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Cameron Family Glass Packaging will make wine bottles in Kalama for growing industry

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Washington's first wine bottle plant is set to open in the Columbia River town of Kalama later this month.

Cameron Family Glass Packaging LLC soon will open a \$109 million, 175,000-square-foot factory. The plant will employ about 111 people and will provide bottles for a number of Washington wineries. For the past few weeks, Cameron Glass employees have been testing the equipment in preparation for full factory operation.

Once the factory is up and running, Cameron Glass will produce 5 percent of the bottles needed by West Coast wineries, said Jim Cameron, the company's president and CEO.

Most of the firm's initial customers will come from Washington. The family has spoken with 150 wineries in this state and has solid commitments from 55, Cameron said. In Oregon, the company has called 90 wineries and made deals with 30 of them. The firm's two-person California sales staff is just beginning to secure contracts there.

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