

HISTORY

- 1871 Missionaries and French fur traders bring vinifera plants to eastern Washington and teach Native Americans how to irrigate the Yakima Valley.
- 1912 Hollywood Farm is established northeast of Seattle by lumber baron Frederick Stimson and is the site on which Chateau Ste. Michelle is now located.
- 1934-1935 NAWICO (National Wine Company) founded in Seattle and Grandview. Pommerelle fruit wines founded in Seattle. Companies later merge to become Chateau Ste. Michelle.
- 1951 Under guidance from general manager Vic Allison, NAWICO begins planting vinifera grapes in the Columbia Valley. First variety planted is grenache.
- 1954 Pommerelle and NAWICO merge to become American Wine Growers. Grenache released in cork-finished bottles.
- 1965 American Wine Growers plants first white riesling in the Yakima Valley at Hahn Hill Vineyard.
Howard Somers becomes enologist and begins making premium wines.
- 1966 Wine writer and historian Leon Adams visits Yakima Valley and is impressed by the grenache wine. He suggests to Vic Allison that Washington vintners should make vinifera wine on a commercial scale.
- 1967 André Tchelistcheff, recently retired winemaker from Napa Valley's Beaulieu Vineyards, visits Yakima Valley. Allison asks Tchelistcheff to become consultant to American Wine Growers.
American Wine Growers launches "Ste. Michelle" wines made from vinifera grapes grown in eastern Washington. Cabernet sauvignon, pinot noir, semillon, grenache rosé are the first varieties produced.
- 1972-1973 Cold Creek Vineyard planted.
- 1974 Los Angeles Times holds blind tasting of 19 white rieslings. Ste. Michelle's 1972 riesling ranks first. Winery catapulted into national spotlight.
Joel Klein becomes winemaker (through 1982).
- 1975 Chateau Ste. Michelle harvests its first chardonnay grapes.
- 1976 Chateau Ste. Michelle's Woodinville "chateau" opens in September for winemaking and visitor tours. Label changes from Ste. Michelle Vintners to Chateau Ste. Michelle. Chateau Ste. Michelle harvests its first merlot grapes.

HISTORY (CONTINUED)

- 1977 Kay Simon hired as assistant winemaker.
- 1978 The first Cold Creek Cabernet Sauvignon is made.
- A small amount of johannisberg riesling is left on the vine into November and is hit by a freeze, resulting in Chateau Ste. Michelle's first ice wine.
- Kay Simon named white winemaker (through 1983).
- 1980 The Stimson estate and gardens are listed on the National Register of Historical Places.
- 1983 Cheryl Barber named head winemaker (through 1989).
- 1984 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms designates Columbia Valley as an appellation.
- 1988 Chateau Ste. Michelle named "Best American Winery" by Tasters Guild and "Best American Winery" by Wine Country magazine.
- 1989 Chateau Ste. Michelle named "Best of the Best" wineries by Wine & Spirits magazine.
- 1990 Mike Januik is named Chateau Ste. Michelle's head winemaker (continues through 1999).
Charlie Hoppes named assistant winemaker and later becomes the red winemaker (through 1998).
- Robert M. Parker, Jr. names Chateau Ste. Michelle "wine producer of the year."
- 1991 Chateau Ste. Michelle's 1987 cabernet sauvignon is awarded the only gold medal for an American red wine at VinExpo in Bordeaux, France.
- 1993 Chateau Ste. Michelle's Canoe Ridge Estate Winery is under construction. Canoe Ridge Estate Vineyard is planted.
- Wine writer Richard Nalley rates the 1991 Indian Wells Merlot #1 in the country. Robert M. Parker, Jr. calls the wine "world class."
- Erik Olsen named white winemaker (through 2002).
- 1994 Canoe Ridge Estate Winery opens for harvest as Chateau Ste. Michelle's red wine facility.
- Robert M. Parker, Jr. calls Chateau Ste. Michelle "one of the most inspired wineries in the business," and its chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and merlot "among the finest in America."

9 HISTORY (CONTINUED)

- 1995 Wine Spectator names Chateau Ste. Michelle's 1991 Late Harvest White Riesling Reserve and 1993 Cold Creek Chardonnay to its "Top 100 Wines" list.
- 1996 The 1993 Artist Series, a Bordeaux-style wine, is launched featuring labels depicting artwork by internationally-acclaimed glass maker Dale Chihuly.
- 1998 Chateau Ste. Michelle announces partnership with Tuscan winemaker Piero Antinori. The internationally-styled red wine, Col Solare, debuts in the spring of 1999 using Washington grapes.
- 1999 Ron Bunnell is named red winemaker (through 2003).
- Wine Spectator names 1997 Cold Creek Chardonnay to its "Top 100 Wines List."
- Chateau Ste. Michelle joins with Dr. Ernst Loosen, one of Germany's premier winemakers, to harvest Washington state grapes for a new off-dry riesling, Eroica, and a premium sweet wine (trockenbeerenauslese), named Single Berry Select.
- Construction begins in Woodinville, Washington on new barrel room for all white wines made at Chateau Ste. Michelle.
- Construction begins on expansion of Canoe Ridge Estate red wine facility near Paterson, Washington.
- 2000 Eroica, a new dry riesling made with Ernst Loosen of Germany using Washington state grapes, releases nationwide in June. The wine earns a 91 point rating from Wine Spectator.
- Single Berry Select, new sweet wine made in the German trockenbeerenauslese style releases in the fall. Wine Spectator rates the wine 97 points – the publication's highest ever rating for an American Riesling at the time.
- 2001 Chateau Ste. Michelle 1999 Cold Creek Chardonnay is ranked 16th on the Wine Spectator's "Top 100," making it the highest ranked white wine in the world.
- 2002 Chateau Ste. Michelle introduces pinot gris and syrah to its line up of Columbia Valley wines.
- Eroica is named to Wine Spectator's "Top 100" list – the third vintage to earn a "Top 100" honor. The 1999 Canoe Ridge Estate Merlot also makes the list.
- The 2000 Single Berry Select dessert wine earns a 98 point rating by Wine Spectator – the highest rating for a Washington wine at the time.

9 HISTORY (CONTINUED)

- 2003 Bob Bertheau named winemaker for Chateau Ste. Michelle white wines.
Eroica earns its fourth consecutive “Top 100 Wines” honor by Wine Spectator.
- 2004 Wine Enthusiast Magazine names Chateau Ste. Michelle its “American Winery of the Year 2004”
Chateau Ste. Michelle parent company, Stimson Lane Vineyards & Estates, changes its name to Ste. Michelle Wine Estates to better reflect its rich history and vision for the future.
Bob Bertheau promoted to head winemaker for Chateau Ste. Michelle.
Eroica Riesling earns its fifth Wine Spectator “Top 100” honor.
- 2005 Named “American Winery of the Year 2005” by Restaurant Wine Magazine.
Joshua Maloney named red winemaker.
- 2006 2004 Canoe Ridge Estate Chardonnay makes Wine Spectator’s “Top 100 Wines” list.
- 2007 Chateau Ste. Michelle & Dr. Loosen host Riesling Rendezvous in June 2007 and July 2008. The three-day event brings together riesling experts and producers to explore the versatility of riesling worldwide. The 2008 Riesling Rendezvous featured 73 producers from seven countries. It is the largest riesling event in the U.S.
Wendy Stuckey named white winemaker. Considered one of Australia’s best white winemakers, Wendy was with the Fosters Group based at the Wolf Blass Winery for 15 years.
Chateau Ste. Michelle Dry Riesling releases nationwide, after 15 years of exclusive availability in the Northwest. The 2007 Dry Riesling wins “Best Riesling of the New World” in the 2008 International Riesling Competition run by Rheinland Pfalz in Germany.
- 2008 Chateau Ste. Michelle named “Wine Brand of the Year” in Market Watch magazine’s “Leaders Choice Awards.”
Wine & Spirits Magazine names Chateau Ste. Michelle to its “Wineries of the Year” list for the 14th time, more than any other American winery.
Chateau Ste. Michelle expands its tasting bar to enhance the winery’s wine tasting experience.