

WHAT'S NEW *in* OREGON

Spring 2023

Willamette Valley

Photo: Sokol Blosser Winery / Carolyn Wells-Kramer

Spring in Oregon brings a sense of vibrancy to the state, from the exuberant blooms to the long-awaited sunshine. This season we also have fresh concepts in hospitality and dining along with community celebrations like Queer Wine Fest. Add in the Willamette Valley's high honor from Time magazine of being named one of the world's most exciting travel destinations for 2023 and there's no time like now to plan a getaway to Oregon.

HIGH DESERT GLAMPING, HOLISTIC HOSPITALITY AND SALEM'S NEW WATERFRONT HOTEL

The state capital welcomes new contemporary lodging with the opening of the **Holman Riverfront Park Hotel Salem, Tapestry Collection by Hilton**. Located in the heart of downtown Salem, the seven-story property is adjacent to the Convention Center and Riverfront City Park, a 23-acre green space that spans the Willamette River. **Pacific Standard**, a spin-off of a popular Portland restaurant, is set to open in the hotel this summer and will further anchor this riverfront scene.

One of the Willamette Valley's most anticipated new projects is **The Ground**, a transformative concept designed around regenerative agriculture and holistic hospitality. The vision combines local farms, culinary arts, special events and wellness activities along with a luxury nine-suite bed and breakfast in the wine-country town of Carlton.

Head off the grid to **Green Rock Retreat** for a high-desert adventure. The 50-acre property overlooks rugged canyons and the pristine Crooked River. Located about 30 miles north of Bend, this recently revamped wellness refuge has seven luxury tent sites along with a splash pool, labyrinth, meditation room and ample hiking trails. Upcoming retreats range from a solstice celebration to a bhakti flow and yin yoga workshop.

For a serene getaway, add Hillsboro's Japanese-inspired **Cedartree Hotel** to the list. At this new lodging experience, guests can enjoy an on-site sake bar and soak in large indoor baths and a traditional outdoor onsen, both of which play an integral role in Japanese culture for their therapeutic and relaxing qualities.

PORTLAND'S PAN-ASIAN HOT SPOT, THE CITY OF POP-UPS AND GAME NIGHT FOR ALL

With the motto "You're never too old to play," **Mox Boarding House** continues to delight Portland's young at heart. This board-game cafe has a generous food and drink menu with easily shareable plates like brisket sliders, grilled broccolette and peri-peri calamari. You can opt to buy your own game from the expansive selection or borrow one from the free game library.

They say food is art and that's definitely the case at **Janken**, one of Portland's most coveted reservations in town. Led by chef Rodrigo Ochoa, a rising star in Miami who moved to Portland after his honeymoon to the Pacific Northwest, the menu focuses on Japanese and Korean cuisine. Popular showstoppers include Aburi sake feathered with fresh truffles and smoked wagyu nigiri, topped with uni and caviar, that arrives tableside in a smoking cloche.



Holman Riverfront Park Hotel

A new crop of pop-ups and collaborations has chefs sharing restaurant kitchens to fuel their creativity and bolster community in fun and unexpected ways (read: secret roller discos). These shared kitchens provide space for upstart chefs to test their recipes and save to open their own place, which eventually leads to popular new dining sensations like **Street Disco** and **No Saint**. For more hot spots, check out this piece on redefining Portland as the “**City of Pop-Ups**.”

UPCOMING SOLAR ECLIPSE, QUEER WINE FEST AND A TRIBAL SKATE PARK

For an unforgettable outdoor adventure, plan now for **Oregon’s annular solar eclipse** that will cross over the state on the morning of October 14. Sleep under a big sky and beautiful stars, and then catch the eclipse from some of the state’s more remote campground areas like La Pine, the Oregon Dunes and Lakeview (part of Oregon’s Outback).

Oregon’s **Queer Wine Fest** champions queer-owned, queer-made and queer-grown wines from different wineries across the Pacific Northwest and will be held this year on June 25. The event was the first of its kind in the country last year and was created by McMinnville’s mayor, Remy Drabkin, who is also celebrated for her **eponymous label** that focuses on Italian-style wines like sangiovese and dolcetto.

The **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs** recently recognized a newly renovated skate park with a community celebration and blessing. The enhancement efforts were led by **The Skatepark Project**, a nonprofit organization founded by legendary skateboarder Tony Hawk with a focus on Native, Indigenous and BIPOC communities. The 8,000-square-foot skate park, located on the tribe’s reservation between the Mt. Hood area and Central Oregon, has features like rails, jumps and curved walls to cater to the most adept skaters.

NEW EVENT VENUE IN EASTERN OREGON’S RANCHING COUNTRY

For those who dream of country living, you can experience the rugged beauty of Eastern Oregon on a legacy cattle ranch at **RimRock Canyon Church & Cottage**. This family-run

wedding venue is steeped in history — specifically, the star of the property, a charming 1800s church that the Clark family moved and restored. It now overlooks the **John Day River Valley** and makes for an idyllic setting to walk down the aisle.

TIME MAGAZINE CELEBRATES THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

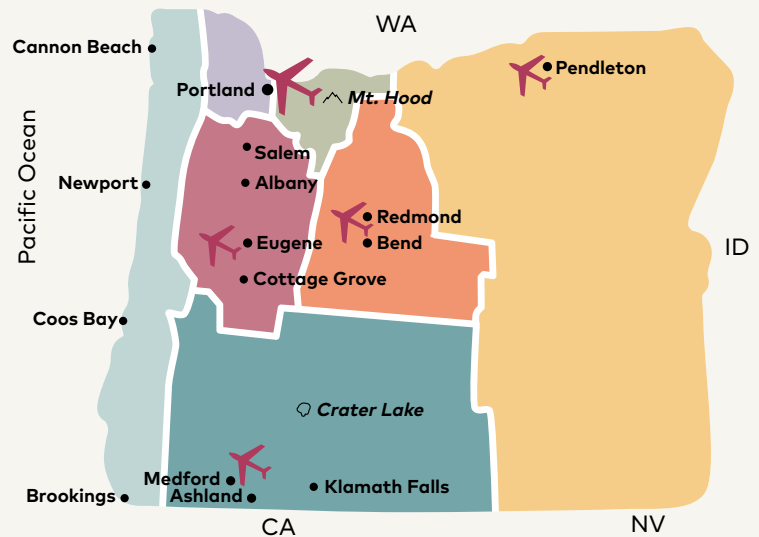
Time magazine added the **Willamette Valley** to its **World’s Greatest Places of 2023** list, which selects 50 of the world’s most exciting travel destinations. The state’s most famous wine-growing region was called “the next Napa” and was honored for its exceptional wine and culinary landscape. It was one of six U.S. destinations to make the list, which also included Yosemite National Park; Tucson, Ariz.; Bozeman, Mont.; Tampa, Fla.; and Washington, D.C.



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Queer Wine Fest



Photo: Zachary Goff

Mox Boarding House



Janken



Photo: Judiaam Woo