



YELLOWHAWK

WALLA + WALLA

Fact Sheet

June 2021

2901 Old Milton Hwy
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509.522.0200

<https://yellowhawkresort.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/yellowhawkwallawalla/>

<https://www.facebook.com/YellowhawkResort/>

<https://twitter.com/YellowhawkWW>

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. The elevated hilltop 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 collection of properties. The sparkling wine program is led by winemaker George-Anne Robertson.

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 create a setting for wedding ceremonies.

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 our local hospitality workforce training programs; Wine Country Culinary Institute and Center for Enology and Viticulture at the WWCC as well as Vital Wine's SOS Clinic, and the Blue Mountain Foundation's selection of a local charitable organization.

The Team

Dan Thiessen, Co-owner and Managing Partner

A native of eastern Washington, Managing Partner Dan Thiessen was raised on a cattle ranch in Asotin, 2 hours east of Walla Walla. As a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, his 25

year career has included kitchens in Switzerland, Aspen, Coeur d' Alene, Seattle and Walla Walla. In 2018, Dan partnered with Paul Mackay and Philip Christofides to open Walla Walla Steak Co. and Crossbuck Brewing in the historic Walla Walla train depot, and recently announced plans for a new location set to open in Woodinville in 2022. Dan and a team of partners purchased Yellowhawk Resort (formerly Basel Cellars Estate) in 2020 and will continue to operate the iconic property as an exceptional wine country lodging and event location and sparkling house winery, while developing plans for further expansion. Dan and his wife Melissa are the proud parents of three sons and are active in the Walla Walla community, as well as operating the Asotin cattle ranch and their own farm and vineyard in Walla Walla.

George-Anne Robertson, Winemaker

Winemaker George-Anne Robertson is inspired by the Helen Keller quote, "Life is a daring adventure, or nothing," and her path to Yellowhawk has included some adventure along the way. After served as the estate director at Walla Walla Vintners after graduating from the Institute for Enology and Viticulture at Walla Walla Community College. She always dreamed of becoming a sparkling winemaker. When the new ownership team at Yellowhawk made the decision to become to a sparkling house, George-Anne knew she had found the perfect opportunity to create something special new and unique.

George-Anne grew up in Saskatchewan, Canada in a small agricultural community called Melville and says her close family is a strong force and touchstone in her life. She is also the proud mother of two grown children, Haley and Clyde. George-Anne renews her energy in nature and is an avid hiker, trail runner, cyclist and Nordic skier. She loves to entertain, especially with a glass of crisp sparkling wine in hand.

Jim Kiefer, General Manager

Jim has built his career in the hospitality industry with a focus on creating a culture where people feel welcome and can come in and celebrate. That guest-focused perspective is what brought him to Walla Walla Steak Co. at the very beginning and is how he has contributed to its success. He will bring that same philosophy to Yellowhawk Resort and to create an experience where guests can come and get away from their everyday life and let his team take care everything else.

Prior to joining the company, Jim owned and operated a steak and seafood restaurant in Steamboat Springs, CO and then moved to Bend, OR where he served as general manager of the Bos Taurus steakhouse. Jim and his wife, Emily and their daughter Zoe enjoy time in the mountains fly fishing, skiing, and biking.

Meredith Call, Tasting Room Manager

Every memorable wine has a bit of complexity and depth to it, and the same is true for Yellowhawk tasting room manager, Meredith Call. In addition to her background in wine, including her most recent position as director of consumer sales at Balboa Winery, Meredith also brings a deep hospitality skillset after years working in and managing restaurants, including

one of Chicago's premium steakhouses, Prime & Provisions. Meredith is excited to embark on the new Yellowhawk journey by developing the wine sales program and crafting exceptional guest experiences.

Meredith is an accomplished musician and moved to Amsterdam at 23 years old to make an electronic album for a Dutch recording company and toured in Germany with the electronic artist Schiller. The ability to perform her own songs and collaborate with producers was a pivotal part of her life. In addition to her passion for music, Meredith loves to hike and take road trips with her dog Inyo, learning how to roast coffee and is pursuing her wine education through the WSET program.

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.

Media Contact:

Beth Herrell Silverberg
Public Relations Director

Revelers Club

(206) 679-5157

beth@revelersclub.com