

TSILLAN CELLARS

TUSCAN

Wine Club



Summer
2009

Lake Chelan AVA Becomes a Reality

What is an AVA?

By now most of our wine club members have read about the Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, a division of the federal Treasury Department, bestowing the distinction of an AVA upon the Lake Chelan wine region. This begs the question: What is an AVA? An AVA denotes an American Viticulture Appellation. An appellation derives from a French term used to distinguish a defined grape growing area that has certain characteristics. An AVA must be shown to contain unique grape growing qualities. The French term for these unique characteristics is "terroir". "Terroir" encompasses soil, climate, geography, sun exposures and distribution, wind characteristic and countless other micro factors that will influence the character of the grapes grown on that property.

Origin of the AVA

The concept of distinct viticulture regions is a centuries old European legacy. In the tradition of French, Italian and German wine culture wine exhibits a sense of "place". No other agricultural crop will express the uniqueness of the micro "terroir" than vinifera wine grapes. In France wines from a specific vineyard will command many times the price of a vineyard only a few hundred feet distant because of the unique "terroir" distinguishing each vineyard. The wines of Europe are typically denoted by the region, often very small, where the grapes were grown. In the United States and other New World growing regions the wines are identified by variety; i.e. Riesling, Chardonnay, Syrah etc.

History of Washington Wine AVA

An AVA can be huge, or it can be small. The Columbia Valley AVA is a region that extends from the Columbia River to the Canadian border, from the Cascade Mountains to southeastern Washington adjacent to Idaho and Oregon. Obviously, the larger the AVA regions have less distinctive common characteristics. The wines of Walla Walla will be very different from Lake Chelan but they both belong to the Columbia Valley AVA. Therefore, in recent years the larger AVAs are broken down into sub-appellations. These sub-appellations are much more distinct and unique. They express a much greater sense of "place" similar to the French and Italian legacy of wine being an expression of a very small viticulture area.

Why the Lake Chelan AVA is unique

The new Lake Chelan AVA is undoubtedly the most unique of the 11 Washington State AVA regions. Nestled in the Cascade Mountain range along 12 miles of 55 mile long, 1500 feet deep Lake Chelan the scenic and viticulture characteristics are unmatched. Every other Washington AVA owes their unique soil and growing characteristics to the outburst floods from glacial Lake Missoula in western Montana approximately 10,000 years ago. This flood had virtually no impact on the Chelan Valley. No other existing AVA is set in a deep, natural alpine glacial valley with rich volcanic soils and climate tempered by an adjacent large lake.

The Lake Chelan AVA lies downwind of the Glacier Peak volcano that showered our Valley with deep pumice during a catastrophic eruption about 12,000 years ago. The huge water volume of Lake Chelan acts as a heat reservoir that exerts a profound influence moderating potential winter cold events.

Those of you that visit Chelan in the summer enjoy the hot summer days but have learned to have a sweater handy when the sun goes down. The difference in daytime high temperatures and night time low temperatures is called *diurnal* shift. It may be 100F in July or August but cools into the mid or low 60'sF at night. Thus, the perfect growing conditions for clean crisp white wines and cooler climate red wines that have already won acclaim for Tsillan Cellars.

Tsillan Cellars and the New AVA

Tsillan Cellars from the beginning has been about "sense of place". The vineyards have always been the foundation of our search for excellence. The growing conditions on the gentle slopes of the south shore are the most favorable in the Valley. Under the management of Mr. Bal Flores, vineyard manager, our viticulture practices evolve and continue to set the standard in the Chelan Valley. Our wine is an expression of our vineyards. I am very proud of Bal and his crew, their attention to detail and commitment to being the "best".

What's New in the Vineyards

Malbec! Ok, I'm an admitted fan of Malbec. Our first half acre of Malbec vineyard was planned in 2001 simply to be a blender for future Tsillan Cellars blends. Tasting our first vintage of Malbec in barrel quickly yanked it from a blender to future super star. But was it a one year wonder or was that promise of greatness warranted? Two more great Malbec vintages were enough to convince me that this could be one of the great Malbec growing areas in the world. The most famous Malbec presently is grown in the Mendoza region of Argentina. It is about the same latitude as Chelan, lies close in the lee of the Andes Mountains similar to Chelan and the Cascade Mountains, has the same dry continental climate and a history of growing quality tree fruit. As you approach Tsillan Cellars vineyards from Wenatchee you will see a new vineyard along the highway where you can watch the Malbec grow in anticipation of Malbec in your Wine Club shipment in four years. Cheers!



Dr. Bob Jankelson
Owner, Tsillan Cellars

2009 EVENTS CALENDER

The Paperboys
July 3rd & 4th at 7pm
Wine Club \$20.00

Fall Wine Club Party
September 12, 2009
12-4pm

Sorrento's Ristorante
Open Monday thru Sunday for
lunch and dinner from 11am -
10pm. For reservations or
questions contact Sorrento's at
509-682-5409

For more information regarding
Tsillan Cellars Events visit:
www.tsillancellars.com

Staff at Tsillan Cellars

Dr. Bob Jankelson, Owner
Max Harshman, Chief Operations Manager
Ken Cain, General Manager/Director of Sales
Shane Collins, Head Winemaker/Viticulturalist
Bal Flores, Vineyard Foreman
Anne Rose, Accounting
Katie Pippins, Wine Club Coordinator
Lindsay McKenney, Events Coordinator



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