



JUST OUT TRAVEL

Just Out has scoured Oregon, near and far, to track down getaways to fit various budgets and lifestyles.

We found proof that whether you're looking for family fun, seeking romance, primed to take in the local culture or ready to hit the trails, there's no need to leave your home state.

Explore Oregon and gain the relaxation or adventure you seek.

The Cultured Traveler

Discover fine dining and wine tasting in Yamhill County

by Dee Duderstadt

As home to some of the state's most celebrated wineries and restaurants outside Portland, Yamhill County and McMinnville in particular are ideal for quick getaways or restive vacations.

A variety of accommodations await the traveler. The McMenamin brothers' downtown Hotel Oregon (310 N.E. Evans St., McMinnville, 503-472-8427, www.mcmenamins.com) attracts visitors year-round. With a restaurant and pub downstairs, a rooftop seating area and its location within walking distance of at least half a dozen restaurants, plus live performance at the Gallery Theater, art galleries and shops, the hotel offers fun, comfort and convenience. There is always a party going on at the historic hotel.

There are several bed-and-breakfast inns scattered throughout Yamhill County. The McMinnville favorite is the Italianate A'Tuscan Estate (809 N.E. Evans St., McMinnville, 503-434-9016). This gorgeous architectural structure offers comfort and pampering for those who stay there.

Once travelers are settled, the fun begins. Wine tasting is first on everyone's list, with pinot noir taking center stage. Its refinement, nuance and complexity will knock the wine lover over while still remaining beguiling.

Start tasting this queen of wines at R. Stuart & Co. Wine Bar (528 N.E. Third St., McMinnville, 503-472-4477, www.rstuartandco.com). Here it showcases the wine made in its winery, R. Stuart & Co. (in the Granary District at 845 N.E. Fifth St., McMinnville), which includes its 2007 Big Fire, a dry rosé, along with 2006 and 2007 pinot noirs and the sparkling wine Rosé d'Or.

It also features microbrews from McMinnville's Heater Allen and Golden Valley breweries and sparkling water from San Pellegrino.

Wine goes for \$5 to \$10 a glass or \$16 to \$50 a bottle. Two flights are available for tasting, along with bottles and cases to take home.

The appetizer menu includes fresh goat cheese marinated in a savory tomato sauce with crostini, rustic Oregon paté with crostini and rosemary shortbread. Also available are Oregon-grown marmalades and chutneys, Twila's English toffee and colorful bags and rugs.

Breakfast is on everyone's menu when it's from Crescent Cafe (526 N.E. Third St., McMinnville, 503-435-2655). Partners Michael McKenney and Danny Wilser ran restaurants in San Francisco before coming to McMinnville. The cafe's celebrated menu features buttermilk pancakes; daily omelets; chicken hash with eggs; fried cornmeal

with cheddar cheese and green onions; and creamed chicken with biscuits and eggs.

There are also freshly baked sticky buns with walnuts, granola, hazelnuts and dried fruit as well as old-fashioned oatmeal with walnuts and dried cherries. Breakfasts contain free-range eggs, Grade A maple syrup, locally produced pork, locally milled flour and local fruits and vegetables as seasons permit. Prices range from \$3 to \$8.50.

DEE DUDERSTADT



Yamhill County has attracted top chefs and restaurants, among them Bistro Maison, Tina's, the Dundee Bistro and Red Hills Provincial Dining.

A visit to Yamhill County would not be complete without an evening at the county's most famous restaurant, the Joel Palmer House (600 Ferry St., Dayton, 503-864-2995, www.joelpalmerhouse.com), where dishes feature mushrooms cooked to perfection, even as desserts. The famous restaurant is owned by chef Jack Czarnecki and his son, Chris. Jack's passion for wild mushrooms has earned him top rankings. He has writ-

ten acclaimed books and has appeared on national television, written for food magazines and even done his own truffle hunting.

Highlights of the menu include Joe's Wild Mushroom Soup, a rich essence of suillus mushrooms from a 60-year-old family recipe, for \$8.50. Delicacies abound, such as Jack's

Shellfish - Mornay en Croute, including truffles, crab, scallops and shrimp in a creamy Riesling sauce, for \$12.50.

After a good meal, top off the evening by catching a show at the local theater or one of the area's live music venues. Yamhill County has an enticing art scene no matter what you are looking for. Schedules are often posted on Third Street shop windows or can be found in *The McMinnville News-Register* at www.newsregister.com. 10

DEE DUDERSTADT is a McMinnville reporter.

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