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Yakima Valley Wineries Open Their Doors Valentine's Weekend

Jan. 25 - Yakima, Wash. – Washington State is covered with acres of trees, grey clouds filled with rain, and miles of vineyards. The Yakima Valley wineries are opening their doors this Valentine's day weekend starting Friday and ending Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to show the wine connoisseurs and residents how the process of wine making works.

The state is the second largest producer of wine in the nation, contributing more than \$3 billion to the state economy and employing more than 14,000 people.

Joseph Harrison, chair of the Washington Wine Commission said "People can meet the winemakers and sample new releases. Some wineries, including the Yakima River Winery, are offering special dinners with wines to match each course of the meal."

The Yakima River Winery are preparing for Valentine's Day weekend by introducing new products. Diana Hernandez, manager of the Yakima River Winery said "We are about to launch a new Cabernet Sauvignon for Valentine's Day. It is a rich, full-bodied wine that we think is going to find a great niche on the West Coast. Our 1994 Cab's been our bestseller to date."

Yakima is a small part of Washington State, but has a great impact in the production and sales of wine. "Our industry is young, but Washington is the second largest wine producer in the United States now, and we are ranked among the world's top wine regions," said Harrison.

For more information about Washington wines, touring and tasting opportunities, visit www.washingtonwine.org.

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