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USA (Washington state) - The E & J Gallo company has purchased the Columbia and Covey Run in Washington state. The Ascentia Wine Estates took over the both wine estates for an unknown transfer fee. This is the first large investment of a California-based investor in Washington state.

E & J Gallo can now count two of the eldest wineries in Washington state to its portfolio. The Columbia winery developed out of the Associated Vintners, founded in 1962, who was - under the leadership of wine maker David Lake, M. W. - the pioneer in the cultivation of top Syrah and further types of grapes in the wine state Washington. The E & J Gallo company wants to continue Mr. Lake's legacy, who died in 2009, after he had retired in 2005. "Our hope is to receive the acknowledgement for the Columbia wines, as it used to be during David's times", Roger Nabedian, senior president and general manager at E & J Gallo, says.

"We had been keeping an eye on the both estates in Washington state for years", roger Nabedian comments the taking over. "The important thing has always been to wait for the right moment. Now, this moment has arrived - and we have got - with the Columbia and the Covey Run estate - something unique in comparison to our other wine estates all over the world."

The Covey Run estate was founded in 1982 and so far focused its product range in the low-priced classes. During the next few weeks, the E & J Gallo company will install new wine teams at the estates. Both estates together produce 3.6 million bottles a year. Washington state is, apart from California, the second largest wine state in the USA. Here are registered more than 700 wine estates. (red.yoopress)