



harvest HOLIDAY

WE FOUND YOUR FAMILY'S DREAM VACATION SPOT:

OREGON'S WILLAMETTE VALLEY, WHERE THERE'S PINOT FOR THE ADULTS, WATERSLIDES AND WATERFALLS FOR THE KIDS, AND MILES OF PICNIC-FRIENDLY PASTURELAND FOR EVERYONE.

VISIT ON **THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**, WHEN 150 WINERIES HOST SPECIAL BARBECUES, PARTIES AND TASTINGS, AND YOU'LL AGREE: THIS JUST MIGHT BE THE MOST FAMILY-FRIENDLY WINE REGION IN AMERICA.

BY ELAINE GLUSAC



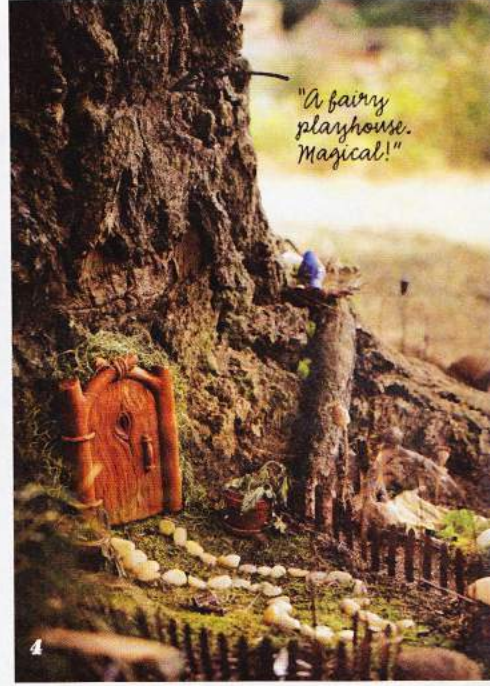
When you think family vacation, wine country might not immediately spring to mind. Maybe that's because you haven't been to Willamette Valley. Here, just 45 minutes from Portland, you'll find one-stoplight towns scattered throughout lush rolling hills, hazelnut orchards and grapevines. It may look like quaint farmland, but tons of adventures await—on a bocce ball court, say, or at an indoor water park. And unlike more popular wine regions, this one has a come-as-you-are vibe. Dozens of affordable mom-and-pop inns and fuss-free restaurants lure families, and kids are allowed at the wineries: While you sip, they'll run around the vines. After sampling pinot, you can hike under a waterfall or ride an ATV, or do both—is this an amazing place or what? Here are eight more reasons your family should consider making it a Thanksgiving travel tradition.

1 You can start the day collecting eggs.

Wake up at any B&B and you might expect to eat a breakfast made from locally grown ingredients. What's rarer is to gather them yourself. At the 5-acre Deer Haven Farms Bed & Breakfast (18685 N.E. Deer Haven Dr., Newberg, deerhavenfarmsbb.org; family suite \$275), guests of all ages are encouraged to collect eggs, pick ripe vegetables or berries, and mingle with all the farm animals—peking ducks, holstein cows and, of course, chickens. As owner Christina Sommers says, "Kids don't have to contain themselves here." Instead, they play: Her 6- and 7-year-old daughters share their books and farm-animal toys. If the one suite at Deer Haven is booked, try the eight-room Youngberg Hill Inn (10660 S.W. Youngberg Hill Road, McMinnville, youngberghill.com; doubles from \$180), where horses graze in the pasture, or the affordable Hotel Oregon (310 N.E. Evans St., McMinnville, mcmenamins.com; doubles from \$60), smack-dab in town.

2 Vineyards are perfect picnic spots.

No need to stop for lunch: Pick up cured meats, cheese and crusty bread from Red Hills Market (115 S.W. 7th St., Dundee, redhillsmarket.com)—pausing to play on their outdoor bocce court—and then spread out at a winery. The valley views are particularly stunning at Vista Hills Vineyard & Winery (6475 Hilltop Lane, Dayton, vistahillsvineyard.com; tastings \$10). "We've got lots of outdoor space and big decks," says Dave Petterson, general manager and winemaker. "My boys throw rocks in the pond, run around the grass, draw with sidewalk chalk and have a great time." At the super-social Montinore Estate (3663 S.W. Dille Road, Forest Grove, montinore.com; tastings \$5), you can set up your picnic near live music once a month and throughout Thanksgiving weekend.



THIS PAGE
 All pictures taken at Deer Haven Farms Bed & Breakfast
 1. Quiche, before owner Christina Sommers pours in the egg mixture
 2. The children's playhouse
 3. Gathering vegetables from the backyard garden
 4. Miniature fairy homes built into the trees
 5. Chicken and goose eggs
 6. Owner Stuart Sommers walks his daughters to the breakfast table.

"A fairy playhouse. Magical!"

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