

food + drinks

THE 10 BEST (AND BEST-LOOKING) DESTINATION WINERIES IN THE WORLD

FROM WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON, TO CHINA'S JADE VALLEY, THE WORLD'S BEST DESTINATION VINEYARDS OFFER PERFECT PAIRINGS FOR THEIR FINE VINTAGES: INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTURE, AWE-INSPIRING VIEWS, GREAT FOOD, AND UNBEATABLE ACCOMMODATIONS.

BY [DAVID SOKOL](#)

FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE

CHARLES SMITH WINES: BEST DESTINATION WINERY IN WASHINGTON

FORMER ROCK-BAND MANAGER CHARLES SMITH OPENED AN INDUSTRIAL-CHIC NEW TASTING ROOM FOR HIS BOOM BOOM! SYRAH AND OTHER WINES. PLUS: WHERE TO EAT AND STAY NEARBY.



A wild-haired, Harley-riding former rock-band manager is now one of the irresistible forces in American winemaking, creating crowd-pleasers like Kung Fu Girl Riesling, Boom Boom! Syrah, and Old Bones Syrah (which earned a 99 rating from *The Wine Advocate*). The winery, in Walla Walla Valley (fast becoming as famous for wine as for sweet onions), is in a no-frills former farm building, but last April Smith opened a tasting room in downtown Walla Walla that's a must-see even for teetotalers. Seattle's Olson Kundig Architects retained the old auto-repair warehouse's exposed wooden roof trusses, brick walls, and cement floor, then amped up the industrial vibe by adding two huge crank-operated steel swing windows that open onto sidewalk seating. The effect is stark and striking—like the winemaker's black-and-white graphic labels. [charlessmithwines.com](#)

Where To Eat

The nationally acclaimed Whitehouse-Crawford is a short walk away, in an old lumber-planing mill.

Where To Stay

The Inn at Abeja, operated by another leading Walla Walla winery, is in a renovated turn-of-the-century farmstead with views of the Blue Mountains.