



Rob Griffin and the fifty harvests of Washington wine

50th HARVEST MILESTONE FOR WASHINGTON WINEMAKER, ROB GRIFFIN

RICHLAND, WA. - August 27th, 2026

Rob Griffin, founder and head winemaker of Barnard Griffin Winery, has begun his 50th harvest in Columbia Valley- a first for the state of Washington.

Columbia Valley Pinot Gris arrived Monday, August 24th, while Wahluke Slope Syrah and White Bluffs Sauvignon Blanc will be processed at the Richland winery later this week, kicking off his 50th harvest with a bang and further cementing his contributions to the industry to which he's dedicated much of his life.

While such longevity in the wine business is certainly not unheard of, Griffin has personally experienced much of the state's wine-focused history, and still showed up for work this week. "The whole process is infinitely fascinating to me. I'm out here dragging hoses around and killing myself during harvest, complaining about it, but I still like it."

Griffin became head winemaker at the former Preston Wine Cellars in the spring of 1977 at age 23, started his own label (Barnard Griffin) with his wife, Deborah Barnard in 1983, and moved to Hogue Cellars in 1984. Within his first 10 years in the Washington wine industry he won the first Grand Prize at the Seattle Enological Society awards, won an Oregon wine competition resulting in the subsequent ban of Washington wine entrants, and had innumerable wines lauded in print in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Seattle Times* as well as local papers and periodicals.

After leaving other pursuits to focus on Barnard Griffin in the early 90s, Griffin's wines were served at the Clinton-Yeltsin summit in Vancouver, have placed three times in the Wine Spectator Top 100, and his Rosé of Sangiovese is the winningest wine at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition; taking the top prize for Rosé wines in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2022. He has been awarded Honorary Vintner at the Auction of Washington Wines, and the Grand Vin Award from the Washington Winegrowers Association.

Supported by his family, including his daughter and second-generation winemaker Megan Hughes, and his long-tenured winemaking and cellar team; Griffin will balance harvest duties with several celebrations through-out the season and into 2027; including two commemorative wine releases and special events for the Barnard Griffin wine clubs and tasting rooms in Richland and Vancouver, Washington.

Vintage photos and articles as well as his career timeline and more can be found at <https://www.barnardgriffin.com/50th> - and the 50th harvest can be followed in (near) real time on Barnard Griffin's socials - @barnardgriffin on Instagram and Barnard Griffin on Facebook.

Media inquiries can be directed to:

Liz Moss Woerman - liz@barnardgriffin.com | (509) 572-3456