



HORSE HEAVEN HILLS AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREA



HORSE HEAVEN HILLS FACTS

LOCATION South central Washington state along the Columbia River in Paterson, Washington, home of Columbia Crest winery

SIZE 570,000 acres

PLANTED VINEYARDS 6,040 acres

COLUMBIA CREST VINEYARDS 2,500 acres

FIRST PLANTING 1972, Mercer Vineyard

ELEVATION 200 feet at the area's southern boundary to 1,800 feet at its northern boundary

SOIL Loamy sands, sandy loams and silt loams

CLIMATE Semi-arid; annual rainfall averages 9 inches

VINEYARDS 29

WINERIES 6
Columbia Crest, Chateau Ste. Michelle Canoe Ridge Estate, Alder Ridge, Destiny Ridge and Zefina

MAJOR GRAPE VARIETIES Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah

According to local historical records in 1857 rancher James Kinney was camping in the range of hills in south-central Washington. When he woke up to discover his herd had wandered up a mountainside and into an upland plain where they were munching on succulent bunch grass. "Surely this is Horse Heaven," Kinney commented. The area has been known as the Horse Heaven Hills ever since.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

| | FEATURES | BENEFITS |
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| TOPOGRAPHY | The terrain consists of south-sloping, well-drained sandy soils, open and dry plains. | The south-facing slopes provide excellent sun exposure for grape ripening and good air drainage that protects vineyards during winter months. |
| WIND | Strong wind patterns, up to 30% greater than in other Columbia Valley areas, are unique to the Horse Heaven Hills. | Strong winds reduce canopy size and density, creating better sun exposure, an unfavorable environment for vineyard pests, and evens ripening by moderating temperature extremes. |
| TEMPERATURE | Warmer growing season temperatures result in an earlier harvest. | Grapes are fully mature at harvest with unique characteristics ideal for "single vineyard" wines. An earlier harvest also decreases the risk of fall frost. |
| PRECIPITATION | Annual rainfall averages 9" with the majority accumulated during dormancy so supplemental irrigation is crucial. | Grape growers have ultimate control over how much and when to irrigate vineyards. Judicious water use prevents excessive vine canopy growth, yielding grapes with balanced characteristics. |

TIMELINE

