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**The BrightWines Beacon for 9/28/24:** the full list of in-stock Pacific Northwest wines

*"wines of the Pacific Northwest" feature, on NOW through September 30th (INQUIRE for OCTOBER AVAILABILITY)*

Well, we still have at least one more weekend of summer for this last stretch of September day... and to paraphrase the author Helen Hunt Jackson (famous for the novel "Ramona" set in Southern California) *So famous in fact, that the novel contributed to making southern California a tourist destination, and that Rancho Camuelos became the most accepted "Home of Ramona" which even inspired the marketing of the WINE from the ranch as "The Home of Ramona" wine brand of that era.*

"September days are (still) here, with summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer." (Helen Hunt Jackson)

But this weekend is not about California. You see, here at BrightWines, the last weeks of September have been a feature on the wines of the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon's Willamette Valley and a wide range of wines from Washington State.

What follows here today is the FULL LIST of all the IN-STOCK wines from the Pacific Northwest! **White wines from Willamette Valley, Pinot Noir from Willamette Valley, white wines from Washington, red wines from the Columbia Valley, Yakima, Red Mountain, and Walla Walla,** and even a little more too! *See BRIGHT LIGHTS today for all the details!*

#### **BRIGHT LIGHTS: full list of the in-stock Pacific Northwest wines**

I am going to **keep this simple and list all of the wines in price order**, from bargains to smart buys to affordable luxury.

**\*\* Great Values: priced from \$11.67 - \$15.99 per bottle \*\***

**LONE BIRCH 2023 Yakima Valley PINOT GRIS @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$11.67 each, mix/match case price \$139.99)**

DAVE says: the Pacific Northwest is well-known for Pinot Gris. Some wineries in Washington call it Pinot Grigio too. The Lone Birch Pinot Gris competes easily with much pricier Willamette Valley options, I assure you! Lone Birch is the value-priced label for Airfield Estate and sources all of the fruit from the estate in Yakima. Pinot Gris is a perennial favorite here and is the flagship bottling for Lone Birch at 5,000 cases made.

**LONE BIRCH 2021 Yakima Valley RED BLEND @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$11.67 each, mix/match case price \$139.99)**

DAVE says: this is my favorite red of the Lone Birch series, it's full-bodied and rich, smooth and complex for a great value price. The 2021 is actually a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Syrah, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Malbec. But my tasting notes show alot of raspberry mocha tones that I attribute to the Syrah. Lone Birch is the value-priced label for Airfield Estate and sources all of the fruit from the estate in Yakima. The red blend is only 1008 cases made.

**MILBRANDT 2020 Family Grown Columbia Valley Merlot @ \$11.67 per bottle (\$139.99/case)**

Rated 90 points by James Suckling, who's tasting notes say "The fruit is more concentrated here with ripe raspberries, blueberries, blue flowers and hints of cocoa. Textural and sleek with fine tannins and medium to full body. Polished and even. Drink now. 90 points. Screwcap."

**Milbrandt 2022 Family Grown Pinot Grigio @ \$11.67 per bottle (very limited stock)**

**"The Expedition" Black Label Canoe Ridge 2020 Red Mountain Cabernet @ SOLD OUT (sorry, no restock, one-shot deal)**

**Pike Road 2023 Willamette Valley Rose of Pinot Noir @ \$14.99 per bottle (feature price)**

new from Elk Cove, a luscious dark pink but quite dry Rose from Willamette Valley Pinot Noir.

**"The Vincent" (Mark Ryan winery) 2022 Columbia Valley un-oaked Chardonnay @ \$14.99 per bottle (feature price, \$179.88/case)**

A perennial favorite here! This is lively and juicy and aromatic/flavorful from the first scents through the luscious palate and pretty finish. This has got to be one of the very best un-oaked style Chardonnay on the entire west coast made in a generous and very approachable personality. **"The Vincent" is part of the Board Track Racer series of wines by the great winemaker, Mark Ryan.**

**IRIS 2023 Willamette Valley Pinot Gris @ \$15.99 per bottle (feature price, \$191.88/case)**

Iris Vineyards is relatively new to our market, this new fresh and delicious 2023 Pinot Gris is brand new on the scene and is a welcome addition to the smart-buy priced wines from Willamette Valley vineyard sources. Iris is known for their wine bar in Springfield, OR - and sure enough, this tasty Pinot Gris drinks just like you're standing in a tasting room somewhere between Portland and the Oregon coast!

**\*\* Smart Buys priced from \$17.99 to \$24.99 per bottle \*\***

**King Estate 2022 INSCRIPTION Willamette Valley Pinot Noir SOLD OUT (inquire for October restock at \$250/case, \$20.83 per btl)**

**Rated 90 points** by Wine Enthusiast magazine AND soon to be published as the #1 "Best Buys of 2024" in the annual WE top 100 edition! At \$20 per bottle, this is a very impressive and very reasonably priced Pinot Noir, that's why. WE notes: "What an aromatic roller-coaster ride. The first sniff of the glass yields bright red cherries and orange zest. Then you get a burst of roasted red peppers, followed by a shot of espresso. Restrained acidity and velvety tannins accompany raspberry, smoked cherry and earthy oregano flavors. **Great value here. 90 points.**"

**Elk Cove 2022 estate Willamette Pinot Blanc @ \$19.99 per bottle (\$17.99 ea, mix/match case price)**

Pinot Gris might get all the attention, and Elk Cove winery makes a great one. But I have always loved their Pinot Blanc just a bit more! Rated 92 points and Editors Choice by Wine Enthusiast magazine, who says: "The grapes used to make this dazzler were whole cluster-pressed and fermented in stainless steel. Peach and melon aromas are flanked by notes of honeysuckle and wet slate. Jittery acidity shines a spotlight on rich lemon butter, thyme and green tea flavors. **This is one of the best Pinot Blancs I've had in a long time. 92 points.**"

**AIRFIELD Estates 2021 Yakima Valley MERLOT @ SOLD OUT**

Suggested Retail: \$20 - \$25 per bottle Case Price of just \$199.99 per case = \$16.67 each (solid case orders)  
online wine resource VIVINO notes: "Washington State produces seductive Merlots with ripe plum, blackberry, chocolate and earthy flavors. These wines are delicious and velvety." (they list this Airfield Merlot at \$24.99 per bottle) **Wine Enthusiast rated this wine 90 points** (at \$20 retail) calling it "Fun stuff" and noting: "A little bit of earth and saline mixes with aromas of boysenberry jam slathered on a warm waffle. The creaminess of the wine's texture befits plush tannins and mild acidity. Dried cherry, nougat and walnut flavors"

**Aquilini CHASING RAIN 2020 Red Blend @ SOLD OUT** (\$215.88 per case mix/match, \$17.99 per bottle)

**INQUIRE for possible re-stock in October**

Rated 90 points Wine Enthusiast, at \$25 retail, saying "This is a good value for folks looking for a fuller-bodied Washington red with "just-right" tannins and acidity." Also rated 91 points by Wine & Spirits and 92 points by James Suckling. 69% Cabernet, 16% Malbec (which really shines in the flavor profile) plus some Merlot and Petit Verdot.

**Aquilini "Chasing Rain" 2020 MERLOT @ SOLD OUT**

Rated 91 points by Wine Enthusiast at \$25 retail, saying "The wine's 7% Petit Verdot provides a nice structural backbone to support its copious amounts of fruit. Cranberry, blueberry and lilac aromas lead the way, followed by substantial bits of cigar box and graphite. Cassis, black coffee and oatcake flavors glide the wine's smooth texture."

**Cardwell Hill "The Bard" Chardonnay 2021 Willamette Valley @ \$22.50 per bottle** (limited stock)

Only 159 cases made! This wine (yes named for Shakespeare, the bard) won "double gold" and "best white wine" and "best Chardonnay" at the McMinnville Wine and Food Classic. It's also Dijon clone and French oak barrel aged Chardonnay and nicely dry too. My tasting notes just say "classy"

**Aquilini 2020 "10,000 Hours" SYRAH @ SOLD OUT** (\$270 per case mix/match \$22.50 per bottle)

**INQUIRE for possible re-stock in October**

Rated at least 90 - 93 points by four major wine magazines including JD, RP, JS, and Wine Enthusiast too, who rated it 90 points at \$35 retail, saying "aromas of ripe blackberries, leather and a creamy macchiato. Grippy tannins back flavors of blueberry gelato, dark chocolate and balsa." Yes is is rather full-bodied with big fruit, but is very classy too. (I love Washington Syrah)

**L'ecole #41 2022 Columbia Valley "Frenchtown" red @ \$22.50 per bottle** (feature price, \$270/case)

New vintage of a perennial favorite by one of the best, and one of the original O.G. wineries in Walla Walla. I think this "Frenchtown" red has been getting better and better over the years. As the winery notes puts it, this is a blend of 72% Bordeaux and 28% Rhone, meaning a mix of eight different reds that originate either from Bordeaux or from the Rhone - but of course, from the Columbia Valley.

**METIS 2018 Walla Walla Red blend @ \$25.99 each** (case price \$299.88 = **mix/match \$24.99 per bottle**)

a new project in Walla Walla by Willamette Valley Vineyards (WVV owner Jim Bernau)

**Rated 91 points Wine Enthusiast** at \$35 retail, saying "This wine is made from 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Syrah, 14% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot and 2% Grenache. Aromas of café au lait, green herbs, raspberry and sweet baking spice lead to a center-focused palate full of dark chocolate flavors. It's light on its feet, with the grainy tannins backing it up." **ALSO highly recommended by Great Northwest Wine magazine, also at \$35 retail with a rating of "Excellent"** (only 6 cases available, IN-STOCK now)

\*\* Affordable Luxury, wines priced \$25.99 - \$35.99 per bottle \*\*

**Board Track Racer 2021 "The Chief" Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$27.99 per bottle (\$25.99 each, mix/match case price)**

"The Chief" is part of the Board Track Racer series of wines by the great winemaker, Mark Ryan. This Cabernet is quintessential Washington Cab with richness and plushness of body to spare!

**Aquilini 2019 "A56" Cabernet Sauvignon @ SOLD OUT**

Full-bodied, rich and complex. Rated 92-93 points by Jeb Dunnuck and James Suckling, and rated 93+ points by Robert Parker's Wine Advocate! 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Cabernet Franc with 22 months of barrel aging in 50% new French oak. As Washington wineries love to say when you visit "if this said Napa Valley it would be \$75 bucks."

**Cardwell Hill 2016 Estate bottled "Monet Blocks" Willamette Valley Pinot Noir @ \$35.99 per bottle** (very limited)

Rated 91 points Wine Enthusiast: "A barrel selection of Pommard and Dijon 777 clones, aged for 30 months and ready to drink upon release, this is packed with aromas of cinnamon and toast. Rich raspberry and cherry fruit flavors finish."

**Cardwell Hill 2016 Estate bottled "Dijon Blocks" Willamette Valley Pinot Noir @ SOLD OUT**

Very complex wine with darker-than-usual Willamette Pinot color and with concentrated berry fruit tones. Drinking at the peak range of 7 - 10 years right now. Rated 92 points Wine Enthusiast.

**Cardwell Hill 2017 Estate bottled "Old Vines" Willamette Valley Pinot Noir @ \$35.99 per bottle** (very limited)

From a 1983 planting of the Wadenswill clone of Pinot Noir, this wine offered oaky notes in its youth but has blossomed into a "bright and juicy" Pinot Noir with "great fruit" and is drinking absolutely in its peak 7-years of age drinking window. Very good!

**Valdemar Estate 2021 "Entre Nosotros" Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$29.99 per bottle** (winemaker visit, feature price)

We have it on good authority from Jesus Martinez Bujanda - the 5th generation owner and CEO of Valdemar who came over from Rioja, Spain to build a fantastic modern winery in Walla Walla, Washington - that the tasting room price on this Cab is \$45 and that it includes great red mountain vineyard sources like Klipsun, et al. <https://valdemarstates.square.site/product/2021-valdemar-estates-entre-nosotros-cabernet-sauvignon/56>

**The Right Wines are BrightWines!**

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