


More Fun than a Barrel of Monkeys

Clear your palates and your calendars, wine lovers. Washington wineries are rolling out the barrels this spring — for tastings galore. Enjoy sneak previews of future vintages at wineries throughout the state. Here are a few upcoming events where casual tasters and wine enthusiasts alike can taste unfinished wines straight from the barrel, monkeys not included.

BY DANA E. NEUTS




Woodinville

 **Spring Barrel Tasting**
Chateau Ste. Michelle
 March 16–17, 11am–5pm

Visit the Eastside's very own Chateau Ste. Michelle winery for a rare tasting event. Sample wine still aging in the barrels and speak to one of the winery's award-winning winemakers. Food will be available for purchase. Tickets \$20. ste-michelle.com/events


Seattle

 **Taste Washington**
 March 23–24, 2013
 CenturyLink Field Event Center

Billed as the nation's largest single-region wine and food event, Taste Washington is the pièce de résistance. At this do-not-miss event, more than 225 vineyards and wineries will share their tastiest of wares with wine patrons, along with bites from several dozen restaurants and chocolatiers. Attend a


seminar, meet a favorite chef, talk to wine experts and taste, taste, taste! Tickets are \$80–\$185. tastewashington.org

Goldendale

 **Maryhill Winery's Spring Release Weekend**
 March 23–24, 10am–6pm

The Maryhill Winery in Goldendale debuts its new releases, offering barrel tastings, hot dogs, a marshmallow roast and live music. Can't make it this weekend? The winery is also offering an Easter Barrel Sample weekend March 30–31. maryhillwinery.com

Yakima Valley


 **2013 Spring Barrel Tasting**
 April 26–28, 10am–5pm

Fifty wineries in the Yakima Valley participate in this annual event. Winemakers and cellar staff will be available to explain the winemaking



process, suggest pairings and, of course, provide special tastings. Tickets are \$30. wineyakimavalley.org/events

Walla Walla

 **Spring Release Weekend**
 May 3–5

Several dozen wineries from the Walla Walla Valley proudly unveil the first releases of their new vintages during this special weekend. Visit tasting rooms, talk to winemakers, sample straight from the barrel and maybe take home a bottle or two! Pricing and times vary. wallawallawine.com

For more spring barrel tastings and wine events, visit gotastewine.com.

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