

PORTLAND'S WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO MAGAZINE

# PDX magazine

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## Portland Unveiled

Tying the knot in  
Stumptown style

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# Oregon's Romantic Retreats

Sweet escapes from around the state | By Ron Horton



Skamania Lodge



As the rains abate and spring rapidly approaches, Portlanders begin to see the proverbial light at the end of winter's tunnel. Although Valentine's Day has come and gone, you don't need a Hallmark card to kindle the flames of romance within. A short drive in any direction will lead to a variety of romantic destinations ranging from wine country B&B's and oceanside balconies to classic pine cottages and Gorge-view hot tubs. The choice is yours, but rest assured whichever direction you choose, a relaxing, romantic adventure awaits.



○ **FivePine Lodge**  
 1021 Desperado Trail, 866-974-5900, [fivepinelodge.com](http://fivepinelodge.com)

Sisters, Oregon is a quaint mountain town located in the foothills of the Three Sisters Mountains. With close proximity to restaurants and town amenities as well as rivers and mountains, FivePine Lodge is an ideal romantic getaway in the Cascades. Roughly three hours from Portland, this lodge features everything necessary for a true resort destination with a fine dining restaurant, movie house, brewpub and spa, all on-site.

With 32 lodge and cottage rooms located in a meadow at the base of the Cascade Range, FivePine is perfect for couples as well as larger groups, with facilities for weddings and conferences alike. Cottages offer craftsman furniture built in the Amish country, Kohler purist tubs filled by a ceiling waterfall, a fireplace and a plasma screen television. Each room features a private, forested patio as well, making FivePine the perfect mountain getaway.



○ **Hallmark Resort**  
 1400 South Hemlock St, 888-448-4449,  
[hallmarkinns.com](http://hallmarkinns.com)

Hallmark Resort at Cannon Beach is only one and a half hours away from Portland, but it feels like a completely different world. The oceanfront resort overlooks Haystack Rock with the Tillamook Lighthouse on the distant horizon. Accommodations range from two-room suites to larger beach houses that hold up to nine guests.

Most rooms at the Hallmark Resort face the ocean with walkout balconies. The Oceanfront Spa Suite is perfect for couples looking for the quintessential romantic beach experience. The room features a gas fireplace, two person 10-jet spa, tile and glass shower, and comfortable pillow top bed. The resort also boasts a full service spa, Elements by the Sea, which offers massages, facials and steam showers. Of the 142 rooms on the premises, there is a little something for every guest at this oceanside paradise.



Brookside Inn

○ Brookside Inn

8243 NE Abbey Rd, 852-4433, brooksideinn-oregon.com

Carlton, Oregon rests in the heart of wine country, just over 45 minutes to the west of Portland. Brookside Inn is a small, nine-room cottage located on 22 lush Willamette Valley acres with trails, gardens and streams on-site. Vino lovers and gourmands alike will appreciate the kitchen's pairing of local wine and meals with traditional Northwest ingredients.

Owners Bruce and Susan Bandstra have gone to great lengths to keep their inn true to the Northwest spirit with award winning guest chefs, hand-crafted furniture from Seattle, gardens with native plants and beautifully decorated rooms with private baths. Whether you just need a weekend away from the city grind or you are planning a large gathering or wedding, the secluded Brookside Inn is a wonderful getaway destination.

○ Skamania Lodge

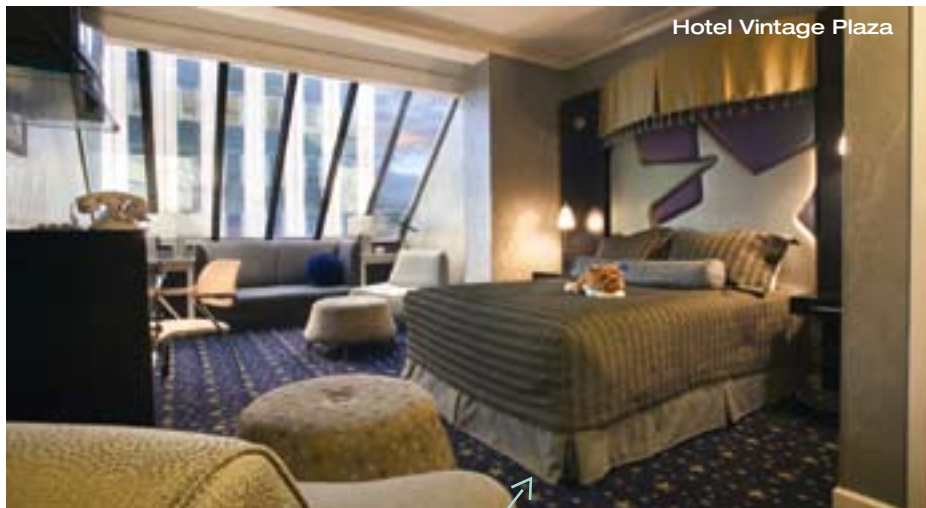
1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way, 800-221-7117, skamania.com

Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington rests on 175 acres nestled in the hills above the Columbia River Gorge. The 254-room resort and conference center has a golf course and spa on site, as well as private cottages on the premises. Built in 1993, the four-story Cascadian lodge is reminiscent of a much older resort, but still contains plenty of modern guest amenities.

Adorned with original, native art by local craftsmen and Mission style furniture, the lodge fits naturally into its scenic backdrop. One of the most striking features is a huge hot tub overlooking the Gorge, which makes for stunning sunsets. With the Cascade Room restaurant on site, romance packages and spa facilities, Skamania Lodge serves as a wonderful escape just 45 minutes from downtown Portland.



Skamania Lodge



Hotel Vintage Plaza

○ Hotel Vintage Plaza

422 SW Broadway, 228-1212, vintageplaza.com

The Hotel Vintage Plaza is located near Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland. As the name suggests, wine is a major inspiration behind the hotel's décor. Named "One of the Best Hotels in the World" by *Travel and Leisure Magazine* for 2005, 2008 and 2009, Hotel Vintage Plaza has 117 rooms ranging from Queen Rooms with stunning city views to Spa Premier Guestrooms and even a luxury suite that graces the 7th and 8th floors of the historic building.

Everything about the hotel exudes romance, from its immense, marble fireplace in the comfortable lobby to the velvet draped balconies and conservatory windows in the Starlight rooms. On the ground floor, Pazzo Ristorante offers fine, old world Italian dining; but the hotel's central location and proximity to the MAX line gives guests a nearly overwhelming choice of restaurants, nightclubs and galleries, all at their fingertips.

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Whether married, dating, or simply playing the field, everyone has a sense of romance, even if it's hidden beneath several apathetic layers of Portland hipster malaise. So shake off the chill of winter and pack your bags for a relaxing getaway to one of Oregon's premier lodges, cottages or resorts. Treat yourself to a weekend on the town or load up the car and head out on the highway for an amorous adventure in the great romantic Northwest countryside. **PDX**