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Drink In The View

By Lora Keddie

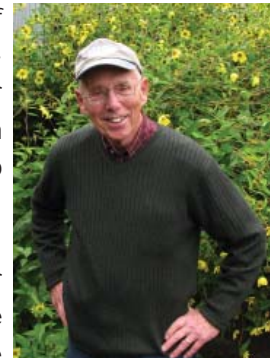
My favorite two pairings: Gardening & Wine. It's one of the blessings of living in the Northwest. We are surrounded by some of the most amazing gardens internationally, and we don't have far to go to sip award winning wines. Thanksgiving Weekend is one of the best times to tour a few wineries. Many are getting all spruced up for the annual Wine Country Thanksgiving event. This event goes from November 27th to November 29th. It is an opportunity to see first-hand many of the valley's small and large wineries. Many of the wineries offer tours and special tasting events. This year there are over 160 wineries involved.



With limited time and so many options, I like to go to the wineries that have amazing settings and gardens. I enjoy sipping my wine and drinking in the view. As of late I've noticed that I'm not alone in my favorite pairing of gardening and wine; many wineries have expanded their gardens. Some wineries with great gardens that are included in the Wine Country Thanksgiving Weekend are Anne Amie Vineyards, Domaine Drouhin Oregon, Duck Pond Cellars and Red Ridge Farms.

One of my favorite gardens to sip in belongs to Argyle Winery. Argyle Winery is in the heart of wine country, right in the middle of Dundee on 99W. You can't miss the gardens. It's the first thing you see. There is parking on both sides of the winery and you have to come in through the garden to get to the tasting room.

Argyle Winery started making wine at this location back in 1987. Where you see the garden a building once sat. It was in 2001 that a retired gentleman, working in their tasting room named Jim McDaniel, began transforming an unruly acre into the garden you'll see today. Jim was one of the pioneers of the wine industry in Oregon. His love of wine making slowly evolved into a love of gardening, so Argyle snapped up the opportunity and allowed Jim to work his magic on their grounds. Eight years later the garden is truly a sight to enjoy. It's a small garden but in spring it is packed with a multitude of blooms. Jim commented, "One of my goals is to get as many plants as possible into this space." He's done it.



The Argyle garden has a very English garden feel which is a detour from Jim's first garden that had mainly an Asian touch. You can see a little of this transition from Asian to English in the lovely Japanese Maples, but from there it is all about color. Jim's list of favorite plants, listed down like a box of Crayola Crayons. "I like all the Hit-Them-In-The-Eye colors you get from the Rudbeckias, Echinaceas, and Coreopsis", shared Jim.



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Drink In The View...continued

Remember, Argyle is right on the busy 99W Highway. When you are sipping your award-winning wine staying dry and cool under Argyles beautiful covered, wrapped deck, you would never know it. Jim has framed the garden with so many Laurel and trees, that you feel you've stepped away from the world and are enjoying yourself in a private garden.

You can check out all the wineries involved in this year's Wine Country Thanksgiving Weekend by going online to www.willamettewines.com, and learn more about Argyle Winery at www.argylewinery.com.

