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*'The POWER of your brand begins and ends with PR'*

DAYTON, WA - XO Alambic, a newly licensed craft distillery in Dayton, Washington, announces its formal opening on Bastille Day, 14 July, with the release of its Cognac-style brandy, *Clos Sainte-Rose XO*.

XO Alambic is owned and operated by Walla Walla native Rusty Figgins, a veteran winemaker and accomplished master distiller. His distillery follows on from past projects, namely, Batch 206 Distillery in Seattle and The Ellensburg Distillery in Ellensburg. A central feature of the distillery is its 2000-liter *Figgins Reciprocator*, a pot-and-column hybrid still of the distiller's own proprietary design. With that still volume, XO Alambic is believed to have the largest distillation capacity of any craft distillery in eastern Washington.



XO Alambic will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on 14 July at 6:00 pm, officiated by Dayton Chamber of Commerce executive director Justin Nix. Sampling of the new *Clos Sainte-Rose XO* brandy will immediately follow, in addition to tours of the newly opened distillery at Blue Mountain Station, 700 Artisan Way, in Dayton.

Inspired by Walla Walla's historic Saint Rose Mission, led by French-Canadian clergy, *Clos Sainte-Rose* honours the custom of the mission in offering a *Méthode Cognacaise* brandy. The services at the mission were known to have made use of fine brandy in lieu of red wine during the communion ritual, largely because of its ability to stay sound over time, and travel well over long distances.

*Clos Sainte-Rose XO* brandy, made from Washington winegrapes, was double-distilled by Figgins himself seven years ago, earning it the *XO* nomenclature. It was matured in Limousin oak casks which previously held the wine from which the brandy was distilled. Finally, it was slowly reduced to bottle strength using high-purity water from a deep-aquifer source near the distillery. *Clos Sainte-Rose XO*, hand-bottled and sealed with beeswax, is the longest-matured American brandy ever to be released for commercial sale.

In addition to its brandy offering, XO Alambic will release a single-malt whisky and an ancient-grains whisky in the autumn. The distillery will be open for tours and tastings by appointment.