

Red Mountain AVA

- Established in 2001. Washington's smallest AVA.
- 4000 (+) acre region with 700 (+) acres under vine.
- Located in the within the eastern edge of Yakima Valley AVA
- The region was pioneered in the 1970's by John Williams and Jim Holmes from Kiona Vineyards.
- "In 2007, Chateau Ste Michelle and Marchesi Antinori invested 6.5 million dollars in the appellation to purchase vineyards and establish a winery to produce their joint venture wine, *Col Solare*." Reference: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Mountain_AVA
- The name Red Mountain comes from the type of grass found in the area called "Drooping Brome" or "cheatgrass", which in the springtime displays a red hue.
- Red Mountain is actually a steep southwest facing slope near the Yakima River.
- Most of the wineries in Red Mountain are located near Benton City, WA
- There are currently around 14 (+) wineries in the Red Mountain AVA
- Known for some of the highest quality fruit in the state. The 2002, 2003 and 2005 vintages of Quilceda Creek Vintners Cabernet Sauvignon scored the rare 100 points from Robert Parker.
- **Soil:** Red Mountain has one of the most unique terroirs in Washington. Rich in gravel with a high level of PH and calcium carbonate content. The presence of calcium carbonate acts as a buffer to acidic soils thus creating a very beneficial environment for grape growth.
- **Climate:** Desert climate. Hot days and cool nights. Red Mountain has more sunlight hours than any other region in the state. Average rainfall of five inches per year.
- **Major Grape Varieties:** Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Sangiovese, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. The primary Cabernet Sauvignon clone planted is [clone #8](#) which is the widely planted in Napa, California. Other varieties include Lemberger, Gewurztraminer, Chardonnay, Nebbiola, Counoise, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris and Riesling.
- **Vineyards:** Ciel du Cheval, Klipsun, Kiona Vineyards, Taptiel vineyards, and Grand Rêve.



Map Reference: January 6, 2010. Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Mountain_AVA