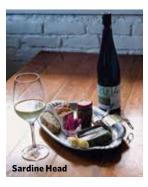


PORTLAND, OREGON

You've got an extra day to check out the City of Roses. Here's what you do. BY MJ SKEGG

ONCE SATIRIZED by the TV show *Portlandia* as the place where young people go to retire, Oregon's largest city is now growing up. A fast-expanding tech sector has aided a boom that has tower cranes crowding the skyline and boutique hotels multiplying across downtown. Its food scene is rightly acclaimed, with kudos going to its award-winning restaurants, hip bars and the annual Feast festival that attracts gourmands from around the world. Urban breweries, distilleries and wineries thrive, while a natural wine craze that's more about fun than pretension has taken hold. It's all situated against a beautiful backdrop of mountains and forests, within an easy drive of wine country and the coast.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Street performers in Pioneer Courthouse Square; Brunch at HunnyMilk; **Ardor Natural** Wines; A Broder Café breakfast; **Dining at Ca**nard; The Danger Zone cocktail at Aviary.



WINE TIME

Portland's known as a beer city, but wine is hot on its heels. Bar Norman has affordable natural wines by the glass, while the aptly named Sardine Head serves European tinned fish alongside an alluring "natty" (natural) wine list. Vino fanatics and romantics alike flock to Les Caves, a candlelit cellar run by two winemakers. For a speakeasy feel, check out Ardor Natural Wines, located in the backroom of a women's clothing boutique.

WHERE TO BRUNCH

Brunch is an institution in Portland, and there are lines to prove it. HunnvMilk specializes in a prix fixe menu. while Broder Café woos sleepy Portlanders with its Scandinavian fare. Tasty n Sons is the brunch stalwart that keeps on giving, while Canard puts a newer twist on the morning meal by sending out pancakes in duck gravy. You'll find true locals at Sandy Hut, nursing their bargain mimosas.

Portland is blessed with green space, everything from the world's smallest city park-Mill End Park-to the largest urban forested park in the lower 48 states, the 5,200-acre Forest Park. Wander through the International Rose Test Garden at Washington Park, featuring 10,000 fragrant flowers, or-after a hectic day—relax at the Lan Su Chinese Garden. For views of the city, trek to the top of Mount Tabor.

HAPPY HOUR

Throw a rock and you'll hit someplace with a happy hour. RingSide Steakhouse offers great bargains in its cozy bar, but for fun 'n' frolics (Brussels sprout nachos!), head to Aviary. Craft cocktail hangout Teardrop Lounge does excellent \$7 drinks, though the ultimate steal is Enoteca Nostrana, which marks its wine down to half price after 10 p.m.