

BEVERLY, WASHINGTON AVA

At 2,415 total acres, Beverly, Washington AVA is one of the smallest appellations in the state and is also low-lying, located between 515 and 900 feet above sea level with an average of 600.

Beverly, Washington is located in central Washington, between the Royal Slope to the north and Wahluke Slope to the south. It is wholly contained within the larger Columbia Valley.

The appellation gets its name from an unincorporated town within its boundaries. The town was established when railroad lines were first run through the region in the early 1900s.

Located two miles north of Sentinel Gap – a 1.5 mile break in the Saddle Mountains, Beverly has three main characteristics as a growing region:

The first is its heat. The appellation accumulates approximately 3500 Growing Degree Days during the growing season, making it one of the warmest appellations in the state. Beverly receives a mere five inches of precipitation annually, which is among the lowest numbers in the Columbia Valley. This is due to its location, which is near maximum rain shadow effect.

The second is the appellation's wind. Wind accelerates as it passes through Sentinel Gap and then slows. As a result, both average wind and daily maximum speeds are significantly higher than nearby Royal Slope.

Finally, the soils of Beverly are extremely well-drained. The appellation is located at the confluence of two major channels of the Missoula Floods. The floodwaters were slowed by the constriction of Sentinel Gap, causing heavier material to settle out. As a result, there are giant gravel bars in the appellation. In fact, Beverly Bar makes up 36% of the appellation.

There are four major soil types in Beverly, with the dominant ones Burbank and Winchester series. Schawana and Quincy make up the others.

■



FAST FACTS

Location: Central Washington

Established: 2024

Total Size: 2,415 acres

Acreage under vine: 400

Top Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc

Soils: Sand and stony loam sand

Average Annual Precipitation: 5 inches

Two things to know:

1. The heat of Beverly means that it is almost entirely planted to red varieties.
2. The wind keeps canopy and berry size small and contributes to thicker skins.

