

COLUMBIA · CREST®

HISTORY

- 1978-1981** Vineyards are planted with 500 acres per year.
- 1979** Seattle's Howard S. Wright, Inc., drafts design plans for country French manor house winery. Ninety percent of the winemaking facility is housed underground to maintain year-round temperature and humidity control.
- 1981** Winery construction begins.
- 1982** Winery partially opens for 1982 harvest. California winemaker Doug Gore is named Columbia Crest head winemaker.
- 1983** Winery and visitor center (then known as River Ridge) is officially dedicated and opens in June. The winery represents a \$26 million investment in the future of Washington state winemaking.
- 1984** Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms designates Columbia Valley appellation.
- 1985** First release of Columbia Crest 1984 Vineyard Reserve White, a medium dry blend of Johannisberg Riesling, Gewürztraminer and Muscat Canelli.
- 1986** First release of Columbia Crest Vineyard Reserve Blush, a Grenache-based blend.
- 1987** First release of white varietal wines from the 1986 vintage: Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Johannisberg Riesling, Gewürztraminer and Chenin Blanc.
Winery facility officially renamed, Columbia Crest.
- 1988** First release of red varietal wines from the 1984 vintage: Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.
- 1990** Release of Semillon Chardonnay. Columbia Crest is the first U.S. winery to produce this blend.
California Wine Experience names 1987 Merlot to list of "Top 10" wines in the world under \$8.
Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate* names Columbia Crest as one of the 24 "Best Value Wineries" in the world.
Impact magazine names Columbia Crest as one of the "Top Five U.S. Wineries" and to the "Nation's 20 Hot Brands" list.
- 1991** First release of Barrel Select line: 1987 Barrel Select Merlot; 1989 Barrel Select Chardonnay.
Impact magazine awards "Hot Brand" honors to Columbia Crest for second consecutive year.

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- 1992** Microclimate station established.
Clore irrigation experiments begin on Sauvignon Blanc.
Impact magazine awards “Hot Brand” honors to Columbia Crest for third consecutive year.
- 1993** *Impact* magazine awards “Hot Brand” honors to Columbia Crest for fourth consecutive year.
- 1994** 1990 Columbia Crest Cabernet Sauvignon is only U.S. wine to be awarded a gold medal at Challenge du Vin, in Bordeaux, France.
Impact magazine awards “Hot Brand” honors to Columbia Crest for fifth consecutive year.
- 1996** First release of Estate Series line: 1995 Estate Chardonnay, 1993 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, 1993 Estate Merlot.
- 1997** *Wine Spectator* first annual readers’ poll votes Columbia Crest “Best Winery For Value In the United States,” the only non-California winery to win an American wine category.

1994 Columbia Crest Merlot is the only U.S. Merlot to win a gold medal at the Challenge International du Vin, in Bordeaux, France. It also receives one of 50 Prizes of Excellence, and only four were awarded to American wines.

Estate Vineyards are planted with 52 acres of Merlot.
Wine Spectator ranks the 1995 Estates Series Chardonnay #59 on its “Top 100” list.
Wine Spectator ranks the 1994 Cabernet Sauvignon #74 on its “Top 100” list.
- 1998** Estate vineyards are planted with 31 acres of Syrah.
- 1999** Estate vineyards are planted with 134 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon and 58 acres of Syrah.
www.columbia-crest.com is launched.
Wine Spectator ranks the 1997 Estates Series Chardonnay #40 on its “Top 100” list.
- 2000** *Wine Spectator* ranks the 1996 Estates Series Cabernet Sauvignon #37 on its “Top 100” list.
Wine Spectator ranks the 1998 Estate Series Chardonnay #79 on its “Top 100” list.
Wine Spectator ranks the 1997 Estates Series Merlot #83 on its “Top 100” list.
Columbia Crest is the only American winery to have three wines named to the “Top 100” list.

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- 2001** Grand Estates Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon introduced.
Reserve Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon introduced.
Food & Wine awards the 1998 Grand Estates Cabernet Sauvignon an “American Wine Award” for the best Cabernet Sauvignon under \$15.
Wine Spectator ranks the 1999 Grand Estates Chardonnay #40 on its “Top 100” list.
- 2002** 1999 Walter Clore Private Reserve, a Bordeaux-style red wine, is introduced. The wine honors Washington wine pioneer Walter Clore, Ph.D.
Food & Wine awards the 2000 Grand Estates Chardonnay with an “American Wine Award” for the best Chardonnay under \$20.
Wine Spectator ranks the 2000 Grand Estates Chardonnay #16 on its “Top 100” list.
Wine Spectator ranks the 2000 Reserve Syrah #31 on its “Top 100” list.
- 2003** 1999 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon ranked #1 by wine experts (wine retailers, sommeliers, wine media) in blind tastings of Cabernet Sauvignon-based wines that occurred in New York City and Chicago. Columbia Crest beat wines from Bordeaux, California and Washington, all of which cost as much as four times the price of Columbia Crest.
Grand Estates Syrah introduced to markets nationally with 2001 vintage.
“Two Vines” introduction. The tier replaces the winery’s Columbia Valley series.
Ray Einberger becomes head winemaker.
Wine Spectator ranks the 2001 Reserve Syrah #60 on its “Top 100” list.
- 2004** *Wine Spectator* ranks the 2001 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon #30 on its “Top 100” list.
Wine Spectator ranks the 2001 Grand Estates Merlot #52 on its “Top 100” list.
- 2005** *Wine Spectator* ranks the 2002 Walter Clore Private Reserve #33 on its “Top 100” list.
Wine Spectator names Columbia Crest to its “Top 20 Value-Oriented Wineries” list.
Wine Enthusiast ranks the 2002 Grand Estates Chardonnay #28 on its “Top 100 Best Buys of 2005” list.
- 2006** *Wine Enthusiast* ranks the 2002 Grand Estate Shiraz #1 on its “Top 100 Best Buys of 2006” list.
Sunset magazine names the 2002 Grand Estates Cabernet Sauvignon “Red Wine Steal of the Year” in its Western Wine Awards.

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2007

Wine Spectator ranks the 2004 Grand Estates Merlot #71 on its "Top 100" list.

Chef Bobby Flay, restaurateur and Food Network star, partners with Columbia Crest as a spokesperson for Grand Estates wine.

2008

First release of Horse Heaven Hills, "H3", ultra-premium tier. The Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon are crafted from fruit grown in the Horse Heaven Hills AVA.

Columbia Crest Winery celebrates 25 years of winemaking. In 1983 the winery opened its doors in the heart of Washington state and the 2008 harvest marks the winery's 25th vintage.

2009

Wine Spectator names the 2005 Columbia Crest Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon No. 1 Wine in the World on its Top 100 list for 2009, the first time a wine from Washington state has received this ranking. The wine selected from more than 17,000 wines tasted by editors throughout the year.