



Travis Geny for the Emerald

King Estate Vineyard, located in the Lorane Valley, is home to some of the best wine in Oregon, as well as elegant, old-world architecture. Even this barrel storage area is made attractive with graceful columns.

# King Estate Vineyard: getaway for wine lovers



**ELEGANCE ON THE CHEAP**

**TRAVIS GENY**

Wine can be had almost anywhere. It can be bought in nearly any store, and it is produced in almost every region of the world. Yet some of this wine is terribly expensive, of poor quality, too far away or just plain bad.

In this area, Oregonians are lucky. Home to what is becoming one of the great wine-producing regions in the world, the Willamette Valley has truly wonderful vintages and winemakers right here in the backyard. One of

the best places to see the very best in the burgeoning business of Oregon wine production is Eugene's own King Estate Vineyard and Winery. One of the largest vineyards in Oregon, King Estate is known for its excellence in producing some great Oregon wine.

Located on the Territorial Highway in the Lorane Valley, King Estate is nestled just far enough away from the hustle and bustle of the city to be a place reminiscent of Old World vineyards. The windy drive is well worth the effort.

The grounds are expansive: More than 800 acres of cultivated and wild rolling hills comprise the vineyard. The winding driveway leads through row after row of grapevines, now bare of fruit and leaves until the growing season begins again in the spring. The winery itself is a huge building reminiscent of a large chateau that could have been plucked

from the French countryside.

Just coming onto the grounds is reason enough to visit King Estate. The view is breathtaking from all sides of the building, which oozes charm from every side, and the landscaping and architecture complete the package. Not a mere

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facade, this building was purposely designed inside and out for both the wine and the wine drinker. This is an excellent place for a little romantic getaway, even just for an afternoon.

In case you were wondering, the wine is smashing as well. While priced a little higher than other local wines, the wine is of

better quality and justifies the few extra dollars per bottle. While King Estate produces a variety of wines, as with other Oregon winemakers, its Pinot Noir is something special.

If budget is the key word here, then check out the vineyard's Lorane Valley label. Made of grapes produced all over the valley by outside growers, the wine is produced in-house, is of exceptional quality and is less expensive; however, it lacks some of the character and depth of the estate wines. The Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are quite good but are missing some complexity.

The estate wines, which are produced with grapes grown by King Estate, will most likely convince even the most miserly to splurge a little. But let's face it: If wine-drinking is your thing, then you shouldn't be loath to spend a little on good wine. I highly recommend the '96 Pinot Noir and

the '97 Chardonnay. Both are good, reasonably priced and will go well with dinner and a date.

While King Estate wines can be found in local area stores, I recommend taking the drive up. To reach King Estate, head south on Willamette Street past Spencer Butte. Turn right on Fox Hollow and follow it past an intersection to the end. Turn left on the Lorane Highway and follow that to the end. Turn left on the Territorial Highway and watch for King Estate Vineyard on the right.

Free tours of the winery and barrel room are provided free with the tasting, and the outside is just charming. Not only will visiting give you a chance to sample King Estate's repertoire, but it will also provide you with a great wine experience.

Have your eye on that special someone in class? A trip out to King Estate will surely leave a great impression on both of you.

An entertaining and intelligent satire of the Victorian Empire and its rigid attitudes, especially toward sex

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By Caryl Churchill Directed by Corey Pearlstein  
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Wednesdays: 10 pm Justice League of America presents Dance Hall House Tunes (Ladies Free)

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Now serving full liquor bar.

# Retirees take to Eugene culture

Where to Retire Magazine rates the city as among the most appealing to retired individuals

By Mason West  
Oregon Daily Emerald

College students aren't the only people flocking to Eugene these days. Every year, more retirees move to the Willamette Valley for its temperate climate, friendly atmosphere and diverse cultural opportunities.

According to a recent feature in the January issue of Where to Retire Magazine, the number of seniors in the area will continue to grow. Eugene was one of four American cities featured as ideal places for people looking to retire.

The magazine is published five times a year and features four different cities per issue.

Cities are chosen by the editors based on specific criteria including climate, proximity to natural recreation, presence of a downtown area, low housing costs and sufficient medical facilities.

Stanton Patty, the author of the article, was pleased with Eugene. His most recent visit was not his first, and he already had a favorable impression of the city. He spoke with retirees in the community to hear their reasons for choosing Eugene.

"Many of the people I spoke with

moved from large cities and didn't want to give up their cultural activity," Patty said.

Aspects of the community that provide retired people such activities are the Hult Center, opportunities to volunteer and the University.

Gaston Carlier, a retired Eugene resident, currently takes advantage of classes offered by the University's music department. Contrary to the

*“Retirement is big business. It's very profitable for a city to attract relocating retirees.”*

Karen Northridge  
Where to Retire Magazine

stereotype that older people don't like the "younguns," Carlier said the young population of Eugene adds energy and vitality to the community.

Growing up in Southern California gave Carlier another reason to end up in Eugene.

"This is a great place to live a simple, modest life," he said.

Patsy Bay, another Eugene retiree, also values the atmosphere of a university town. Eugene specifically caters to her interest in alternative

medicines. The eclectic population of Eugene is more welcoming than the members of her old home in Ventura, Calif., she said.

"Here, people will talk to you in the middle of Costco," Bay said.

Eugene isn't perfect. Carlier's only complaint was the length of the gloomy season in Eugene and the potential of suffering from seasonal depression. But he said the summers are spectacular and he's put up with the rough parts for almost 20 years already.

Although Bay disagrees, Patty has found that Eugene retirees are not always satisfied with the accessibility to air travel, which requires trips to Portland International Airport to reach any major destination or meet family.

This shows that Eugene's receiving this publicity does not necessarily mean that all retired people in the country will be rushing here.

People all have different checklists for their golden years. Karen Northridge of Where to Retire Magazine said people spend between two and five years before retirement thinking about where they want to be.

"Retirement is big business," Northridge said. "It's very profitable for a city to attract relocating retirees."

Patty said the article won't make people want to retire in Eugene, but it will attract "looky-loos" who are willing to consider the option.