

OUR FAVORITE BARGAIN WINES

# Sunset

LIVING IN THE WEST

(SMALL)

## 20 BEST TOWNS

From seaside paradise to a food lover's haven:  
Places to dream, play, and connect



Delicious noodle bowls  
Make our edgy veggie  
garden boxes

MARCH 2009



SUNSET.COM



# food & wine haven

**Walla Walla, WA** A Cab capital stays true to its rural soul

**POPULATION**» 30,794 **WHAT A HOUSE COSTS**» \$224,900

**THE VIBE**» This southeastern Washington town was once famous for wheat and sweet onions. The show up at Saffron Mediterranean produce some of the best Cabernet. The town has revived a once-somnolent century buildings. But while Walla Walla Winemaker Chris Figgins snows



**WHERE**» 275 miles southeast of Seattle, 242 miles northeast of Portland.  
**MAIN DRAG**» Main Street,

downtown. **INTELLECTUAL ANCHORS**» Whitman College, 1,434 students; Walla Walla University, 1,829 students. **GRAPE MINDS**» Walla Walla Community College's Enology and Viticulture program, with its own teaching vineyard and winery. **NUMBER OF TASTING ROOMS DOWNTOWN**» 17 **HOME STYLE**» A contemporary on a 1-acre lot. **VISIT**» [wallawalla.org](http://wallawalla.org); [marcuswhitmanhotel.com](http://marcuswhitmanhotel.com)

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS OVER»

The amazing housemade flat-bread at Saffron Mediterranean Kitchen. Fish tacos at college pub Green Lantern.

**ON SATURDAY**» Stop at the Walla Walla Valley Farmers' Market (May–Oct), bike in the Blue Mountains, or tour Pepper Bridge

■ Va Piano Vineyards, and other wineries south of town. Head back into town for more wine tasting at Seven Hills Winery or Forgeron Cellars, or savor a caramel at 75-year-old Bright's Candies. For dinner, both Whitehouse-Crawford Restaurant and 26brix are standouts.

**INSIDE SCOOP**» "Wine grapes are the apex of 'local.' They have a deep sense of place. And wine will take Walla Walla to the world."

—CHRIS FIGGINS, WINEMAKER,  
LEONETTI CELLAR

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