



Aviation museum

# 48 Hours in Portland & the Willamette Valley

BY PATRICK J. COMISKEY

I love Oregon wine country for many reasons, but one of them is because it takes me through Portland, a city with a small-town feel, barely concealing tremendous sophistication. There is so much to see and do there, so many wonderful things to eat, so many beers and wines to drink, that a little advance planning will quickly book up a short stay.

If you have only a few days, start in the Pearl District, the city's cultural heart, a warren of 19th-century warehouses and converted factories transformed into a sleek urban center full of design firms, vintage clothing shops, restaurants, theaters and music stores.

If the Pearl has an anchor it's Powell's Books, home to millions of new and used volumes that will test your browsing stamina. For less cerebral shopping, head down to Cargo Asian Imports; the owners' exceptionally agnostic tastes range from Maoist propaganda posters to Philippine *santos*, serene, glass-eyed devotional figures rescued from old Catholic dioramas.

## Bars & Nightlife

If by now you're getting thirsty, you're in the right place; not for nothing is Portland known as Beervana. The Pearl District is home to three bustling brewpubs: One, the *Bridgeport Brewery*, is headquartered here; both *Rogue*, based in Newport, and *Deschutes*, in Eugene, are satellites. If wine is your preference, few places in the city have a better selection of Oregon wines than *Ten-01*, the sleek bar and restaurant on Couch Street.

Portland's East Side nightlife seems to run on Oregon wine; at the indie music venue *Doug Fir Lounge* for example, in "LoBu," or the East Burnside Corridor, you can sip local pinot noir as you enjoy the sounds of Jessie Sykes or the Fleet Foxes, while nearby, the cozy *Kir Wine Lounge* packs wine lovers into its tiny storefront. And in Lower Division, Randy Goodman, former wine director at *Wildwood Restaurant*, has just opened a comfortable neighborhood hangout, *Bar Avignon*.



Oysters at *Le Pigeon* in Portland

## Where to Eat

The East Side is also home to a number of terrific eating spots. You can dine alfresco (weather permitting) at *Rocket*, or at the very least enjoy produce from their rooftop garden; or dive into beef cheek bourguignon at *Le Pigeon*, a rustic open-kitchen restaurant highlighting the radical talents of Gabriel Rucker.

Finally, don't miss the farmer's markets. Portland just might be the best place in the country to be a locavore. On any given day, you'll find seasonal selections like fiddleheads, nettles, sacks of kumamoto oysters, an astonishing range of mushrooms, local truffles and more types of berries than you may have known existed. Several neighborhoods sponsor markets, but my favorite runs along the quiet elm-lined walkways of Surmanski Park, downtown.

### PORTLAND INFO:

**Powell's Books,**  
1005 W. Burnside Ave., 503-228-4651; powells.com

**Cargo Asian Imports,**  
380 NW 13th Ave., 503-209-8349; cargoinc.com

**Deschutes Brewery Brew Pub,**  
210 NW 11th Ave., 503-296-4906; deschutesbrewery.com

**Rogue Ales Public House,**  
1339 NW Flanders St., 503-222-5910; rogue.com

**Bridgeport Brewery and Ale House,**  
1313 NW Marshall St., 503-241-3612; bridgeportbrew.com

**Ten-01,** 1001 NW Couch St., 503-226-3463; ten-01.com

**Kir Wine Lounge,** 22 NE Seventh Ave., 503-232-3036

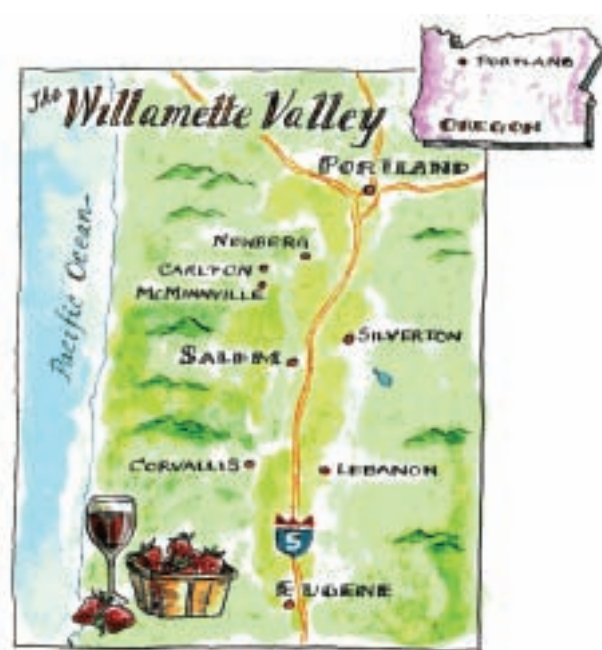
**Bar Avignon,**  
2138 SE Division St., 503-517-0888; baravignon.com

**Le Pigeon,**  
738 E. Burnside Ave., 503-546-8796; lepigeon.com

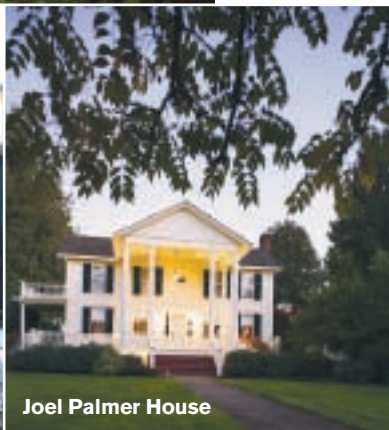
**Rocket Restaurant,**  
1111 E. Burnside Ave., 503-236-1110; rocketpdx.com



Silver Falls State Park



Carlton Winemakers Studio



Joel Palmer House



Lamb at *The Painted Lady*

## The Willamette Valley

It's only about a 45-minute drive from downtown Portland to the Willamette Valley, where most of Oregon's vineyards are planted. You'll know you're there when you crest Parrett Mountain on Highway 99W, passing Chehalem Winery on your left and Rex Hill Winery on your right—stop at either, or both, or at any of the other 200 wineries that stretch from Newberg to Eugene. With so many to choose from, one option is the Winemaker's Studio in Carlton, a cooperative facility, where a dozen artisanal producers lease space in a sleek "green" facility and share a bustling tasting room.

It seems unlikely, but it's possible to avoid wine altogether in the Valley. A bit east of wine country is Oregon's largest state park, Silver Falls, just outside the charming town of Silverton, a beautiful drive through hop farms, berry farms and tree nurseries. And just south of McMinnville, you'll find one of the area's most conspicuous diversions at the New Evergreen Space Museum. There, intact and big as life, is Howard Hughes' famed and ill-fated Spruce Goose, the largest plane ever built, surrounded by many other flying curiosities, from Wright Brothers replicas to Russian space capsules.

The Willamette Valley's restaurant offerings have gotten steadily better in the last few years. In Carlton there's bistro dining at *Cuvée* on Main Street. In nearby Dayton the *Joel Palmer House* has become a destination, not least for the mycological talents of mushroom forager and chef Jack Czarnecki. But perhaps the biggest buzz in the last few years is for *The Painted Lady* in Newberg. Chef/owner Allen Routt's locally-focused menus are earning raves from locals and Portland day-trippers alike.

### WILLAMETTE INFO

**The Painted Lady**, 201 S. College St., Newberg; 503-538-3850; [thepaintedladyrestaurant.com](http://thepaintedladyrestaurant.com)

**Joel Palmer House**, 600 Ferry St., Dayton, 503-864-2995; [joelpalmerhouse.com](http://joelpalmerhouse.com)

**Cuvée Restaurant**, 214 W. Main St., Carlton, 503-852-6555; [cuveedining.com](http://cuveedining.com)

**Silver Falls State Park**, Silverton; [silverfallspark.org](http://silverfallspark.org)

**New Evergreen Space Museum**, 500 NE Captain Michael King Smith Way, McMinnville, 503-434-4180; [sprucegoose.org](http://sprucegoose.org)

**Carlton Winemakers Studio**, 801 N. Scott St., Carlton, 503-852-6100; [winemakersstudio.com](http://winemakersstudio.com)

## Where to stay

### PORTLAND

**Hotel Deluxe**, [hoteldeluxeportland.com](http://hoteldeluxeportland.com)  
**Hotel Monaco**, [monaco-portland.com](http://monaco-portland.com)

### WILLAMETTE VALLEY

**Black Walnut Inn**, [blackwalnut-inn.com](http://blackwalnut-inn.com)  
**Abbey Road Farm**, [abbeyroadfarm.com](http://abbeyroadfarm.com)