NOVELTY HILL

Columbia Valley AVA Overview

Columbia Valley Advantage #1: Geography
The Cascade Mountains provide Columbia Valley with a giant "rain shield"
- Columbia Valley vineyards are located on the eastern side of Washington State and are protected from Seattle's rainy marine weather by the Cascade Mountains
- The Cascades, running north to south down the middle of Washington, divide the state into two distinct geographic regions – one wet (Seattle/Western Wash.), one dry (Columbia Valley/Eastern Wash.)
- Average rainfall in the Columbia Valley is 6" – 8" annually

Columbia Valley Advantage #2: Climate
Warm days and cool nights ideal for growing and ripening grapes
- July and August daytime temperatures average 85°
- September and October temperatures are typically warm during the day but can drop by 30°-40° at night
- Warm daytime temperatures build sugar and flavor, cool nighttime temperatures protect the grapes' natural acidity

Long growing season extends hang time
- Cold winters allow vines to enter a deep dormancy
- A slow start to spring and cool nighttime temperatures during harvest lengthen the growing season allowing for extended hang time
- More time on the vine allows grapes to mature gradually and develop intense flavors

Columbia Valley Advantage #3: Latitude
Northerly latitude means long daylight hours and ripe, intense flavor
- Columbia Valley vineyards are located between the 46th & 48th north latitude, the same latitude that runs through Bordeaux and just south of Burgundy
- This northerly latitude gives the Columbia Valley long daylight hours during the growing season, up to two more hours of light each day than California wine regions
- The Columbia Valley enjoys high light intensity and averages 300 days per year of clear, cloudless skies

Columbia Valley Advantage #4: Soils
Weak, Free-Draining Soils Contribute Complexity, Richness
- Sandy, free-draining loamy soils
- Weak soils combined with low rainfall force vines to put more energy into quality grape production rather than canopy development resulting in complex, rich fruit

# # #