

Located off Stafford Road in Tualatin, Barnello Winery offers picturesque views of the vineyard nearby the barn-turned-tasting room.  
COURTESY PHOTO: ED WAGNER







# A HIDDEN GEM

*Barnello Winery features a reservation-only tasting room adjacent to its vineyard for small to large groups*

**T**ucked away off of Stafford Road in Tualatin, you'll find a vineyard, an old horse barn and, if you're lucky, Barnello Winery owner Ed Wagner pouring samples of his latest vintage.

The winery, predominantly reservation only, caters to small to mid-size groups. From birthdays to work events to bachelorette parties, Wagner and Barnello Winery will tailor the tasting to the gathering.

And for special occasions, you won't be double-booked.

"At big wineries you could bring a big group in, but there are a whole lot of other people there too," Wagner said. "We try to specialize and make sure everyone's event feels like that's their event, and we're there to serve them."

For bigger parties that need more space than the horse barn-turned-tasting room, Wagner will set up tables and chairs in a tree-laden area by the barn. Not only will guests get to taste the offerings — which are in limited supply, with Barnello crafting only 120-140 cases a year — but they will also get to learn about the vintner's process.

"Being the winemaker, I talk to how we make each one of the wines and some of the critical areas of wines we look for before bottling," Wagner said.

The visit also includes a tour of the vineyard, tailored to the season and what

growing stage the grapes are in. Wagner covers everything from pruning to pollination, even letting visitors taste the grapes and measure the sugar content when the time is ripe.

"These are all very unique aspects of one of the things we provide," Wagner said. "You're not going to have that opportunity at most wineries."

Wagner started out making wine as a hobby in the early '80s, but admits "it wasn't all that great."

Nearly three decades later, after he retired, his wife encouraged him to find a hobby again. That's when Wagner picked up winemaking once more.

"The wine started getting really good," he said.

His first big harvest of his own grapes — now including pinot noir and chardonnay — was ahead of the 2017 vintage, though the tasting room didn't open in earnest until 2021.

Now it's word of mouth and great online reviews that get people interested and keep coming back, whether for the wine made from grapes grown on site, or other wines crafted in-house from partner vineyards.

"I wouldn't say the wine is secondary, the wine is important and it's got to be good certainly, but I think people enjoy the fact that I'm pretty easy going, I could talk about a lot of different subjects."

— Lauren Bishop

**BARNELLO  
WINERY**  
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**TOP LEFT:** Barnello Winery features pinot noir and chardonnay made from its own grapes, in addition to wines processed at the facility from grapes grown by partner vineyards.

**TOP RIGHT:** Barnello Winery features a quaint tasting room in the bottom of what used to be a horse barn, which is partially where the winery's name comes from.

**ABOVE:** Barnello Winery owner Ed Wagner (right) with his family, from left: daughter, Kimberly; wife, Christina; and son, Ed. Jr.

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