza Winery
- Snoqualmie Winery
- Thurston Wolfe ~ moved to new location February 2006
- Vineheart Winery
- Waddle Family Winery ~ opened winter 2006
- Willow Crest Winery ~ moved to new location November 2005
- Yakima River Winery

Wineries currently under construction in Prosser.

- Bunnell Winery ~ by appointment only
- Desert Wind ~ scheduled to open fall 2006
- Olsen Brothers Winery

Wineries currently planning construction in Prosser.

- Airport Ranches
- Daven Lore

Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center



Currently under construction

Construction of the Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center is currently underway with an anticipated opening date of Spring 2007. This facility will promote modern-day viticulture, enology and culinary practices by providing a destination point to educate visitors, media, and industry about Washington's wine and food.

The center is named after the late Walter Clore, a Washington State University professor whose research pioneered the state's wine industry. The facility will showcase the birthplace of Washington's wine industry, and educate visitors about Washington's viticulture, enology and culinary practices.

The facility will offer programs that promote the wine industry in Washington State and serve as a venue for visiting chefs, winegrowers and winemakers, scholars, wine consumers and media.

The center will include a wine bar and cafe, demonstration and commercial kitchen, classroom and office space, a dining room and theater.

Exhibits and interactive displays on topics such as the state's natural history, winemaking and land stewardship also are planned at the facility.

For information....

The Development of the North Prosser Business Park

Cluster of new wineries citing businesses here

When thinking of Prosser wineries, many immediately think of the Prosser Wine and Food park located on Lee Road in Prosser. This development currently houses Hogue Cellars, C. R. Sandidge Winery, Alexandria Nicole Cellars, Cowan Vineyard, and Kestrel Vintners. But there is a new development just off I-82 in Prosser where many of the new wineries coming to Prosser are citing their business.

The North Prosser Business Park is an established 32 acre site zoned light industrial. To date, there are no remaining business lots available.

Current tenants of this business park are Thurston Wolfe Winery and Willow Crest Winery. Thurston Wolfe Winery built a brand new facility that opened February 2007 at this location. Willow Crest opened its new winery in November 2006.

Several new construction projects are underway in this development. The Winemaker's Loft and Olsen Brothers Winery are currently building in this business park. Airport Ranches will soon be citing its new winery there as well.

For more information....

Visiting Prosser

Thousands of visitors come to Prosser each year to experience area wineries as well as the special and unique events which take place in the community.

- Annual Wine & Food Fair, August 12, 2006
- Great Prosser Balloon Rally, September 22-24, 2006
- Annual Street & Painting & Blues Festival, September 22-24, 2006

For more info

Thank you for your interest in the Yakima Valley appellation. Watch your mail box for the next "wine town" to be featured in Wine Yakima Valley's industry newsletter.

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