

WINE COUNTRY

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Malbec, The Reflective Wine!

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Portland

The Pathway To Pinot Country!

By Christopher J. Davies

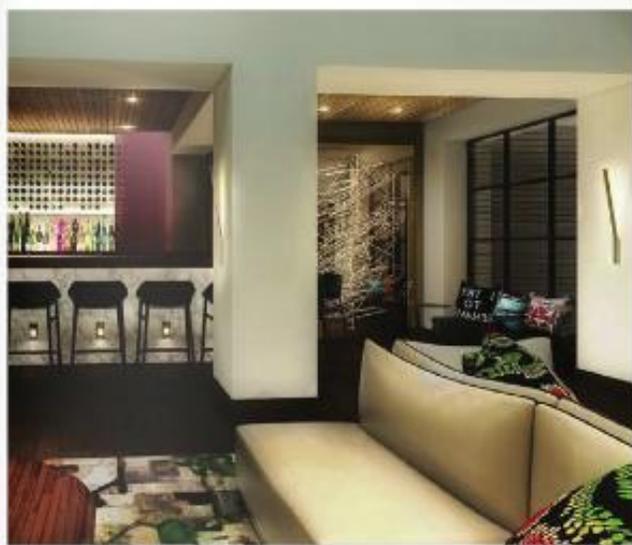
I am a big fan of Oregon wines. Having visited wine regions around the globe, one can develop a deep appreciation for the dedication and courage found in Oregon vintners. It is not easy to grow grapes and make consistently great wine in Oregon, which is a cold, rainy growing region, with coastal areas getting as much as eighty-eight inches of rainfall annually. Portland and the Willamette Valley area get about half as much rainfall as the coast.

Visiting Portland has many advantages. From an amazing and highly creative culinary landscape, to friendly lovers of all

things outdoors, Portland also has eco-friendly residents and a booming bunch of craft distilleries, brew pubs, wine bars and urban wineries. Best of all, Portland is less than one hour from America's pre-eminent wine region known for producing world-class Pinot Noir, The Willamette Valley!

We visited Portland for two days and experienced only a tiny glimpse of what this city has to offer. Needless to say, we were very impressed and can't wait to visit again soon.





Where to Stay

Located downtown near great shopping and close to the Alder Street Food Cart Block, the Vintage Plaza is an outstanding, wine-themed boutique Kimpton hotel property. Each guest room is dedicated to Oregon's wine country and honors a local winery. Wine tastings featuring local wineries are conducted in the hotel lobby every afternoon from 5-6 p.m. Book one of their spacious three-room Suites; they are bigger than a New York City apartment! Enjoy Italian cuisine at the hotel's own Pazzo Ristorante.

Currently closed for a major renovation of the rooms, lobby and restaurant, the Hotel is slated to reopen on March 17, 2015, with a brand new look and renamed as the Hotel Vintage-Portland.

2015 Upgrades:

- New guestrooms with funky cool corkboard art
- All 117 rooms named after Oregon wineries
- Those wineries will pour at the hosted wine hour several times a year; they include Adelsheim, Ponzi, Rex Hill and Love and Squalor
- An entirely new lobby space, with two floors (including a new staircase)
- A game room with a pool table, shuffleboard and a double-sided television open to the guests.
- Pazzo Ristorante will also unveil an exciting new menu

Hotel Vintage-Portland ****

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