

GOLFING IN CANADA • JASON MRAZ • STOCKHOLM



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Hemispheres

JUNE 2023



Where you can swing by the pastoral Bonobo Winery on your way up the Old Mission Peninsula

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Traverse City Michigan



The Vintage

By Hana-Lee Sedgwick



Wine Flights

A new generation of winemakers takes off in Walla Walla's Airport District

With around 130 wineries, Walla Walla, Washington, is one of the American wine industry's boomtowns, and many of its upstart vintners are clustered on a single World War II airfield.

In the city's Airport District, adjacent to Walla Walla Regional Airport, more than a dozen winemakers have converted old warehouses and hangars into tasting rooms and production facilities. Of particular note is the Port of Walla Walla Winery Incubator, a five-building complex that provides start-ups with reasonably priced spaces for up to six years.

"The incubator program is a great example of how the community supports the wine industry," says Fiona Mak, the first Asian female winemaker in Washington, who has grown her label, SMAK Wines (the only one in the state dedicated exclusively to rosé), through the program. "The beauty of Walla Walla is that we're



constantly adapting, constantly bettering and expanding our styles, not only because there is a market for it but because Walla Walla embraces it."

Located near Washington's border with Oregon, about 250 miles east of Portland, Walla Walla may be an up-and-coming appellation, but it has many built-in advantages, among them geography. "With a latitude similar to Bordeaux, it's not surprising that grapes like cabernet franc and merlot are happy here," says Robert Gomez, who recently launched Hoquetus Wine Co. at the incubator. "The northerly latitude gives us long, sunny days in the growing season, but the cool-off in the evening preserves freshness and elegance in the glass."

While the region is best known for its reds—cabernet sauvignon and syrah

Clockwise from above: a vineyard near Walla Walla; Kelsey Albro Itämeri at Itä Wines; Fiona Mak at SMAK wines

in particular—fresh-faced local vintners are also having success with white varietals. "There is so much to be excited about in Walla Walla right now, including that more white wines are being made in the valley," says Kelsey Albro Itämeri of Itä Wines, another incubator resident. "The quality is so good across the board."



The Best of Walla Walla

When you're done tasting in the Airport District, take the 10-minute drive to downtown Walla Walla to see more of what this small yet vibrant city has to offer.



EAT a lunch of tacos and smoked meat dishes at **AK's Mercado** (pictured). For dinner, enjoy fine dining at **Kinglet**, which is set in a remodeled 1904 sawmill and serves an ever-changing seasonal tasting menu.



SEE fine art and craft pieces at **Combine Art Collective**, located in a former 1930s automobile showroom that now also houses a restaurant, artisanal market, and tasting rooms.



STAY at **The Finch**, downtown Walla Walla's newest boutique hotel, where the modern rooms come outfitted with pillow-top beds and works by regional artists. Pooches are welcome, too.

Richard Duvel (vineyard, SMAK); Amber Fouts/Feed It Creative (Itä); Visit Walla Walla (ecost); Jason Hummel Photography (art gallery); Courtesy of The Finch (note)