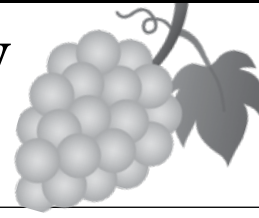


GRAPE TALK

Tasting tours are a fun and safe way to enjoy Applegate Valley wines



Debbie Tollefson

making team, so make sure you book early for limited spots by emailing tastingroom@troonvineyard.com.

So gather some family and friends together and plan a fun day of tasting in the Applegate Valley the safe way with the wine tour of your choice. Have a fun wine-filled summer!

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com

Bacchus Winery Tours provides a 2014 Springer that can seat up to 10 persons.

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

My husband Don and I just returned from a great trip to Portland and the Oregon coast. We stayed in the wonderful Allison Inn and Spa in Newberg, which is in the middle of a vineyard in the center of the northern portion of the Willamette Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA). After some wine tasting and little food, I realized that I should not be driving. The solution to this dilemma is to have a designated driver, of course, but that driver can't enjoy the great wines with me. This problem of wine tasting and driving got me thinking about what kind of tours might be available in the Applegate Valley so that everyone can join in on the fun.

I discovered that there are all kinds of tours for Applegate Valley wine tasting that allow you to enjoy the wines and not endanger yourself or others by driving. There are trolleys and limos and small buses and large buses, tours that include picnic lunches and snacks, and even chauffeured tours with wine experts to enlighten you along the way. Be sure to ask if tasting fees and gratuities are included in tour prices.

Allaboard Trolley Tours (www.allaboardtrolley.com) offers a five-hour tour of four wineries at \$40 per person with a maximum of 15 passengers. The trolley looks like a fun way to take in the wonderful scenery, too. This year Allaboard Trolley is adding a second trolley, so now they have "Molly" and "Dolly" as fun possibilities for tasting transportation.

Bacchus Wine Tours (www.bacchuswinerytours.com) has a featured tour for 2016 that includes stops at Valley View Winery, Wooldridge Creek

Vineyards, and South Stage Cellars. Another tour is the Haunted History Wine Tour, and you can also design your own tour. Bacchus's knowledgeable chauffeur will give you some wine-tasting hints to enhance your tasting experience. Prices start at \$40 per person.

Southern Oregon Town Car and Limousine (www.southernoregontowncar.com) will tour four wineries with six people at \$70 per hour plus gratuity; their Lincoln Town Car stretch limousine accommodates 10 people at \$80 per hour. They also have a 14-passenger bus for \$90 per hour. There is even a party bus that holds 25 of your closest friends for \$120 per hour plus gratuity. This would be fun for special birthdays, showers, and family reunions.

Wine Hopper Tours (www.winehoppertours.com) includes some unique wine experiences with the Twilight Wine Float on the Rogue River. For \$110 per person from May to August, the Wine Hopper bus transports guests from Merlin to the Rogue River at 5 pm. Guests enjoy a light meal and wine while floating down the Rogue, returning to Merlin at 9 pm. September and October trips start at 3 pm and end at 7 pm. Sounds like a really fun trip guaranteed to make some unforgettable family memories. Wine Hopper also has private chauffeured vans for 13 people maximum at \$600 per day plus gratuity. And they have a larger bus that accommodates from 14 to 40 people on a custom Applegate Valley Wine tour.

Other limo companies that do wine tours are **Platinum Xcursions** at www.platinumxcursions.com and **Taste of Honey Limousine** at

www.tasteofhoneylimo.com. **Express Limousine Service** at www.limowine.com has a number of offerings to almost every winery in the valley. Visit these tour company websites for more information and prices.

Troon Vineyard has added a new enhancement to their tasting-room experience with their Grape Expedition tour that runs from April through harvest on Fridays through Sundays at 12, 2 and 4 pm. Reservations are required. The tour provides special access to their wine-



Allaboard Trolleys "Molly" and "Dolly" hold 15 passengers and can be reserved for your friends and family.



Natural Products Used
The Cleaning Crew, LLC
 Housecleaning
 • Homes • Offices
 • Prepare Homes for Sale
 • Rental Move In & Move Out
 • Excellent References & Reasonable Rates
541-601-6236
 Licensed Bonded Insured
TheCleaningCrewOnline.com

Frank D'Antonio
 PRINCIPAL BROKER
 CELL (541) 499-2233
 OFFICE (541) 899-2000
frankd@windermere.com
frankd.withwre.com
 Windermere REAL ESTATE

Grants Pass Water Lab
 Fast and reliable water testing since 1978
 "Accredited in accordance with NELAP"
 ORELAP # OR100933 ISO 17025:2005
YOUR #1 CHOICE FOR WATER TESTING
 Specializing in:
 Well Water Waste Water Storm Water Soil Giardia Cryptosporidium
 Cross Connection Sample Collection Backflow Testing
 541-476-0733 Eric Schaafsma 964 SE "M" St
 Fax 541-476-8132 Technical Director Grants Pass, Or
eric@gpwaterlab.com 97526

The Pit Stop
 COFFEE & SNACK SHOP
 7386 Hwy 238 Jacksonville OR 97530
541-899-STOP (7867)
 FUEL FOR THE HUMAN RACE

TROON VINEYARD
 OVER 40 YEARS OF SUSTAINABILITY
 CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE LIVE VINEYARD
 SALMON SAFE
 ESTABLISHED 1972
 1475 KUBLI RD., GRANTS PASS | 541.846.9900 | WWW.TROONVINEYARD.COM

12800 WILLIAMS HWY-APPLEGATE VALLEY-238 HWY BETWEEN PROVOLT STORE & WATER GAP RD
Whistling Duck Farm Store
 PROVOLT OREGON
541-761-6772 | whistlingduckfarm.com | OPEN ALL YEAR | M-F:10-7 | S-S:11-5
 Natural foods & goods · Farmstead Ferments · Oregon Coast fish · Locally produced fine foods · Organic produce

EL ARRIERO
 MEXICAN FAMILY RESTAURANT
 2366 WEST MAIN ST. MEDFORD, OR 97501 (541) 245-5872
 235 BARNETT ROAD MEDFORD, OR 97504 (541) 245-6778