



ARTS/CULTURE

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CULTURAL SOPHISTICATION IN WALLA WALLA GOES FAR BEYOND FINE WINE, INCLUDING THEATRE, MUSIC AND OTHER PERFORMING ARTS

(WALLA WALLA, Wash.)—When it comes to culture and sophistication, there's much more to Walla Walla than meets the eye. While the wine industry might carry an air of sophistication, the region's performing arts and other cultural assets cannot be overlooked. Following are a few of Walla Walla's top venues and groups:

Power House Theatre

The Power House Theatre is a 342-seat performing arts theatre located in a historic, 120 year-old building once housed the Walla Walla Gas Plant, originally built to produce coal gas and pipe it underground to light the streets, businesses and homes of Walla Walla. In 2011, the building was transformed into a state-of-the-art performing arts theater inspired by the intimate Blackfriars Theatre in London, England which William Shakespeare and his acting company began using in 1608. In January 2012 the theatre was officially accepted to the National Register of Historic Places. The theatre stages professional productions featuring the works of William Shakespeare as well as productions devoted to classical music and popular entertainment: www.phtww.com.

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Walla Walla Symphony

Founded in 1907, the Walla Walla Symphony is the oldest continuously operating symphony west of the Mississippi River. Under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Yaacov Bergmann, the orchestra is recognized for its adventurous programming, school programs, and tradition of performing original compositions. From October through June, the Walla Walla Symphony performs a diverse and entertaining schedule that includes a mix of classical concerts, special concerts and the popular Discovery Series which explores musical traditions from around the world: www.wwsymphony.com.

Shakespeare Walla Walla

Shakespeare Walla Walla performs professional Shakespearian theatre and youth theatre education to Walla Walla Valley residents and visitors. In partnership with Seattle Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare Walla Walla brings year-round, approachable and entertaining productions to the Power House Theatre: www.shakespeareuncorked.com.

In addition to these outstanding events, Walla Walla is home to a vibrant, year-round performing arts community that includes a variety of indoor and outdoor events, festivals and performances. These events take place at locations including Whitman College, Little Theatre, numerous live music venues, area wineries, and many other locations throughout the Valley.

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About Tourism Walla Walla

As the voice for all sectors of tourism and hospitality in the Walla Walla Valley, Tourism Walla Walla is committed to being a representative, industry-driven organization. Through cooperation, experience and industry insight, Tourism Walla Walla is dedicated to providing leadership and direction, making tourism and hospitality one of the leading and most viably sustainable industries in the Valley. For more information visit www.wallawalla.org.

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