

WINERY AND VINEYARD TOURS AT BONAIR WINERY

Winery tour (approximately 1 hour)- \$10 per person (no charge for children)

Vineyard tour (approximately 1 ½ hours)- \$20 per person, limit of 4

All tours must be arranged in advance by emailing winemaker@bonairwine.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the difference between a vineyard and a winery tour? This question comes up because most wineries in Washington do not have vineyards. A vineyard is a field where grapes are grown. It is like an orchard, except that instead of trees it has vines. So a vineyard tour takes you to the place where grapes are grown for wineries. We have 35 acres of our own estate vineyards and there are several thousand additional acres nearby to see.

A winery, on the other hand, is a building where grapes are turned into wine. A winery tour is a tour of the buildings with lots of stainless steel equipment, some oak barrels, and cased wine.

Can I combine both tours? Not really. The vineyard tour takes about 1 1/2 hours and involves about 20 miles of driving to see the dozen vineyards near our winery in the Rattlesnake Hills. The winery tour takes about an hour and involves walking through our buildings.

Can I taste wine without a tour? Yes. The old days of Napa Valley wineries requiring a tour in order to taste are over. Our tasting room is open to the public without any reservation needed (large groups or buses are requested to book in advance). You walk through the vineyard to get to our tasting room so you do your own “mini vineyard tour.”

What will I see on a vineyard tour? You will see where sunshine and water are turned into grapes for fine wines. You will learn about water rights, irrigation, pruning, training, the Missoula Floods, soils, geography and geology of the Rattlesnake Hills AVA. You will also experience desert ecology.

What will I see on a winery tour? You will see the inside of the buildings where we make wine, store wine in barrels or stainless tanks, and then store wine ready to be shipped. WE can discuss the process of destemming/crushing, presses, fermenters, forklifts, and a bottling line. You will learn how wine is made.

Can I just look around the winery by myself? No, because of the Dept of Homeland Security Act, and due to accident risk, all visitors must be accompanied by a staff employee.

Can I take small children on the vineyard tour? The vineyard tour is done in a 4x4 pickup truck which is not easy to get into or out of. It is necessary to have 4 wheel drive to go through the vineyards without getting stuck. We get out several times to look at the view and talk about things. Cheat grass proof shoes are recommended and if you cannot get in or out of a Dodge Ram 2500. This tour is not for you. Child’s car seats are not available.

Can children go on the winery tour? Yes, well behaved children are always welcome (no charge). The tour does involve steps, but is not vigorous.