



NEW AND EXCITING WAYS TO “COME PLAY YOUR WAY”

A guide to some of the newest attractions to open in Washington County, Oregon

Washington County, Oregon, has long been one of the Pacific Northwest’s best kept secrets. The region, which is just minutes from downtown Portland, has experienced a wealth of new attractions and amenities that are shaping Washington County into a must-visit travel destination.

WINERIES

Washington County’s wine country has existed for several decades, and the wineries that produce fine wines in this region have been pioneers in some of the techniques of wine production. The newest winery in Washington County’s close-knit wine family is **Purple Cow Vineyards**.

Purple Cow, a family-owned vineyard and winery located in Forest Grove, Ore., produces only 500 cases a year. Their aggressive grape variety selection produces wines generally regarded as too heat-demanding for the geography of the northern Willamette Valley, which results in wines that aren’t common to the region, such as Muscat and Tempranillo. Their Pinot Noir has garnered several awards in the state, which is impressive given the tough competition throughout Oregon’s wine country.

WINE SHOPS & TASTINGS

It is only fitting that Forest Grove, home to many of Washington County’s exceptional wineries, would open not one, but two new wine shops, in the heart of its Main Street district. Urban Decanter and The Wine Behran opened their doors in mid 2007, to much anticipation.

Urban Decanter beckons guests to “come for the wine, stay for the experience,” and offers a place for vintners to connect with wine connoisseurs. Guests are invited to select from a daily tasting menu, or to compare and contrast wines on a similar theme or sample wine cocktails. In addition to carrying a selection of Oregon wines, Urban Decanter also offers a food and coffee/tea menu of Oregon products.

The Wine Behran pours wines from the Pacific Northwest, as well as unique wines from around the world. The shop has become a great Friday-night gathering spot for wine lovers, and features live entertainment, special tastings and more.

BED & BREAKFASTS

Bed and Breakfasts are opening throughout the county, ranging from facilities in the heart of wine country to quaint houses in an urban center.

Old Recreation Bed & Breakfast is Forest Grove’s newest property and is located in the heart of Pacific University. Owned and operated by Kim Fox and Samuel Espinoza, Old Recreation is a traditional bed and breakfast with cozy old-world accommodations and “new-world” amenities such as cable and Internet access. A second location, in the same area, currently is planned and expected to open early 2009.

Rose Cottage Bed & Breakfast is a countryside retreat in the heart of Beaverton, owned and operated by a fourth-generation Oregonian innkeeper. Located just 10 minutes from downtown Portland, Rose Cottage is a luxurious alternative for business and leisure travelers. The B&B features two well-appointed, upscale suites complete with top-notch toiletries, in-room coffee and tea, and free Wi-Fi Internet access. Each morning starts with a three-course gourmet breakfast prepared from many Oregon products and fresh produce in season.

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PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Oregon has become well known for its verdant forests, making it a perfect location for camping, hiking and biking. The newest entry is **L.L. "Stub" Stewart State Park**, Oregon's first state park to open in more than 30 years. The 1,654-acre full-service park, located in northwest Washington County, welcomed its first visitors in 2007.

Lush rolling hills, forests and deep canyons make up the park allow for great bird watching, wildflower walks and other relaxing pursuits, such as hiking, biking and horseback riding. The park is perfect for day use or overnight camping, and guests have a choice of setting up camp at one of several drive-up, hike-in and RV campsites, or in one of the park's rustic cabins.

Equestrians have the option of settling into the region's only full-service horse camp, **Hares Canyon Horse Camp and Clayhill Horse Staging Area**, located at "Stub" Stewart State Park. The area contains full-hook-up sites, four- and six-stall corrals, along with access to the horse trails, including the linear **Banks-Vernonia Trail** that runs through the park.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

In keeping with Oregon's tradition of sustainability, it's only fitting that preservation efforts would include sustaining and preserving the natural beauty of the region for visitors as well as wildlife.

Located in Sherwood, **The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge** is a sanctuary for indigenous and migrating birds, waterfowl and mammals. As one of only a handful of urban refuges in the U.S., the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge restored much of the natural landscape of the area that were common to western Oregon prior settlement of the area. This restoration has attracted animals back to the area in great numbers, and with a keen eye, birders and animal watchers can catch a glimpse of these creatures year round.

The Refuge's new Wildlife Center was dedicated in March 2008, which also recognized the 105th birthday of the United State's National Wildlife Refuge System. Walking trails and viewing locations throughout the refuge allow visitors to experience the beauty of nature that is a part of Oregon's history, as well as its future.

RESTAURANTS AND DINING

As more "foodies" discover Pacific Northwest cuisine in general, and the burgeoning culinary scene in Portland, many chefs are opening their own restaurants in Washington County, which is creating a new buzz in the dining scene.

Le Hana Grill & Café is a unique and upscale Japanese and French fusion restaurant, which serves dishes which marry the freshness and healthfulness of Japanese cuisine and the sophisticated, aesthetic characteristic of French fine dining. Since it first opened its doors in Hillsboro (a second location in Portland opened just a few weeks later), in October 2006, Le Hana received accolades and positive word of mouth.

Decarli, which opened late 2007 in Beaverton and described as an "ambitious" restaurant, is owned and operated by the husband and wife team of Paul and Jana Decarli. With first-hand experience of Portland's culinary scene - Paul developed his expertise in the kitchens of some of the city's most notable restaurants - the sophisticated menu showcases the bounty of Oregon's seasonal ingredients. In addition, Decarli offers an outstanding wine selection of Oregon, Washington and Italian wines.

Tresca is a traditional Italian restaurant in the heart of Hillsboro's reinvigorated downtown area, which is becoming the city's arts and cultural center. The restaurant promises Italian food prepared with a taste of New York. Each month, Tresca hosts a winemaker dinner, with gourmet dishes paired with local wines.

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Washington County's newest vegan restaurant is the **Sweet Lemon Vegetarian Bistro**, located in Portland (in unincorporated Washington County). The menu consists of vegetarian and vegan cuisine with a fusion of Asian and American styles, as well as vegan-friendly desserts. Creative and unique dishes are prepared using organic ingredients, whenever possible, and are free of any meat, poultry, seafood, eggs and any artificial ingredients, such as MSG.

One of the top Indian restaurants in the Portland Metro area opened last year in Hillsboro. **Chennai Masala** offers a progressive menu of home-style cuisine from southern and northern India. Traditional fare includes favorites made with lamb, chicken or seafood. Vegetarian dishes and breads, such as *naan*, and traditional Indian desserts also are available.

SPAS AND RELAXATION

Washington County offers myriad spas and salons, including notable new entries to the region, each catering to different clientele, while both offering upscale services.

In Forest Grove, a trip to the spa is a family affair at **Tip Top! A Family Day Spa**, that caters to men, women and families. This full-service spa offers massages and treatments, while providing children with a play area to allow guests to fully decompress and unwind, while in close range to their families. Special events, such as wine tastings, occasionally are held at the spa, adding to the essential spa experience.

The newest entry to Washington County's spa and salon offerings is the **Grand Salon Spa** in Beaverton. This destination day spa provides a peaceful retreat and features a series of treatments and therapies from around the globe. The full-service spa and salon offers myriad treatments, ranging from massage to ultrasonic micro-dermabrasion.

About Washington County, Oregon

Washington County, Oregon, is scenically situated between Portland and the Oregon Coast, and is only minutes away from downtown Portland. The county spans 727 square miles, and includes the growing communities of Banks, Beaverton, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, North Plains, Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville. Washington County is home to world-class golf courses, award-winning wineries, an array of outdoor recreation opportunities, lush, natural and scenic wetlands and wildlife preserves, superb dining and myriad shopping, from boutiques to antiques. Its thriving corporate business parks house some of the largest high-tech and industrial companies in the world, such as Nike, Columbia Sportswear and Intel. For more information on the region, visit the Washington County Visitors Association's website, www.visitwashingtoncountyoregon.com, or call 503-644-5555, toll-free, 800-537-3149.

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