

## GETAWAYS

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## Oregon Bounty: Two more weeks of state's special offerings

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SPECIAL TO THE P-I

As winterlike winds nudge Northwesterners indoors, Oregon's wineries, inns and restaurants are in the midst of a statewide campaign urging folks to sample the region's riches a little longer.

The Oregon Bounty campaign, which continues until Nov. 30, offers special events and menus urging locals (and lucky visitors) to try new wines, enjoy local produce, order distinctive dinners in fine eateries and attend harvest festivals around the state.

"Oregon Bounty is ... a way to educate locals about all the wonderful things to eat and do in their own backyard," said Ashland Chamber of Commerce's Mary Pat Parker, as she sampled eggs benedict on a fresh croissant at the cozy Winchester Inn.

"Hotels and restaurants have come up with three-course, fixed-price meals and hotel packages in every area of the state."

The centerpiece of the campaign is a colorful, comprehensive Web site. At [traveloregon.com](http://traveloregon.com), users can click on a region and surf specials in lodging, dining, festivals, wineries and brewery categories. It posts the fixed-price menus at participating restaurants. Also, there is an online recipe book using Oregon meats, fruits, cheeses and nuts, all washed down with Oregon vintages.

"Everything on our Oregon Bounty menu, including the eggs, were raised 10 miles from here," explained Matt Bennett, co-owner of Sybaris in Albany with his wife, Janel. "My mushroom guy even gets the huckleberries local, but he's pretty secretive about where he picks.

"We don't normally do a prix fixe meal, so it's an unexpected addition for our guests," he said. For its Oregon Bounty menu, the bistro is serving grilled lamb T-bones with house-made fresh mint pasta and a ratatouille sauce. Each course is accompanied by a different local wine, giving diners a chance to try something unexpected.

"For example, I'm showing off the dessert -- a roasted apple with wild huckleberry ice cream -- using an apple brandy from Clear Creek Distillery."

But is this just a marketing campaign designed to boost business at the end of the high season?

Bennett said the Oregon Bounty effort helps "get the word out that there are great finds outside of just Portland. ... I like that the campaign features lots of little hole-in-the-wall places all over the state."

Caprial Pence, who owns Caprial's Bistro in Portland's Westmoreland neighborhood with her husband, John, said "emphasizing local food is something we've been doing all along, so our Oregon Bounty's fixed-price menu sells pretty well. During the fall, we turn more to comfort food and do lots of braising. The braised pork cheeks on the special menu sold like crazy, so chances are, we'll just keep offering it."

Pence even braises the dessert, presenting diners with a braised pear and apple pound cake sandwich drizzled with caramelized honey.

Hotel owners are hopeful that Oregon Bounty will fill more autumn vacancies.

"It certainly doesn't hurt," said Anne-Marie Lizet, owner of the ornate C'est la Vie Inn in Eugene. "While September has been a very busy month, it really falls off in October and even further in November, so if it helps generate bookings, I'm pleased."

The C'est la Vie Inn is proof that great things can come in small packages. The restored Queen Anne Victorian's eclectic and colorful exterior is stunning. Its etched-glass windows depict Parisian scenery, and the garden seems to sprout every possible form of plant life.

During my stay, the Oregon Bounty package included a bottle of Sylvan

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