



# Washington County Wineries

By Rob Spooner

**W**ASHINGTON COUNTY BILLS itself as the “Country Side of Portland.” When you head out from Portland to tour the wineries of Washington County, you’ll quickly find yourself surrounded by lush fields where crops from vegetables to Christmas trees are raised. And, of course, grapes for more than a dozen wineries that produce the highly regarded wines for which the area is becoming well known.

If you’re planning an early start to your wine touring day, begin with **Ponzi Vineyards**, the only winery with a tasting room that opens at 10 A.M. Take Scholls Ferry Road off Hwy 217 in Beaverton and travel west about six miles. Turn south down Winery Lane.

Few wineries in Oregon are better known than Ponzi, founded by Dick and Nancy Ponzi in 1970 and still innovating with Italian-style wines like Arneis and Dolcetto. Tours are available by appointment for groups of at least five. Some people come just for the bocce ball courts. (503-628-1227; [ponziwines.com](http://ponziwines.com))

About a quarter mile farther along Scholls Ferry Road you’ll turn right on SW Tile Flat Road and then right again on SW Grabhorn to get to **Cooper Mountain Vineyards**. At the entrance you’ll see a fountain expressing the concept of biodynamics, a philosophy of agriculture developed by the Austrian

philosopher and scientist Rudolph Steiner in the early 20th century.

Cooper Mountain Vineyards is a recognized leader in this movement in Oregon. Its wines are 100 percent certified organic and biodynamic, using only estate-grown grapes. Stop in at the wine tasting room between noon and 5 P.M. to taste for yourself the results of their practices. (503-649-0027; [coopermountainwine.com](http://coopermountainwine.com))

**Beran Vineyards** is a very small winery in a picturesque, converted barn. They emphasize personal attention to a very limited production. Reaching them can be a little complicated, but since their tasting room is open by appointment only, you can get the directions you need. (503-628-1298; [beranvineyards.com](http://beranvineyards.com))

Hwy 47 runs down the west side of Washington County into Yamhill County. You can use it to connect your touring in the two areas. Gaston marks the county line. A couple of wineries at or just south of the county line are mentioned separately in the Yamhill County tour.

A little north of Gaston is **Patton Valley Vineyards**. The quickest approach is along Old Hwy 47 from the south. They specialize in handcrafted, estate-grown Pinot Noir using certified sustainable farming practices. Their tasting room has only recently opened and they will welcome you between 11

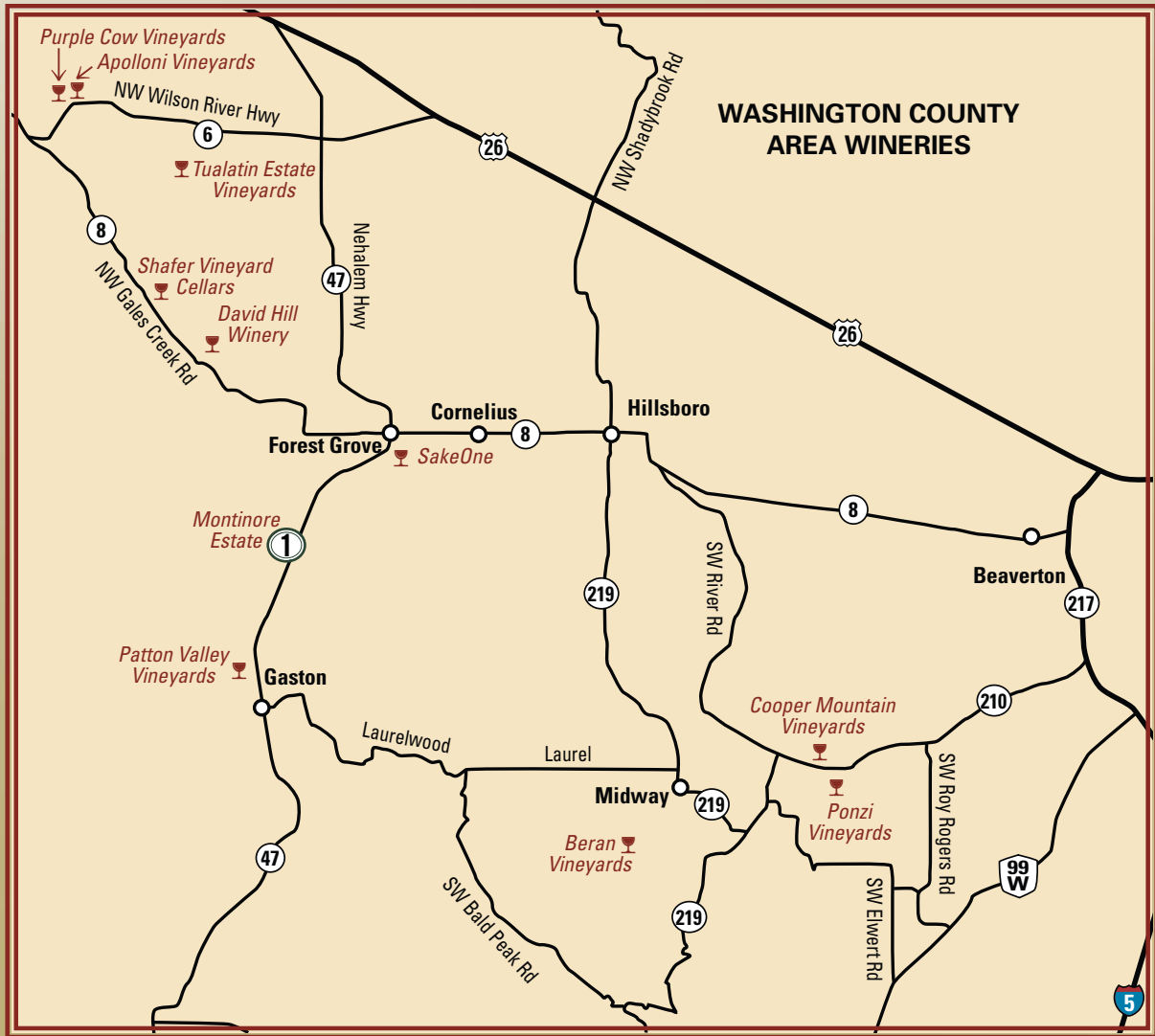
A.M. and 5 P.M. from Thursday through Sunday. (503-985-3445; [pattonvalley.com](http://pattonvalley.com))

After Patton Valley, you can either return the same way to Hwy 47 or continue north along Old Hwy 47, which will get you back on Hwy 47 after some scenic meandering through the countryside. A couple miles south of Forest Grove is the old farming community of Dilley. Turn west onto SW Dudney, then right after a block onto Dilley Road. A few hundred yards ahead is **Montinore Estate**.

Montinore (which comes from the phrase “Montana in Oregon”) is a family-owned winery. Its wines are all produced from grapes grown on the estate’s 240 biodynamically-farmed acres of vineyards. Specialties include Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Riesling, Gewürtztraminer, and Muller-Thurgau. Enjoy a picnic lunch and view two major mountains from the deck, perhaps three depending on weather and season. (503-359-5012; [montinore.com](http://montinore.com))

A cluster of wineries can be found at the far western edge of Washington County’s agricultural land, west of which are the forests of the Coast Range. Coming by Hwy 47 from the south, turn onto Old Hwy 47 and go north into Forest Grove. The streets have a variety of names, but in the middle of town, turn west on Hwy 8 and follow it to NW





## Washington County Wineries

### VISITOR INFORMATION

**WASHINGTON COUNTY VISITORS ASSOCIATION**  
800-537-3149 • [wcva.org](http://wcva.org)

### FESTIVALS

#### FOREST GROVE

Through July 27, 2008  
**Jazz Concert Series**  
503-359-5012  
[montinore.com](http://montinore.com)

August 7-9, 2008

**Americana Music Festival:  
"Freak Fest!"**  
503-992-9533  
[mcmenamins.com](http://mcmenamins.com)

#### HILLSBORO

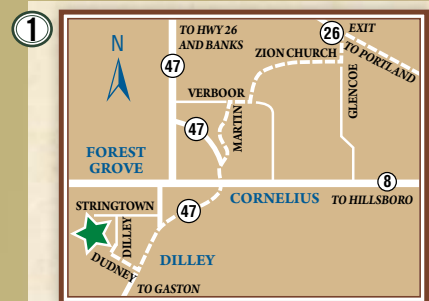
Through August 21, 2008  
**Toast to the Tunes**  
503-648-8198  
[oakknollwinery.com](http://oakknollwinery.com)

June 2009

**Art and Wine Festival**  
503-693-6027  
[hillsboroartandwine.com](http://hillsboroartandwine.com)

#### WILSONVILLE

July 9-13, 2008  
**The Country Classic Horse Show  
& Wine Festival**  
971-409-4650  
[thecountryclassic.com](http://thecountryclassic.com)



### Montinore Estate

**E**STABLISHED IN 1982, Montinore is the project of two enthusiastic generations of the Marchesi family, who combine old-world wine-making learned from their grandfather and great-grandfather Carlo Marchesi with biodynamic farming techniques that respect the unique ecosystem of the Willamette Valley.

3663 SW Dillely Rd., Forest Grove, OR 97116  
503-359-5012 • [montinore.com](http://montinore.com)





COURTESY WASHINGTON COUNTY VISITORS ASSOCIATION

Thatcher Road. Follow this road uphill to reach David Hill Road, then west a couple miles to **David Hill Winery**.

The winery is located in a historic farmhouse built in 1883 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The vineyards, which date back to 1965, are almost as historic, being the oldest in the Willamette Valley. Almost all of the 14 different wines are produced from the eight varietals on the property. If you feel the urge to get married, this is your place, but you'll probably need to give them about a year's notice as the location is very popular. (503-992-8545; davidhillwinery.com)

If you trust online maps, you'll keep going on Rex Hill Road to get back to Hwy 8. However, if you have an RV or you simply prefer not to drive down steep, winding gravel roads, you should

retrace your path to Hwy 8. Whichever you choose, continue northwesterly on Hwy 8 until about a mile short of Gales Creek, where you'll see the road to **Shaffer Vineyard Cellars**.

This is another of the pioneer wineries of Oregon, bonded winery 17 on a list that now exceeds 300. The Shafers have been producing wines here since 1978 and the list now includes 24 types of wine. If you're irked at having to pay for small sips, you'll appreciate their policy of no charge for wine tasting. In addition, a free picnic area is provided. Even if it's summer, think ahead and pick up an item from the large German Christmas shop in back. (503-357-6604; shafervineyardcellars.com)

Get back on Hwy 8 and drive a few miles to Hwy 6. Turn sharply right and

in a couple miles you'll see the sign for **Apolloni Vineyards**. Specializing in traditional Pinot Noir and Italian-style wines, they practice sustainable viticulture on their 40 acres of vineyards. The tasting room is open Friday through Sunday, March through December. (503-330-5946; apolloni.com)

Within a few hundred yards of Apolloni Vineyards is **Purple Cow Vineyards**, and if it's Saturday, you can stop in and try some of their innovative blends. Although production is only around 500 cases per year, the vineyards produce grapes that are generally considered to need more heat than is found in the northern Willamette Valley and their list of wines includes some that aren't common in the region, such as Muscat and Tempranillo. (503-330-0991; purplecowvineyards.com)

End your day of wine country touring with a visit to **Tualatin Estate Vineyards**. Again, the online maps will suggest an interesting route along gravel back roads, but you are best advised to head east on Hwy 6 to NW Stafford Road. There are good signs on the highway and along the way to the winery.

Tualatin Estate Vineyards was established in 1973 and is part of the Willamette Valley Vineyards. Wine grapes from the estate's 145 acres produce world renowned wines, especially their flagship Pinot Noir, which can be sampled at the tasting room Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 P.M., March through December. You can also have a picnic beneath the spreading maple trees and enjoy a panoramic view of wine country. (503-357-5005; tualatinestate.com)

A final suggestion, if you're not fanatical about the definition of wine, would be **SakeOne** in Forest Grove. The only American-owned sake brewery, the facility in Forest Grove produces varieties of sake from traditional premium *ginjo* to innovative fruit-infused sake, while retaining the traditional methods developed in Japan.



# WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON. PORTLAND'S WINE-TASTING SHOPAHOLIC GOLF-OBSESSED NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR.



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
O R E G O N

As neighbors go, Washington County, Oregon is pretty ideal. Just 10 minutes from Portland, Washington County is home to award-winning wineries, nationally renowned golf courses, luxurious shopping and endless outdoor recreational activities. Come explore our neighborhood. Call **800-537-3149** or visit us online at [VisitWashingtonCountyOregon.com](http://VisitWashingtonCountyOregon.com) today.