

# COMPASS WINES

1405 Commercial Avenue • Anacortes WA 98221

[www.compasswines.com](http://www.compasswines.com)

## Happy New Year!

Every year at this time, we here at Washington Wine Central, up in little 'ol Anacortes look back over the last year to reflect on the 10 Washington reds and 5 whites that blew us away. This is our own, extremely subjective, biased and politically incorrect assessment of what we have tasted over the last year. Unlike the other guys, we don't do it blind, we don't require wines to be submitted and we do wait until the whole year is over (seriously, a 'wines of the year' list that is written in August?). In fact, many of these wines are not even available for us to sell anymore, so blatant sales expectations are not part of the picture either. We pick those wines that really spoke to us, our customers and maybe they sold well, maybe they didn't. There are a couple of ground rules: none of our own wines are allowed, i.e.; No BBQ or ded reckoning or any other custom bottling done for us. We only will pick one wine per winery. But if there are multiple wines nominated by the staff, the winery is in the running for 'Winery of the Year'. Two obvious choices that would probably be on this list every year have been grandfathered into the de-facto 'Compass Wines Hall of Fame' to make room for everybody else; Leonetti and Quilceda Creek, so they will not ever appear on here again, unless some monumental thing happens like the first 101 point wine or the first winery to get a perfect score on every wine they make. If a winemaker makes wines for multiple labels, they are looked at as a hired gun and the wines are all open for this process. We won't try to breakdown the source of the juice or who blended it or who punched it down. The winery takes 'ownership' not the winemaker(s). And finally, even though all the staff participates in the process of picking the wines, I am the unelected, non-electoral college, autocratic dictator here, so the final decisions are all mine.

As the time progresses, we will continue to be moving this newsletter to a more digital format, so please get your email to us. You can sign up for the email list on the website, or just send it to us and we can do it for you. We don't want you to miss any upcoming news from us.

We had a record-setting 2019 and hope all of you did as well! Keep your fingers crossed that winter isn't too bad, and remember that spring is just around the corner, along with all those great, new releases which come with it! Now to our awards!

*Doug, Will, Laura, Sandy, Alicia, Dena and Theodore (from afar)*



## Washington Wine of the Year ELENTONE

### Columbia Valley Brut 2014 \$40.99

Yes, a bubbly takes top honors this year. In fact, there were more bubbles nominated for the list this year than any other wine. Who needs Champagne? The 2013 was on this list last year, but the 2014 eclipses even that wine. Stunning wine, exceedingly rare, and really nice people as well. They only made about 50 cases this year, but more is coming in future vintages. Bravo!

## Washington Winery of the Year ANDREW WILL

I have been selling Chris Camarda's wines since the 1989 vintage, and as much as I like Chris, his kid Will may be making the best wines this winery has ever produced. Multiple wines were nominated for this list, so the choice was pretty clear this year. As much fame as the top wines receive, it is one of their entry level bottlings which took the honors this go around. You cannot go wrong with any of the wines in the portfolio. Well done.



# WASHINGTON'S TOP 10 REDS

*Washington's top 10 red wines of the year in alphabetical order*

**ANDREW WILL Two Blondes Vineyard Cabernet Franc 2017 \$32.99**

Andrew Will is most famous for their blockbuster, Cabernet driven blends from Red Mountain and Champoux vineyard, but their Yakima Valley vineyard of 'Two Blondes' and the Cab Franc which comes from there cannot be missed. Scrumptious stuff.

**BAYERNMOOR Puget Sound Pinot Noir 2017 \$39.99**

This will open more than a few eyes as to what is possible in Western Washington. Classic notes of strawberry, cherry and fresh mown hay, with cranberry like crispness and beautiful balance. No need to go to Oregon for your Pinot, if you can pick it up in Stanwood!

**DOMAINE MAGDALENA Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 \$29.99**

Red Mountain Cabernet, from the first Demeter certified, organic vineyard in the state. Wild yeast, very cool retro packaging and simply fantastic Cabernet character. Factor in the Fabulous price, and this is a wine to reckon with.

**GRAMERCY Columbia Valley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 \$110.99**

This Walla Walla property is known primarily for their blockbuster Rhone styles reds, but do not overlook what they can do with Cabernet. Tiny production, huge press and now part of our 'Rare Washington Wine Club'. Brilliant wine.

**HIGHTOWER 'Out of Line' Red Mountain Cabernet Franc 2017 \$30.99**

Tim and Kelly Hightower have been on this list before for their stellar Cabernet and Merlot driven wines, but never for Cab Franc, and this year they had two of them nominated. Beautiful and graceful, with a very European edge. Yet one more delicious wine from Hightower.

**SIGHTGLASS Columbia Valley Malbec 2017 \$33.99**

Sean Boyd is known to all of you as the man who has shot down 'Screaming Eagle' three times in blind tastings with his Cabernet. As fantastic as that wine is every year, the Malbec from 2017 is the wine which gets the nod this time. You cannot go wrong with any of Sean's wines!

**TIME AND DIRECTION Solaksen Vineyard Syrah 2016 \$42.99**

This is a new winery for us this year and they are already hitting on all cylinders. Very much in the classic Rhone style, with more emphasis on earthy, gamy and primal notes, this is a dead ringer for a Cote Rotie from an elegant vintage. A winery to watch.

**TWO VINTNERS 'Make Haste' Yakima Valley Cinsault 2017 \$25.99**

Morgan Lee has been on this list before, many times, and earlier vintages of this wine have been on this list and even 'Wine of the Year', but this is the best vintage yet. More on the medium bodied side of the Rhone world, and again, a wild yeast ferment. Gorgeous.

**TRUTHTELLER 'The Confidant' Red Mountain Reserve Cabernet 2015 \$55.99**

Another winery which is relatively new to us, but the entire lineup this year made us really take notice. One more winner from Red Mountain, this has the power one expects from this appellation, with the herbs and spices one expects from Bordeaux. Another winery to watch.

**WOODWARD CANYON 'Old Vines' Washington State Cabernet Sauvignon \$110.99**

From one of the original 'first growth' Cabernet producers in the state, comes their classic wine with the throwback appellation of 'Washington State' on the front. Old vine Champoux and Sagemoor fruit, this has everything a Cabernet lover could want. Awesome wine.



# TOP 5 WHITES

## Washington's top 5 white wines *in alphabetical order.*

### 6 ATMOSPHERES

#### Blanc de Blanc 2016 \$32.99

This is the year which Washington bubbly breaks out and this wine is a reason why. Tiny producer, brilliant crisp and delicate fruit, bubbles galore and a price anyone could love.

### ARCHIPELAGO

#### Lopez Island Vineyard

#### Pet Nat 2018 sold out

Naturally sparkling Siegerrebe, grown on Lopez Island, with natural fermentation and the slight haze that goes with it. Too bad there were only 25 cases made, as I would love to sell more!

### CEDERGREEN

#### Columbia Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2017 \$15.99

Kevin Cedergreen is one of the masters of crisp whites in the state, and this year, his brilliant Sauvignon Blanc takes the honors. Crisp, bright and full of acid. Bring on the oysters.

### ORR WINES

#### Columbia Valley Chenin Blanc 2018 \$25.99

Erica Orr is one of the state's holdouts who still makes Chenin Blanc, and does a damn fine job of it. Candied apple, vanilla, lemon pie and just a hint of honeycomb, with a dry finish. Yum!

### WSU / KARMA

#### Blended Learning Brut 2013 \$30.99

A joint effort between Karma, up in Chelan, and the WSU Wine Science Center in Tri Cities. Yet one more beautiful bubbly from Washington this year. Who'd of thunk it?!

All wines subject to prior sale.

## Welcome to the world of wine clubs.

We have several different clubs for all your hassle free wine buying. We will select your wines and either ship them to you, put them in your locker, or have them ready for pickup at the store. And best of all, by being a club member, all featured wines come to you at a minimum of 10% off our everyday price.

### Washington 'Hot List' Wine Club

Two bottles of wine per month of the newest, hottest and tiniest production wines in the state. In many cases, we are talking about production levels in the range of less than 50 cases total. The price will vary each month, with the average bottle being in the \$30-\$40 range, and always discounted well below our usual price. If you want the newest and the hottest properties, and those hyper limited production wines that others just dream about, then this club is for you.

### Washington Wine of the Month Club

One bottle, or one each of Washington State red and white wine per month, or 4 reds, 2 for drinking now and 2 to lay in the cellar.

**\$14.99 single / \$28.99 for one red and one white  
\$99.99 for 4 bottles**

### Unlimited Club

You decide what you would like, or let us decide! Would you like Grand Cru Burgundy every month? California Cult wines? How about a case of cider or sake every few weeks? Give us a budget and some parameters to shoot for and we will do the rest. Some restrictions apply.

**Mkt/month**

### Rare Washington Club

With every release, you will get the following wines: Leonetti, Quilceda Creek, Woodward Canyon Old Vines, Doubleback, Reynvaan, Rotie, Upchurch, Andrew Will Ciel du Cheval, Owen Roe Red Willow Red, Betz Syrahs, Corliss and 21 Grams. **This club is currently sold out, but we do have some limited 'provisional' memberships available. Please contact us for details.**

### Washington's New Classics Wine Club

We will set aside any amount you would like of each of the following wines upon release. You will get the following wines: Cadence, Fidelitas Optu, Sheridan L'Orage, Mark Ryan Dead Horse, Two Vintners Syrah, Gorman Evil Twin, JM Tre Fancuili, Sightglass Cabernet, Lobo Hills Left Bank, Lonesome Springs, Hightower Red Mountain Reserve, Lawrelin Cabernet, Avennia Justine.

**Mkt/month**

### The Burgundy of the Month Club

In this club, you can pick either red or white, or let us mix it up for you (this is how I would do it). Every month, we will pick a fantastic wine for you to try. As is true of all of our clubs, there is no fee to join and the discount you get on the club wine applies to that same wine every time you come back for more, until we are sold out. **The price per month on this one will vary, but typically it will be in the \$30-\$50 range per month. Pre-pay for a year and pay an even \$450.**

### Bubbly of the Month Club!

Welcome to all that sparkles! Each month, you will receive a new bottle of fascinating sparkling wine from around the globe. Sometimes it will be true Champagne, sometimes a Cava or Prosecco and sometimes a cool discovery from elsewhere. As with all our clubs, there is no fee to be a member; the wine is always discounted and reorders of the same wine will always get the 'club' price. **No set dollar amount on this one, but it will average in the \$30-\$40 each month, with some months being less and some a little more.**

### The Rare World Wine Club

Our 'Rare Washington Wine Club' is without question, the most popular of all of our wine clubs and it basically all sold out all the time. However, we do get to taste some ridiculously cool, high scoring, hyper rare wines from around the world, so we have decided to add a similar club for these wines. In many cases, we get to taste wines which are so limited, that we cannot even send out an email on them. If this sort of thing appeals to you, then this is the club for you. We will do one selection per month, from around the world with an average price of \$100 per bottle. You just let us know how many bottles you want to sign up for, and we will do the rest. If you want one bottle per month, great. If you want more, no problem there either. Just let us know and we will set aside the same amount for you of each selection. Most of these wines will be red, but if we find some really cool white or bubbly, it may show up here occasionally as well. As with all our clubs, there is no fee to join, the wines are discounted and as long as we have the club wines in stock, your discount will apply to them. However, as rare as these wines are, don't count on there being many extras! As an introductory offer, pre pay for a year of one bottle per month at a 20%+ discount, for \$1000 per year. If you want multiple bottles, the same discount will apply there too. We will just multiply it out.



# COMPASS WINES

1405 Commercial Ave  
Anacortes WA 98221

## Store Hours

Monday - Thursday 10 - 6  
Friday 10 - 7  
Saturday 10 - 6  
Sunday 11 - 5

Contact us 360.293.6500  
compasswines.com

Send your e-mail address to:  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 31, from 4:00-7:00

**Our annual pre-Super Bowl**

**Junk Food and fine wine Tailgate Party**

In recent years, this now famous event was even featured on KOMO TV in Seattle for our memorable pairing of BBQ Red and Skittles. How do we follow that up? Only time will tell. Typically about half a dozen great wines and classic tail gate party junk food to pair with them. Some memorable pairings from the past have been Bollinger Champagne and Twinkies, Silver Oak and Ho-Ho's and 1975 Chateau Rieussec with McDonald's Apple Pie. This one is \$25 per person to pay for all the scrumptious food. Reservations highly suggested.

Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22

**Taste Washington Seattle**

Come visit the ded reckoning booth at Taste Washington and check out what it going on all the other wineries in the state. As always, lots of great food and wine to be had. Tickets are only available on-line this year, so plan ahead. We do not have them for sale this year.

**Our annual**

**'oh crap, the credit card bill just arrived'  
value wines**

**DOMAINE DE COURON**

**Ardeche Marselan 2017 \$9.99**

A really delicious and very European tasting blend of Cabernet and Grenache, from the stellar 2017 vintage in the south of France. Black currant, pepper, hints of cranberry and red raspberry, with just a kiss of dried herbs.

A beautiful winter warmer.



**DOMAINE  
BOUSQUET**

**Pinot Grigio  
Organic 2019 \$9.99**

I know everyone wants big reds in the winter, but remember, this is also oyster season, so crisp whites should be on everyone's mind as well. It takes a lot to get me excited about a Pinot Gris, but this one checks all the boxes. Beautiful nose, laser like acidity and lemon candy-like fruit.

