

EXPLORING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF VITICULTURE IN THE LOWER YAKIMA VALLEY

Day/Time:

Saturday, April 4, 2015;
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Pick-Up Location:

Columbia Basin College,
North Parking lot

Cost: \$40

Leader: Dr. Alan Bussaca
Owner & Manager, Vinitas
Consultants, LLC.



Washington is the second largest premium wine producer in the United States!

There are over 350 wine grape growers in 13 American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). Several of these AVAs are located in or adjacent to the Lower Yakima Valley. We will visit four of them: Red Mountain, Yakima Valley, Snipe Mountain and Rattlesnake Hills AVAs. We'll explore the geology, hydrogeology, climate, and viticultural practices that produce some of the world's best wine grapes. We will also look into the future - the potential changes - as this region responds to water, climate, and ecological demands.



The field trip is limited to 20 participants. The \$40 cost includes transportation (using two 12-passenger vans), a sack lunch, and wine tasting.

About the Field Trip Leader...

Dr. Alan Busacca is well-known as a geologist, soil scientist, and viticulturist. Alan spent many years as a professor at Washington State University researching diverse topics in Ice-Age geology and paleoecology, eolian systems, landscape and soil formation processes, contemporary (farming) soil erosion, as well as viticulture of the Pacific Northwest, Italy, and beyond.

His increasing involvement with and enjoyment of the people and the culture of wine led him to leave WSU a few years ago to pursue his own business ventures in grapes and wine. Alan now lives in the Columbia Gorge where he co-owns Volcano Ridge Vineyard in the Columbia Gorge AVA near The Dalles, Oregon, markets his *Heart Catcher* wines, and consults with private and corporate clients regionally, nationally, and internationally to find, evaluate, and develop parcels of land into exceptional wine-grape vineyards.