

# LAKE CHELAN WINE VALLEY



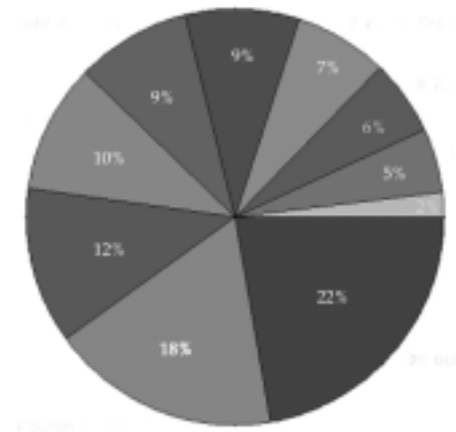
- \* Centrally located just three hours east of Seattle and three hours west of Spokane in the center of Washington state.
- \* Washington's coolest climate growing whites with brilliant acidity and reds of intense depth.
- \* Our vineyards are located around Lake Chelan, capitalizing on the "lake effect."
- \* Washington's newest AVA

## VITICULTURAL OVERVIEW

The first commercial wine grape vineyards in Lake Chelan AVA were planted in 1998, and the first bonded winery opened in 2000. As of 2008 there are 14 bonded wineries, growing over 150 acres of wine grapes. In addition to the estate winery vineyards there are nearly 15 Lake Chelan grape growers with 110 acres in additional wine grape production.

The most widely planted varieties in the Lake Chelan AVA are Riesling, Chardonnay, Viognier, Pinot Gris, Gewurztraminer, Syrah, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Pinot Noir. In addition, there are more than 15 other varieties in plantings of less than 2 acres each of Bordeaux, Rhone, Italian and Spanish varieties including Tempranillo, Grenache, Barbera, Nebiolo, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Roussanne and Marsainne.

| Variety               | Acres | % Total |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| Chardonnay            | 15    | 5%      |
| Gewurztraminer        | 25    | 10%     |
| Pinot Gris            | 18    | 7%      |
| Riesling              | 31    | 12%     |
| Viognier              | 23    | 9%      |
| Syrah                 | 45    | 18%     |
| Merlot                | 17    | 6%      |
| Pinot Noir            | 24    | 9%      |
| Other Reds            | 56    | 22%     |
| Other Whites          | 6     | 2%      |
| Lake Chelan AVA Total | 260   |         |



# LAKE CHELAN WINE VALLEY

## GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW

Lake Chelan wine country is located about 112 miles east-northeast of Seattle, nestled into the eastern slopes of the North Cascade Mountains and 30 minutes north of the city of Wenatchee. The North Cascade Mountains act as a rain shadow, depleting much of the moisture from Pacific coast storms. For this reason Lake Chelan has been known as one of Washington's best vacation spots because of the dependable warm, dry climate and fresh pristine deep waters.



### GEOLOGY

The most recent ice-age events of the Earth, 14,000 to 18,000 years ago, played significant roles in creating the differing geological records within the Cascade Range and the Columbia Plateau. When the Cascade alpine glaciers descended from the mountain crests to lower elevations they created the distinctive U-shaped Lake Chelan Valley topography. The region encompassing the Lake Chelan viticultural area includes camel-backed bedrock landforms, granitic bedrock, lake sediments that the alpine glaciers deposited, and bedrock that consists of Cretaceous-age igneous and older metamorphic rocks. The bedrock in the Lake Chelan viticultural area consists of Cretaceous-age granitic rocks and older metamorphic rocks, including amphibolite, schist, and biotite gneiss. Glaciers shattered and crushed the Cascade crystalline bedrock, creating glacial till and glacial outwash sediments that include biotite mica-rich cobbly, bouldery, gravelly, and coarse sandy materials. The glacial lake sediments include substantive amounts of quartz and mica. As a result, the soil's deep rooting zone for grapevines has distinguishable textures, mineralogy, and nutrients.

### GEOGRAPHY

The Lake Chelan grape growing area encompasses the southernmost and easternmost 12 miles of the 55-mile-long lake, the surrounding lands, and generally at or below 2,000 feet in elevation. The lower elevations, which have gently rising slopes, are known for successful fruit growing. The glacier that formed during the last ice age traveled from the Cascade crest to the eastern end of Lake Chelan leaving a defining imprint on the landforms. This is the only valley in the Cascade Range in Oregon or Washington that holds a natural lake of its size; in fact it is the third deepest lake in the U.S.

### SOILS

The soils of the Lake Chelan Valley include layers of glacial debris, sediment from normal stream erosion and deposition after the glacial age, and airborne volcanic and Non-volcanic sediments. The lower parts of the deeper soils, 20 to 60 inches below the surface, predominantly formed in glacial sediments. The upper part of the soils formed in a mixture of large amounts of airborne volcanic pumice and ash from Glacier Peak and very small amounts of loess (wind transported material) overlying the glacial sediments. Thus, the soils in the Lake Chelan area are rich, about 3 to 40 percent by volume, in volcanic pumice and ash from a massive eruption of the Glacier Peak volcano about 12,000 years ago.

### CLIMATE

Lake Chelan, a large glacial lake, acts as a heat reservoir to produce a unique climate of consistently moderated temperatures, increasing the length of the growing season and reducing the frequency of damaging or killing vine freezes. According to local growers and temperature statistics, the "lake effect" moderates air temperature extremes in both summer and winter. Further, the Cascade Mountain Range creates, to the east, a rain shadow that limits precipitation in the Lake Chelan Valley. The range protects areas to its east from Arctic and Pacific storms that help to moderate climate. Average annual rainfall in Chelan is 8-12 inches.

# LAKE CHELAN WINE VALLEY HISTORY OF GRAPE GROWING



Grape growing has more than a century old history in the Lake Chelan Valley. The earliest recording dates back to an article published in the Chelan Falls Leader on August 6, 1891, telling the story of Louis Conti and his 60-acre vineyard in the Lake Chelan area. According to the article, a colony of Italian immigrants, living on the sunnier south side of the lake, planted grape vines on their claimed lands. Rich Faletto, a descendant of the Faletto family, provided the history of his family in 2005. His grandfather continued grapes into the early 1900's, "Old John was the vintner and winery operator in the valley, producing great wine from (grapevines) brought to the area by a group of Italians."

Two photographs have been located and are housed at the Chelan County Historical Society dating to 1905. The first is of a cluster of grapes on the vine and the photo is labeled "Black Hamburg Grapes - Lake Chelan." The common name for those grapes is Black Muscat. The second picture is of a little boy sitting on the ground beside a grapevine heavy with fruit. This photo bears the label "Lake Chelan Grapes."

Vineyards continued to thrive and in 1949, a newspaper article written by Harry R. McMullen, detailed the 154 acres of producing vineyards in the Chelan and Manson areas. That year growers received \$40 per ton from the Welch Company.

## MODERN HISTORY

In 1998 Steve Kludt and Bob Christopher replanted apple orchards to grapes inside of the Lake Chelan AVA. Other vineyards followed soon after. In 2000 the Kludt family had the first bonded winery in the valley. By 2004, 90 acres of vineyard was in the ground and at least 5 wineries were open and selling their products. Today the Lake Chelan Wine Valley has 260 acres of vines, with this number increasing continual each year, and 14 boutique style wineries and more on the way.

## LAKE CHELAN WINE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Thirteen wineries and many vineyards within the valley support the Lake Chelan Wine Growers Association. The mission of this group is to promote the Lake Chelan Wine Valley, our newly established AVA, to market our unique events throughout the year, and to further awareness of this very special growing region. Our website - [www.lakechelanwinevalley.com](http://www.lakechelanwinevalley.com) - provides information about the wine valley, links to the individual wineries within the valley, and other useful information for wine focused visitors of Lake Chelan.

## ANNUAL EVENTS

- \* Red Wine and Chocolate - the 2nd and 3rd weekends of February
- \* Chelan Nouveau - celebrating the new releases of the season - the 3rd and 4th weekends of April
- \* Spring Barrel Tasting - the weekend preceding the Memorial Weekend Holiday
- \* Crush - the 1st and 2nd weekend of October
- \* Fall Barrel Tasting - the Friday - Sunday following Thanksgiving

## MEDIA CONTACT:

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