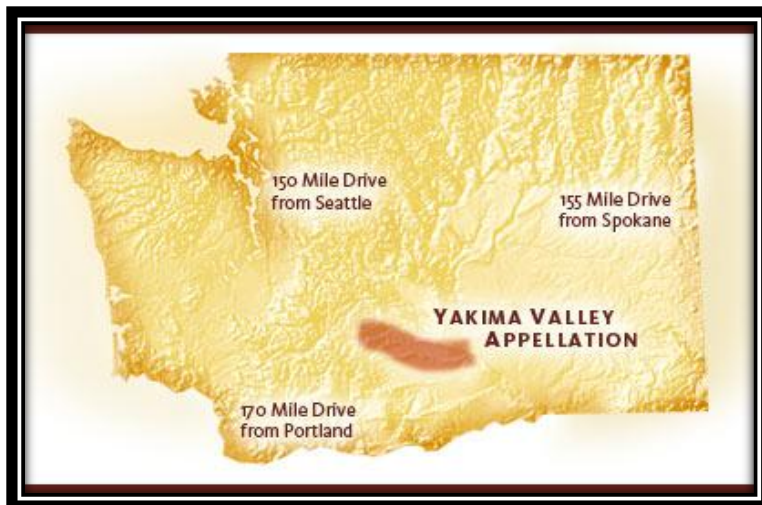


## Yakima Valley AVA

### Yakima Valley AVA

- Established 1983. Washington's oldest AVA.
- Located in the southern center of the state.
- Part of the larger Columbia Valley AVA and responsible for 40% of the total production of grapes in Washington.
- Includes the AVAs of Rattlesnake Hills, Snipes Mountain and Red Mountain
- 11,000 acres under vine; over 70 wineries. Total Area 600,000 acres
- Bordered by Rattlesnake Hills to the north, Cascade Mountains to the west, Horse Heaven Hills to the south and Red Mountain to the east.
- Cities of Prosser and Yakima are the major commercial areas of the region.
- Yakima Valley is known to be more temperate than the rest of Columbia Valley
- Yakima Valley produced Washington's first dry Riesling after the repeal of Prohibition.
- William Bridgeman's Upland Winery was one of the first wineries to plant *Vitis vinifera* in the area in 1934 producing Muscat, Riesling and Semillon.
- Well known vineyard sites: Otis, Sagemoor, Cold Creek and Red Willow Vineyards.
- Red Willow Vineyard is the major supplier for Columbia Winery and also the source for Washington's first Syrah made by David Lake, America's first winemaker to hold a MW designation.
- Cold Creek Vineyard is the driest, warmest spot in Yakima and usually the first one harvested. Today it serves as a major source for Chateau St. Michelle Winery.
- Grape Varieties: Black and white Bordeaux varieties, Syrah, Sangiovese, Chardonnay, Riesling, Viognier, Chenin Blanc, Pinot Gris and Gewurztraminer.



**Map Reference:** Wine Yakima Valley. January 4, 2010.

<http://www.wineyakimavalley.org/directions.asp>