



# WHAT'S NEW *in* OREGON

January 2023

Kann, Portland

Photo: Steve Freilich

A flurry of recent restaurant openings backed by numerous national accolades proves that Oregon is still one of the best places to vacation for culinary magic. Add in the silvery snow showers that grace the state's mountain towns along with leading-edge luxury lodging and one of the nation's premier truffle events, and winter in Oregon has never been more enticing.

## AMERICA'S BEST NEW RESTAURANT, CONVIVIAL BREWPUBS AND BIPOC/ACCESSIBLE OPENINGS

Since opening **Kann**, his first solo spot and a four-year dream in the making, "Top Chef" All-Star Gregory Gourdet's wood-fired Haitian restaurant has been the hottest reservation in Portland. Following a steady stream of national recognition, Kann scored a **best new restaurant in America** title from Esquire magazine and was named one of the **top 50 restaurants in 2022** by the New York Times. A first-generation Haitian American, Gourdet celebrates bright and spicy flavors with crispy taro-root fritters and griyo, a savory plate of twice-cooked pork (also the national dish of Haiti). At **Sousòl**, a glam subterranean bar and lounge, he serves pan-Caribbean drinks and spirited small plates.

Just 60 miles south of Portland, **Spirit Mountain Casino** partnered with Bend's **10 Barrel Brewing Co.** to open the **Hop Yard**. The first of its kind in the state, this brewpub celebrates the significant role tribal members from **The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde** played in Oregon's rise to craft-brewing fame. Dating back to the early 1900s, multiple generations picked hops at the peak of harvest, and vibrant wallscapes throughout the venue illustrate this notable slice of tribal history.

Portland's newest brewpub, **Grand Fir Brewing**, hails from the city's premier power couple, award-winning brewmaster Whitney Burnside and "Top Chef" competitor Doug Adams. The opening menu shines with seven different brews on tap from a crisp and citrusy Lichen IPA to a chocolaty Heartwood Stout. Small plates for pairing range from a savory Frito pie with smoked elk to crispy alpine potatoes.

Another husband-and-wife team revealed an exciting hub for beer and food in Southeast Portland with their recently opened taproom, **Fracture Brewing**. The brewpub will

share space with **Lil' America**, a new food-cart pod featuring BIPOC- and LGBTQIA+-owned carts, including Mexican street food by **Los Plebes** and Hainan chicken by **Hawker Station**.

For more casual plates, check out **Pah!**, a deaf-, queer- and Latinx-owned restaurant located at **The Zed**, the food court at **Zoiglhau Brewing Company's** taproom. The restaurant's name, **Pah!**, is ASL slang for "finally," and the beautiful mission is to bring Deaf culture and the hearing world together through food.

## NEW ESCAPES FROM MOUNTAIN CABINS AND BOATS TO THE LUXURIOUS RITZ-CARLTON

The highly anticipated **Ritz-Carlton Portland** will debut in April. Located in the heart of downtown, this marks the brand's first property in the Pacific Northwest. The stunning 35-story building includes 251 state-of-the-art hotel rooms and two amenity floors with a sublime indoor pool, a fitness center and a full-service spa. Also an emerging hub for boutique shopping, the \$600 million development will showcase high-end retail, a ground-level food hall and a swanky restaurant and lounge on the 20th floor.



Ritz-Carlton lobby bar, a mystical forest

One of the best spots to seize a snow day is the charming town of Sisters. After schussing down the slopes at nearby **Hoodoo Ski Area**, cozy up at the recently opened **Ski Inn Taphouse Hotel**. Pair hoppy craft beer and hearty pub fare in the convivial taphouse, then slumber upstairs in one of the six boutique hotel rooms with mountain views.

For a relaxing outdoor adventure, embrace wintry temps while soaking in hot springs at **The Lodge at Hot Lake Springs** in La Grande, Eastern Oregon. With new ownership, the century-old hotel is undergoing significant renovations. The first upgrades enhanced the five lakeside soaking pools along with opening **The Thermal Pub & Eatery** for comfort bites and brews.

Head to the coastal town of **Newport**, home to Oregon's largest commercial-fishing fleet, where you can stay the night on a 97-foot paddlewheel boat. All five staterooms aboard the **Newport Belle** were recently remodeled, and the new owners added multicourse breakfast and dinner options.

The secret is out. Southern Oregon's **Rogue Valley** is a national hotspot for extraordinary wines. Thanks to a mild climate, generous sunshine and a range of soil types, the exceptional growing conditions produce an astonishing diversity of grape varieties—over 70 and counting.

## HIDDEN TRAILS, HUNTING FOR TRUFFLES AND HISTORIC SKI RUNS

Go off the beaten path with the “**Hidden Trails of Oregon**,” a podcast starring expert guides and hosted by acclaimed travel writer Aaron Millar. The **three-series podcast** takes you beyond the typical guidebook to reveal Oregon's secrets and discover the places locals love. Meet the masterminds behind Portland's popular **Lost Plate Food Tours** and **Throw Snakes Tours** in the first episode, along with the owner of **Dirty Radish** food and wine jaunts. Other highlights include a kayak trip with **South Coast Tours** followed by fly-fishing on the Deschutes River with **Littleleaf Guide Service**, also members of the **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**.

*Ski Inn Tap House Hotel*



One of the bright spots of an Oregon winter is the **Oregon Truffle Festival**. At this annual winter fête that celebrates the state's wild black and white truffles, you can indulge in exceptional wine truffle dinners, attend lectures with renowned mycologists and experience guided truffle forays with trained truffle dogs. Joining the truffle mania is one of wine country's top towns: **Newberg's Truffle Month** kicks off in February with creative lodging packages and culinary specials. Book with **Black Tie Tours** for a custom wine-country Truffle Tour that includes foraging with a truffle dog, a truffle-themed lunch and local wine pairings.

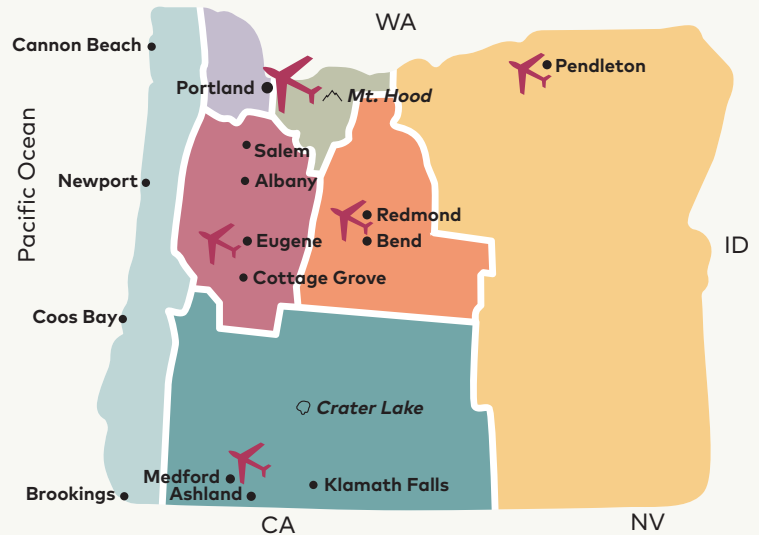
After the first snowfall, there's always a rush to hit the slopes at **Timberline**, a wintry oasis located near the top of Mt. Hood, the state's tallest mountain and the only ski area in the U.S. open ten months of the year. In 2021 the resort debuted the longest vertical run in the nation — a whopping 4,540 feet (1,384 meters) of terrain. Other enhancements include a new enclosed 250-foot (76-meter) magic carpet and an upgraded night-skiing experience. Follow **what's happening at Oregon's mountain resorts** for more updates and events.



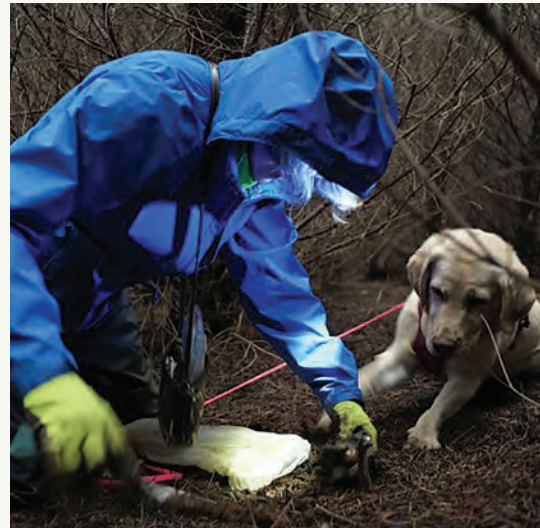
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*Oregon Truffle Festival*



*The Lodge at Hot Lake Springs*

