

These Women Are Producing Some of Washington's Best Wines

By Fran Endicott Miller Apr. 8th, 2024



A close peek into Washington State's wine regions reveals an industry of inclusion, where everyone is welcome and where anything is possible. The state's 1000+ wineries and 400+ vineyards are led by those who know no bounds: dreamers, philosophers, bohemians, and mavericks, each of whom is making a celebrated mark within the nation's second-largest wine producing state. Of this group, about 250 are women—as collegial a bunch as one will find in any industry. These women—growers, harvest hands, cellar masters, hospitality professionals and winemakers—help to elevate the state's wine profile while celebrating all that is possible in this, the wild, wild west of wine. Here are some of the women leading the charge:



Amy Alvarez-Wampfler - Abeja

In January 2016, winemaker Amy Alvarez-Wampfler fulfilled a dream of working with her husband, fellow winemaker Dan Wampfler, when the two joined Walla Walla's [Abeja](#). The duo collaborates on all aspects of winemaking while independently overseeing other areas of the business. In addition to winemaking, Amy serves as general manager. She is responsible for Abeja's tasting room, direct-to-consumer marketing and sales, and fine dining at The Kitchen at Abeja. Amy began making wine in 2005 at Columbia Crest where she spent four years as the winery's white wine enologist, managing more than 10,000 barrels of Chardonnay annually. She then joined Sinclair Estate Vineyard, a Walla Walla start-up, where she served as winemaker and general manager for six years. She holds an associate's degree in applied arts and science in enology and viticulture from Walla Walla Community College, and is an active educational board member for Altera, a group working to advance social equity in education, particularly in rural areas. She and Dan and their two daughters live in Walla Walla.