



## 2 Get wined

QUINCY, WASHINGTON

It's with a certain measure of disbelief, flummoxed by a honey and pear sip of this estate's sparkling Blanc de Blanc wine, that you accept Cave 8 general manager Jacques Turrelli's statement that, "We're a working farm with 30 guestrooms and we happen to have a fine-dining restaurant."

That's a little like calling Hawaii a working guava plantation with nice scenery. Cave 8 is perched atop cliffs facing the Columbia River Gorge, just west door to the Gorge Amphitheater. Cave 8 produces 4,000 cases of wine a year from the grapes grown on its 700 acres, and pairs all that with a spa, tasting room, and wine and timber lodge. The restaurant whips up a five-course tasting menu for which people drive an hour from Ellensburg



42 | SEATTLE METROPOLITAN

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# SEATTLE METROPOLITAN

## SUMMER ADVENTURES

ULTIMATE NORTHWEST GETAWAYS



City churches make big waves of faith. A destination restaurant leads in Bellevue. A football deck spins up in a tiny backyard. Seattle debuts the high fiber optic dot. Pilots fight the return of flash mobs.

prices below \$20. "And there's no pressing Pignone says, referring to the way his grapes feel pressure pressed to squeeze out every bit of free-run juice. Only estates can afford also mitigate the tension from pressing." Pignone makes a day of tripping Pignone's friends before tenting off to Pignone's restaurant for a multicourse feast (with a butters local products like Catfish Creek tables grown on a patchwork of rural grape property. An advocate of seasonal, locally sourced, or a cocktail devoted to indigenous. Driva hopes to one day fully completely used within a one-mile radius of the project. I hope that means he can always find for his perfect, juicy wallops on a public space with star anise and a sweet and bread pudding then. These wineries to explore within 30 miles the dedicated oenophile can be more amb-

tion. I drove two hours to Walla Walla, parked my car on Main Street and began tasting wines at the Waterbrook Winery. A few doors down is the Canyon Tasting room, which sells out of its stellar cabernets fast. Cannon Ridge and Amant are in converted industrial buildings on the outskirts of town—the former bottles a one-percent cabernet that is only sold on the property. Ten miles east on Route 20 is the charming UConn No. 42 in a refurbished schoolhouse, where you can taste excellent Bordeaux-style wines in a room adorned with library shelves, books, and a tasting bar made from a converted chalkboard. From here, about 140 miles of wineries stretch before you as you head west, with some three dozen wineries to explore, nearly all of which offer free tastings. Time it right and you can wash back up to Cave 8 in time for dinner and stargazing, concluding the day with a glass of Rusty's Ice wine that evokes happy memories of sprouts and peaches.

### FANTASTIC VITICULTURAL VOYAGE

In Walla Walla, the Marcus Whitman Hotel (209-525-2200; www.marcuswhitmanhotel.com) is a grand, old, restored property that makes a fine base for exploring the region's wineries. A wine-tasting guide is available in the lobby.

In Yakima, at the beginning (or end) of the wine trail, check out the Seasons Performance Hall (209-453-1888; www.seasonspromusicfestival.com), a new venue for live jazz and classical music that was built in a former church and has the heavenly acoustics to match.

**Cave 8 live at Superstition** (209-755-2000; www.cave8.com) More Northwest wine info at [www.wine.com](http://www.wine.com).