

COLUMBIA-CREST®

TIMELINE



First vineyard on the banks of the Columbia River.

1978



Construction of the winery

1982



Columbia Crest winery

1983



Columbia Crest winery is located along the Columbia River with 2,500 acres of estate vineyards.



Columbia Crest winery

2008



Juan Muñoz Oca named head winemaker.

2011

1978-1981

Vineyards are planted with 500 acres per year.

1979

Seattle's Howard S. Wright, Inc., drafts design plans for French country manor house winery.

1981

Winery construction begins.

1983

Winery & visitor center officially dedicated and opened in June. The winery represented a \$26 million investment in the future of Washington state winemaking.

1985

First release of the 1984 Vineyard Reserve White, a medium dry blend of Riesling, Gewürztraminer and Muscat Canelli, crafted by Doug Gore, Columbia Crest's first winemaker.

1988

First release of red varietal wines from the 1984 vintage: Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

1990

Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate* names Columbia Crest as one of the 24 "Best Value Wineries" in the world.

1994

The 1990 vintage of Cabernet Sauvignon is the only U.S. wine to be awarded a gold medal at the *Challenge International du Vin*, in Bordeaux, France.

Impact Magazine awards "Hot Brand" honors to Columbia Crest for the fifth consecutive year.

1997

Wine Spectator's 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.

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

Wine Spectator ranks the 1995 Estates Series Chardonnay #59 and the 1994 Cabernet Sauvignon #74 on its "Top 100" list.

1999

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, the 1998 Estate Series Chardonnay #79, and 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.

2001

Grand Estates Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon; and Reserve Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon introduced.

Wine Spectator ranks the 1999 Grand Estates Chardonnay #40 on its "Top 100" list.



Wine Spectator
#1 Wine in the World
2009

2002

The 1999 vintage of 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, and the 1999 Reserve Syrah #31 on its "Top 100" list.

2003

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, and the Grand Estates Merlot #50 on its "Top 100" list.

2005

Wine Spectator ranks the 2002 Walter Clore Private Reserve #33 on its "Top 100" list, and names Columbia Crest to its "Top 20 Value-Oriented Wineries" list.

2007

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

2008

First release of "H3", Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, crafted from fruit grown in the Horse Heaven Hills appellation.

Columbia Crest Winery celebrates 25 years of winemaking excellence and its 25th harvest.

2009

Wine Spectator names the 2005 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon #1 on its "Top 100 Wines in the World" list, the first time a wine from Washington state has received this ranking.

2010

Wine Spectator ranks the 2007 H3 Merlot #43 on its "Top 100" list, earning the winery its 16th placement on the list.

Wine & Spirits names the winery one of the "Top 17 American Value Brands of the Year."

2011

Juan Muñoz Oca named head winemaker.