

Rachael Ray every day

TAKE A BITE OUTTA LIFE!®

THE
ENTERTAINING
ISSUE!

TOTAL PARTY SUCCESS!

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menu hacks** p. 94

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HOSTS** p. 40

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snacks & desserts**

MARGARITA MADNESS!
melon, mango, jalapeño & more

◀ **FIESTA FUN!**
MILE-HIGH NACHOS
SUPREME WITH
AVOCADO CREAM, p. 9

PLUS

24 FAST
WEEKNIGHT
MEALS

EASY, TRENDY
DINING ROOM
UPGRADES



Trip 'n' sip!

Your next set of #vacationgrams will be just the right mix of virtue and vice: Work up a sweat horseback riding, hiking, biking or rafting, then kick back with a vino or a brew. BY JILL K. ROBINSON



WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OR

Hot to trot

There's a lot of Pinot-producing ground to cover here, so horseback riding to wineries (where, of course, you dismount to drink) is not only fun, but efficient. Over the course of a two- or three-day series of rides with **Equestrian Wine Tours**, your mellow Tennessee Walking Horse will give you a serious taste of the valley—plus Cascade Mountain panoramas at almost every turn. Among the spots you may hit: Wine Country Farm, home to fab Riesling (and an equally fab 1870 barn); the White Rose Estate, one of Oregon's oldest Pinot Noir purveyors and best place to ogle Mounts Hood, Jefferson and St. Helens; and Winter's Hill Vineyard, home to gorgeous fir and oak forests, as

well as sustainably grown grapes. Between riding and tasting, each excursion lasts from two-and-a-half hours to all day, and you can choose the exact combo you want. Rides start at \$150 per person, equestrianwinetours.com

EAT OUT The new and already beloved **The Barberry** in McMinnville serves globally inspired Northwest specialties, like steamer clams and mussels with red curry broth. thebarberry.com

REST UP The **Brookside Inn** in Carlton is a B&B with 21 strollable acres of waterfalls, ponds and forests. From \$225 per night, brooksideinn-oregon.com



THE VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL, VA

Step right up

You'll hike over streams, waterfalls and trestles on the **Virginia Creeper Trail**, near the North Carolina border. A former railroad route, the trail is named for the trains that used to struggle uphill ("creepers") without the incentives you'll have: great beer and wine to sip en route. If you're not up for the whole 33-mile trek, try the gorgeous 15.5 miles between Damascus and Abingdon. Start at the Damascus Brewery, which cans on demand for hikers (the D-Town Brown Ale even has a trekking stick figure on

the label). Next stop? About seven miles away at the Abingdon Vineyard & Winery, where you'll sip a tasty Traminette. vacreepertail.com

EAT OUT Hikers can carbo-load on palacinki (Balkan crepes) at Abingdon's **Balkan Bakery**. thebalkanbakery.com

REST UP Let the North Fork of the Holston River lull you to sleep at **The River Garden Bed and Breakfast**. From \$150 per night, rivergardenbedandbreakfast.com



TUOLUMNE RIVER, CA

Make a splash

Whitewater rafting just outside Yosemite National Park, you'll earn the evening treats on **O.A.R.S. Wine on the River Trip**. Within the first two miles of your two-day journey, you'll hit some of the neighborhood's most renowned rapids: Rock Garden (boulders aplenty to navigate), Nemesis (more boulders) and Ram's Head (more zigzags and drops). When you're not laser-focused on all of the above (or other adrenaline-upping twists in the river,

you're floating through placid pools and taking in your Sierra Nevada surroundings, from pines to peaks. At day's end, your whitewater wine steward will introduce the vinos he's vetted for the feast to come; O.A.R.S.'s gourmet camping kitchens serve up the likes of bacon beignets with osso buco and fresh berry tartlets. *From \$599, oars.com*

EAT OUT Though all meals during your rafting adventure are included, be sure to hit **Fork & Love** before or

after. Part of the Hotel Charlotte in Groveland (where the trip begins and ends), the new restaurant serves dishes like braised pork with buttermilk spaetzle, seasonal ale and mustard pork jus. (There's a great local wine list, too.) *hotelcharlotte.com*

REST UP You'll find the above-mentioned **Hotel Charlotte** on the National Register of Historic Places, but the cozy retreat has free Wi-Fi and other 21st-century amenities. *From \$99 per night, hotelcharlotte.com*



KATY TRAIL, MO

Wheelie amazing!

Squeezed between the Missouri River and limestone bluffs, the nation's longest rail-to-trail path runs right through the so-called Missouri Rhineland—and makes for a beautiful bike ride with wine breaks aplenty. The 18 vineyards and wineries that line the **Katy Trail** are the legacy of 19th-century German immigrants who, by the late 1800s, had Missouri producing more wine than any other state. (See *bikekattytrail.com* for wine maps and bike rentals.) While diehards do all 241 miles, the 80-ish-mile stretch between Hermann and Rocheport is a great intro. One must? Adam Puchta, America's oldest family-owned winery, born in 1855 and home to prize-winning wine from the Zinfandel-like Norton grape. *Multiday trips start at \$575, independenttourist.com*

EAT OUT The **Blufftop Bistro** at Rocheport's Les Bourgeois Vineyards is known for house-smoked meats and vast vistas. *missouriwine.com/blufftop-bistro/*

REST UP The **Inn at Hermannhof**—once a series of 19th-century wine shops—takes you back in time (except for the flat-screen TVs). *From \$159 per night, innathermannhof.com*

