

Fruit of the Vine

Salem's surrounding countryside is home to vineyards and wineries whose wines compete with the finest vintages of Europe's Alsace, Burgundy and Rhine regions.

Rolling hillsides tucked between the Cascade Mountains and the Coastal Range flank the Willamette River. These hillsides provide the perfect microclimates for a wine-growing region of rare distinction. Volcanic soils, perfect elevations and cool Pacific breezes work together to produce the ideal growing conditions for cool climate grapes.



KELLY JAMES

The soil, weather and the gentle, sunny slopes allow the grapes to ripen slowly; developing the delectable flavors required for world-class wines. By world standards, the region's largest wineries are small but the wines they produce are exceptional.

Pinot noir has become Oregon's signature varietal and no other region in the New World has the climate to produce this complex and elegant red wine. Only France's Burgundy region rivals the conditions found here in the Salem area for this temperamental grape.

Pinot gris along with Chardonnay and Riesling are other white wines you will enjoy here, along with Gewürztraminer, Pinot blanc, Müller Thurgau, and others – as well as excellent dessert and sparkling wines.

Traveling along the country roads of this region, keep your eyes open for vistas, wildlife, old country churches and photo opportunities.

Salem area winemakers are justifiably proud of their work and are willing to help you to learn more about the wines so that you might better enjoy “the fruit of the vine.”

Wine tasting is offered throughout the year in the Salem area. Winery special events are held regularly and during Memorial and Thanksgiving weekends – TravelSalem.com

