

Grape Senses'

2014 Pinot-Palooza!

JUNE 9-14, 2014.

Come join me for five nights and four days in Oregon's incredible Willamette Valley. We'll visit the valley's top wineries and lead you to some real undiscovered gems! We'll also take a day to see one of the most beautiful sights in the United States – the Columbia River Gorge.

Our trip begins with a downtown hotel reservation Monday night (6/9/14) and ends upon return to Portland Friday night (6/13/14). Departure is on your own Saturday morning.

This trip will be a real boutique experience. It begins and ends in Portland and includes:

- Two nights lodging in downtown Portland, arrival and departure nights. We'll stay downtown close to the Pearl district and all the restaurants and attractions.
- Three nights in a beautiful Willamette Valley bed and breakfast
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner Tuesday morning through Friday lunch.
- All ground transportation Tuesday morning through our return to hotel Friday afternoon.
- All Tasting fees during the trip.

- **Meals**

We'll lunch at two of our winery stops and plan something special the other two days, enjoy sumptuous breakfast at our Inn, and each evening explore some of the very best Valley restaurants.



Transportation

We'll have a dedicated van and driver for the entire trip. The trip is limited to 12 registrants.

Lodging

Our downtown Portland hotel will be a [Hilton Doubletree](#) close to all the attractions, restaurants and sites. Lodging in the valley will be at the incredible [Black Walnut Inn](#) atop one of the hills of the Dundee Hills appellation.

Besides the Wine?

We'll drive out to the [Columbia River Gorge](#) one morning. We'll stop for photos for the incredible views and at [Multnomah Falls](#). But there's wine this day too! We're going to visit a tasting room that presents the wines of the Gorge. Many of these wineries make Italian varietal wines which will be a nice change from all that incredible Pinot Noir.

We're also going to visit [The Republic of Jam](#) in Carlton one day on this trip. Trust me, you've never had jelly like this! You're going to love it!



Above, Howard with Pinot Pioneer Don Lange

Take home a case!

There is an expectation visitors will buy wine on group trips, especially in California but Oregon as well. But there is no obligation to do so. We're going to make it a little easier for you. Each couple on this trip will have a prepaid opportunity to ship home one case by UPS air delivery. This will allow you to purchase a couple of bottles here and there and not worry about the shipping. I'll take care of it for you! If you wish to ship additional cases of wine, the winery will handle that or I can get you a discount at the UPS wine shipper in Newberg.

This trip **does not include airfare** to and back home from Portland or transportation to and from the Portland Hotel. The airport is about nine miles from the city center.

At right, Bill and Donna, owners of Winderlea Vineyards, will host us for mid-week lunch. They produce just 2,000 – 3,000 cases a year. It's a REAL boutique winery.

Cost

Pinot-Palooza represents good value for a boutique experience with access to the winery owners and winemakers at many of our stops.

The cost per person, double occupancy is \$2650. Deposit: \$500 per person will be due with registration. Such a small, private group requires a minimum of 10 participants but the trip will be capped at 12 plus Howard.

Cancellations before Jan. 31, 2014 will be refunded \$450. The bed & breakfast has a non-refundable deposit. Deposit is non-refundable after Jan. 31, 2014. The trip balance will be due Mar. 15 (Details on Registration Form).

Make Checks Payable to: Howard W. Hewitt ,
1802 Eastfield Dr., Crawfordsville, In. *(I do not accept credit card payment at this time.)*



So, Where we going?

Places you might know:

[Lange Estate Winery](#) – We'll visit with the Lange family and tour the winery, vineyards and then enjoy the spectacular views of the Willamette Valley over lunch from Red Hills Market. Lange was among the second wave of Pinot pioneers and have been considered leaders in Pinot Gris.

[Domaine Drouhin Oregon](#) – One could argue Robert Drouhin's decision in the late 1980s to purchase land and build a winery outside Burgundy was a landmark moment for the Willamette Valley. We'll tour the winery and vineyards and then enjoy one of the most unique tasting experiences of our trip. We'll sample Domaine Drouhin's Oregon wines side by side with [Maison Joseph Drouhin](#)'s French Burgundy.

About Howard Hewitt:

Howard spent most of his career in the newspaper business before joining the communications and marketing staff in 2004 at Wabash College. During his newspaper career he was a reporter, editor, publisher and then a Bureau Chief for the *Indianapolis Star*.

Howard started his wine writing more than six years ago. His newspaper column *Grape Sense* appears in 23 newspapers in three states. He's a contributor to two national online publications and has done freelance magazine work.

Wineries you might not know:

[Vidon Vineyards](#) – By far the greatest "find" I've had in three previous visits to the Willamette Valley. Don Hagge makes stunning wines and has an awesome story to share. He did post-graduate work in Burgundy and was once a NASA engineer. He uses Burgundy clones to make his 3 Clones blend and single clone wines. This might be the best glass of Pinot in the Valley. Furthermore, Don recently took his winery private so you can't get a pour unless you're a member! I've got us hooked up!

[Winderlea Vineyard & Winery](#) – Friends Bill Sweat and Donna Morris moved to Oregon in 2006 after successful careers in banking. They have a true boutique winery producing just 2,000 cases annually. You won't find this in Indiana or most of the Midwest. It's a real hidden gem.

But that's not all ... I have communicated with these wineries and they're expecting us. There will be approximately 7-9 winery stops in the three-and-a-half days we're in the valley.

Howard has visited the Willamette Valley on three previous occasions. Napa/Sonoma, Mendocino, Paso Robles are other areas where Howard has contacts and made numerous visits. He's also toured France's Bordeaux, Chablis, and Languedoc wine regions.

This is the first *Grape Sense* wine trip but Howard led a College group on a tour of the Languedoc in the summer of 2013. A future *Grape Sense* insider's trip to Napa/Sonoma, Paso Robles, a return to the Languedoc, and more are being considered. Where do you want to go?