

GILBERT CELLARS

ESTATE VINEYARDS



Doc Stewart Vineyard
24K Vineyard
Nine Canyons Vineyard
Sunrise Vineyard

Doc Stewart Vineyard, est. 1972

Wahluke Slope AVA



The Doc Stewart Vineyard was planted in 1972 by Dr. George D Stewart, a surgeon, farmer and pioneer in Washington wine. When purchased, the parcel and adjoining land were sagebrush-covered non-irrigated grazing land. It was included in Irrigation Block 251 of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project and was scheduled to receive irrigation water delivery in 1970. The Stewart family held continuous ownership of the 163 acre parcel until purchased in 2002 by Curtiss and Cragg Gilbert. Currently, there are 31 acres of vineyard, in addition to apples, nectarines, and cherries.

The Doc Stewart Vineyard, as we call it, was the first commercial vineyard planted on the Wahluke Slope. Dr. George Stewart owned and operated Stewart Vineyards in Granger, WA between 1983 and 1997. Most of the original vineyard plantings were renovated in the mid 1990s. Some of the renovated vines exist today:

- 4.5 acres Syrah planted in 1998
- 1.7 acres Merlot planted in 1994
- 11 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon planted in 1984 and 1998
- 4.1 acres of Malbec planted in 2001
- 7.1 acres of Petit Verdot planted in 2001
- 1.6 acres of Chardonnay planted in 1982 and 1990

The topography of Doc Stewart Vineyard (elevation 800 ft) is level to gently undulating with a very slight southerly slope. The USDA soil maps of this parcel show Quincy fine sands and Burbank loamy fine sands, both fertile and productive soils. These sandy soils from ancient river silt deposits give excellent water drainage and help maintain a balanced foliar canopy, allowing for ideal grape ripening conditions.

24k Vineyard, est. 2007 Wahluke Slope AVA



Not far from the Doc Stewart Vineyard lies the 24K vineyard and farm located on the corner of Rd 24 and K Rd. This 120 acre parcel was originally an alfalfa farm and was purchased and re-planted in 2007 by brothers Curtiss and Cragg Gilbert of Gilbert Orchards and grows 98.5 acres of Fuji and Gala apples, and about 20 acres of vines. 24K is located at the base of Saddle Mountain, at 1,000 ft elevation allowing the red varietals the opportunity to fully ripen while also balancing the natural acidity.

Planted in 2007:

- Barbera
- 2.3 acres Cab Franc
- 2.3 acres Dolcetto
- 3.1 acres Grenache
- 3.3 acres Mourvedre
- 1.1 acres Nebbiolo
- 2.3 acres Tempranillo

Nine Canyons Vineyard, est. 2008

Horse Heaven Hills AVA



The Nine Canyons Vineyard was planted in 2009 by Curtiss Gilbert. Most vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills are found on large tracks of former crop circles. 9 Canyons topography is unique due to the microclimates found within the 250 acres. Resting a top a bluff overlooking the Columbia River Gorge and resting along the Washington-Oregon border, 9 Canyons and Chukar Hill are one of the most picturesque grape growing sights in the region.

Planted in 2008:

- 2.7 acres Carmenere
- 1.5 acres Chardonnay
- 1.5 acres Grenache
- 2 acres Mourvedre
- 1.5 acres Nebbiolo
- 2 acres Pinot Noir

Sunrise Vineyard, est. 2003

Columbia Valley AVA



The Sunrise Vineyard is located on the Hackett Ranch in the West Valley area around Yakima. The Hackett Ranch was originally a cattle ranch purchased in 1920 by Horace Mark Gilbert. The 1400 ft elevation gives white varietals a relatively shorter, later growing season compared to the Wahluke Slope and Horseheaven Hills that lends to bright aromatics and crisp acidity in white wines. The vineyard was named for hiker's cabins brought down from Mt. Rainier's Sunrise Camp in the 1940s that are still in use today. The soil profile is a combination loess (pronounced: *luss*) soil from the Ahtanum (Uh-TAN-um) Valley riverbed on top of basalt hard pan. The basalt hard pan causes poor water retention very shallow soil depth causing the vines to be less vigorous, creating a desirable balance between the vine canopy and fruit.

- 2 acres Chardonnay planted in 2009
- 2.5 acres Gewurztraminer planted in 2005 and 2009
- 1.2 acres Riesling planted in 2003

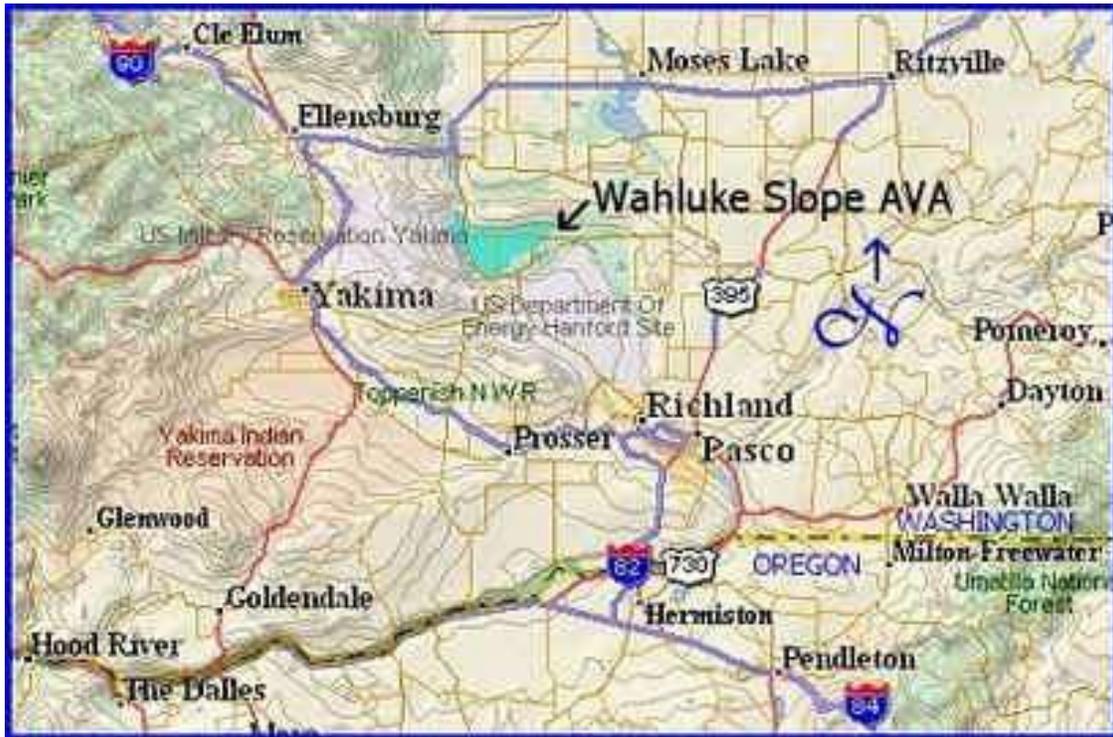
Other estate vineyards planted 2010 :

Chardonnay at the Tissel Place, west of the Sunrise Vineyard, on Nelson Rd. Columbia Valley, AVA

Chardonnay at the Peach 10 off 53rd Ave and Scenic Drive within the Yakima City limits, Columbia Valley, AVA

Terroir

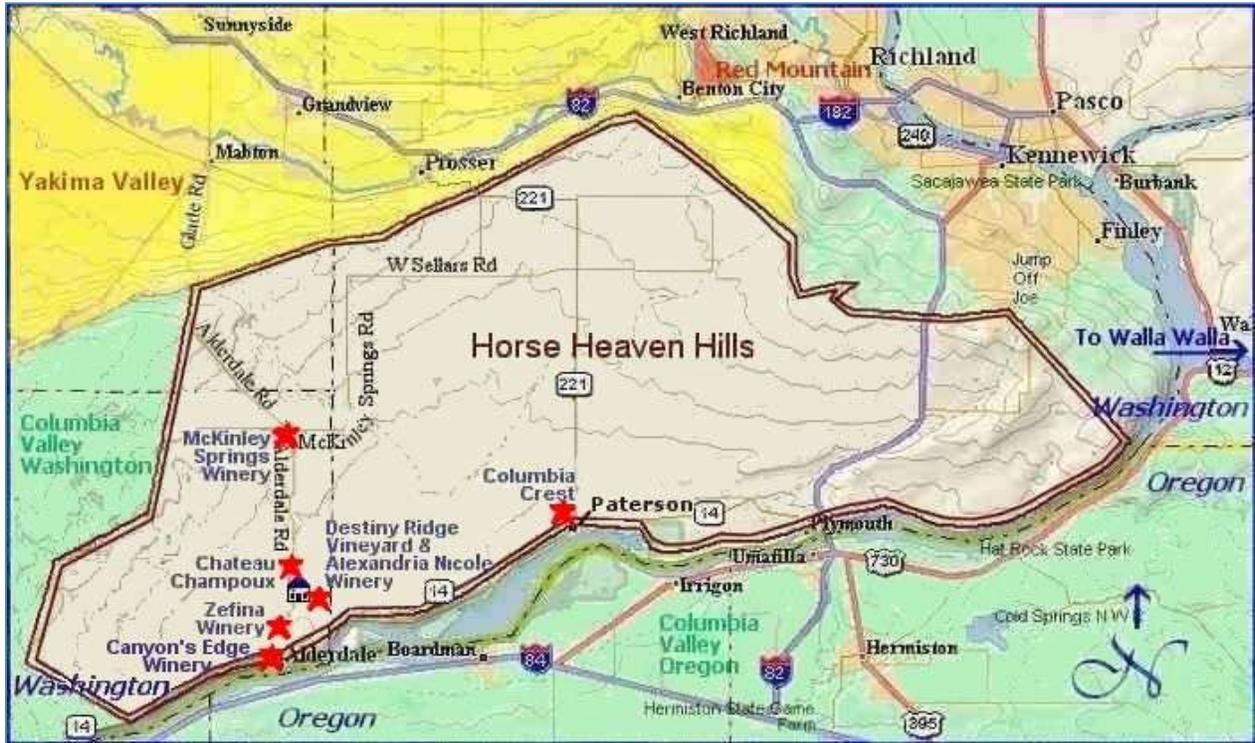
The word *terroir* (pronounced tehr-wah) describes the unique combination of soil, climate, and environment that make a vineyard special. The Gilbert family has found sites across Central Washington that have unique characteristics that we strive to showcase in our wines. The regions we have chosen are the Wahluke Slope, the Horseheaven Hills, and the Ahtanum Valley.



Wahluke Slope AVA, est 2006

The Gilbert Family has been farming in the Wahluke Slope for over 20 years. As one of the warmest regions in the state, along with well-drained, sandy soils, the region can grow many things very well, including apples, peaches, nectarines, cherries and, of course, wine grapes. The region is well described here by Alan Busacca, Ph.D, a certified professional soil scientist and registered geologist who spearheaded the AVA petition in partnership with the Wahluke Slope Wine Grape Growers Association: “The narrow opening of Sentinel Gap in the Saddle Mountains so dramatically focused glacial floods through the Wahluke Slope region that they created a singular growing environment that consistently produces full-bodied, flavorful grapes. No other AVA in Washington state is contained on a single landform with large areas of uniform sandy and gravelly soils over a large area. The fact that the area has one of the driest, warmest climates in the state makes Wahluke Slope an ideal place for growing wine grapes.”

Horse Heaven Hills AVA, est 2005



Map courtesy of http://www.winesnw.com/horseheaven_map.html

The hills are geologic folds in the earth's crust which account for the consistent winds that blow across the land, lowering the risk of vineyard disease and pests. These continual winds stress the vines of vineyards across the region, drying them out and setting the stage for drip irrigation to be used as a canopy management tool to limit the plants' vigor. All these factors lead to intense-flavored grapes with a structural balance of sugars and acids. Horse Heaven Hills' proximity to the Columbia River, its distinctive topography and its soil composition bring additional benefits to the growing area, moderating temperature extremes, offering steep, south-facing slopes for optimum vineyard locations, and providing quick-draining soils of silty loam to enhance canopy management through drip irrigation. The soils were deposited in the Horse Heaven Hills region when approximately 15,000 years ago the great Missoula Floods repeatedly dropped their loads of silt on a rocky volcanic base of fractured basalt. The Horse Heaven Hills were designated as its own American Viticultural Area (AVA) in 2005, distinguishing it as distinct from the massive Columbia Valley appellation that surrounds it. The Horse Heaven Hills appellation encompasses 570,000 acres (approximately 6,000 in production) on a wedge of land that starts on the 1,800-foot ridges of the Hills and slopes south to the Columbia River. Acting as a drainage basin, the gentle, largely south-facing slopes were used for dry-land wheat farming and some early 20th-century irrigated agriculture.

The land is bone dry, hotter and windier than the Yakima Valley appellation to the north, but winters are somewhat milder due to their proximity to the nearby river. Elevations range from 1,800 feet at the area's northern boundary to 200 feet at its southern boundary along the Columbia River, which also marks its eastern boundary. The west boundary is formed by Pine Creek -- which flows south to the Columbia River -- and the 1,700-foot contour line.

