

# Preston winery in Pasco bottles first vintage

By BOB WOHLER  
Herald Farm Writer  
Preston Wine Cellars of  
Pasco is bottling its first vin-

tage and expects to start  
public sales in July.  
Bottles of light red Gamay  
Rose were being put into

cases to await the grand  
opening of the new winery  
five miles north of Pasco.

Bill Preston, owner of the  
new winery, which is already  
the second largest in the state  
based on gallonage, said he's  
pleased with the first vin-  
tages.

Preston vinted 34,000  
gallons of wine last year, se-  
cond to Ste Michelle, which  
vinted 250,000 gallons,  
according to the State  
Agriculture Department.

Preston hopes the tasting  
room, which is being built on  
the roof of a new bulk wine  
storage room, will be open by  
the second week in July.

Winemaker Rob Griffin,  
who joined the winery earlier  
this year, said he feels the  
first vintage will be a good  
solid wine with pleasing color,  
aroma and taste.

Preston said he will sell  
wines from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
daily, but the tasting room  
will be opened on an appoint-  
ment basis.

I hope when get into this a  
little more we can open the  
tasting room to the general  
public on a drop-in basis,"  
Preston said.

People wishing to schedule  
guided tours of the winery  
and tasting room should call  
the winery at 545-1990.

Griffin, a 1975 graduate of  
the University of California at  
Davis in wine making, worked  
for Buena Vista winery and  
for Paul Masson.

He said Preston is bottling  
1,300 cases of the Gamay  
Rose, which he hopes to  
market for just under \$3 a  
bottle.

Already bottled are 370  
cases of Sauvignon Blanc, a

white wine, and expected to  
be bottled next week will be  
3,000 cases of Johannisberg  
Riesling.

Later this summer, red  
wines, including Burgundy  
and Merlot, will be bottled.  
Scheduled to be bottled in  
August are a Chenin Blanc  
and a Chardonnay, both white  
wines.

Preston's classic red wines,  
such as Pinot Noir and  
Cabernet Sauvignon, will age  
until 1978 or longer before  
being bottled.

## ROTC ok'd

EUGENE (AP) — The Uni-  
versity of Oregon faculty re-  
versed itself Wednesday and  
voted 190-110 to retain ROTC  
military programs at the  
school.



Rob Griffin, wine maker at Preston Wine Cellars of Pasco, checked a bottle of Gamay Rose that was bottled this week.



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