



# YELLOWHAWK

WALLA + WALLA

## **Basel Cellars Estate Begins Transformation to Yellowhawk Resort and Sparkling House**

*Details announced for future development, evolution to sparkling wine program and August food and wine event.*

**Walla Walla, WA – June 9, 2021** – One of Walla Walla’s most iconic locations has begun its transformation to a destination resort for people to escape, engage, connect, and experience the layers of agricultural heritage found in the Walla Walla Valley. Formerly known as Basel Cellars Estate, Yellowhawk Resort was purchased in December 2020 by Pacific Northwest hospitality leaders Dan Thiessen, Chad Mackay, Scott Clark, Philip Christofides and Paul Mackay and became part of the Revelers Club collection of properties. The team today announced plans for the 84-acre view estate and vineyards including a new sparkling wine program, expanded lodging, dining and private event offerings, poolside experiences and the Shindig, an annual food and wine event to be held on August 27-29, 2021.

“When guests arrive at Yellowhawk’s hilltop setting and first glimpse the 360-degree view over the surrounding vineyards, farmland, and Blue Mountains, their shoulders relax, and their smiles come out. There is something about winding up the hill that causes the spirit to unwind. As they take their first sip of sparkling wine, guests begin to engage with each other and build a connection to our land and community,” said Dan Thiessen, co-owner and managing partner, Yellowhawk Resort. “Whether for an afternoon of wine tasting, a romantic weekend, family reunion, wedding or a corporate retreat, Yellowhawk is a scenic and serene base camp for visitors discovering Walla Walla and provides a retreat for locals to enjoy the beauty of where they live.”

### **Yellowhawk Sparkling House and Tasting Room**

The 26-acre vineyard will begin its transformation following the 2021 harvest. Some of the red varietals will be transplanted into both traditional sparkling wine varietals such as chardonnay, pinot noir, pinot meunier as well as other popular grapes including muscat ottonel. One of the blocks near the estate house will be carved out to become a setting for wedding ceremonies.

“The shift to becoming a sparkling house was a natural evolution of our concept. The estate house and the surrounding land provided us with an incredible opportunity to focus on our core strength – hospitality. The South Side winery district has exceptional still winemakers and

creating a sparkling program allows us to complement and remain inclusive to those around us with guest winemaker dinners and events,” said Thiessen. “We are here to get the party started for our guests, and to showcase others in the winemaking community.”

With its evolution to a sparkling house, Yellowhawk will begin the process of transforming the existing dramatic tower to the portal for experiencing Yellowhawk’s sparkling wines. Current Basel Cellars wine club members will receive benefits through 2021 and will then have the option to join the Yellowhawk wine club.

In July 2021, Yellowhawk will release four sparkling wines:

- Yellowhawk Bubbles in white, rosé and red
- 2019 Yellowhawk Sparkling Sémillon

Winemaker George-Anne Robertson is the former estate director of Walla Walla Vintners and a graduate of the Institute for Enology and Viticulture at Walla Walla Community College. She had planned to move to Japan and become the sparkling winemaker for Fuji-San when the Covid pandemic began. While she was contemplating whether she would be able eventually make that move, the new ownership team at Yellowhawk made the decision to become to a sparkling house. This moment of serendipity led to George-Anne knowing that she had found the perfect opportunity to create something special with a variety of sparkling wines.

### **Lodging**

The eight-bedroom Estate House and the Pool House will continue to be available for vacation rentals until construction begins to transform it into the future reception area, spa and meeting center. The ownership team is currently working with Walla Walla County to expand the potential for additional lodging in keeping with the agricultural character of the Walla Walla Valley.

### **Dining**

The Yellowhawk mobile kitchen begins serving its farm-to-table menu in June 2021. Culinary offerings are available at the tasting room and patio and will be available as part of the pool club. The tasting room is open Thursday-Monday from 10 am-4pm.

### **Poolside Experiences**

Poolside cabana rentals will soon be available for existing Basel Cellars and new Yellowhawk wine club members for half or full day reservations. Members can reserve pool time, wine tasting, massage and dining. A second adult-only swimming pool will be added to the property to create unique spaces for families and romantic getaways.

### **The Shindig**

The Shindig event will be held at Yellowhawk on August 27-29, 2021 and highlight Walla Walla as a premier food and wine destination. In the coming years, the annual event will evolve to a three-day celebration of the region, featuring exceptional wine, food, education, and entertainment. This inaugural year will feature a Friday evening Walla Walla district Grand

Tasting event, a Saturday gala dinner and auction, and an exclusive Sunday morning poolside Champagne Brunch. Funds raised will support local hospitality workforce training programs including the Wine Country Culinary Institute and Center for Enology and Viticulture, Vital Wine's SOS Clinic, and the Blue Mountain Foundation's selection of a local charitable organization.

### **About Yellowhawk Resort**

[Yellowhawk Resort](#) is an 84-acre hillside retreat on Walla Walla's south side. The resort features a sparkling winery and tasting room with farm-to-table dining, swimming pool and cabanas, lodging and event space for weddings, reunions, and corporate retreats. As you enter the gate and wind up the hill to the estate house, the elevated setting provides a sweeping outlook on the fields of wheat, lush vineyards, and Blue Mountains. The property was purchased in December 2020 by Pacific Northwest hospitality leaders Dan Thiessen, Chad Mackay, Scott Clark, Philip Christofides and Paul Mackay and is part of the Revelers Club loyalty program. The sparkling wine program is led by winemaker George-Anne Robertson.

### **About Revelers Club**

Each [Revelers Club](#) location is unique to the community it serves, and all share the following attributes.

- Service – We provide every guest with a unique, unparalleled experience. We revel in celebrating lives.
- Quality - Our mission is to source the best in the world for our guests to enjoy.
- Community – Building a strong community through financial giving and sharing time and resources is a core company value.

Revelers Club is the industry's most generous rewards program designed to reward and honor our guest's loyalty and provide benefits at each location in the collection, including El Gaucho Seattle, Bellevue, Tacoma, Portland and Vancouver (opening 2021), AQUA by El Gaucho, Walla Walla Steak Co., Crossbuck Brewing and Yellowhawk Resort. Free to join, the Revelers Club shares birthday and anniversary gifts at each level of the program and members receive points for every dollar spent.

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