

Via

AAA Traveler's Companion

MARCH+APRIL 2010



PLUS Ashland: The play's the thing 27

The Northwest's best spring ramble 22

Bison: A new look at an American icon 36

You scream for ice cream 18



Sand blast!

The Oregon Dunes 30

A daring duo takes flight in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

#####CNR-RT MSH##C-016
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P019

Weekender

ASHLAND OREGON

For the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's diamond jubilee, toast the Bard with a local wine or a melted-chocolate drink in this artsy town with urban tastes.

Area code is 541 unless noted.

TO DO Oregon

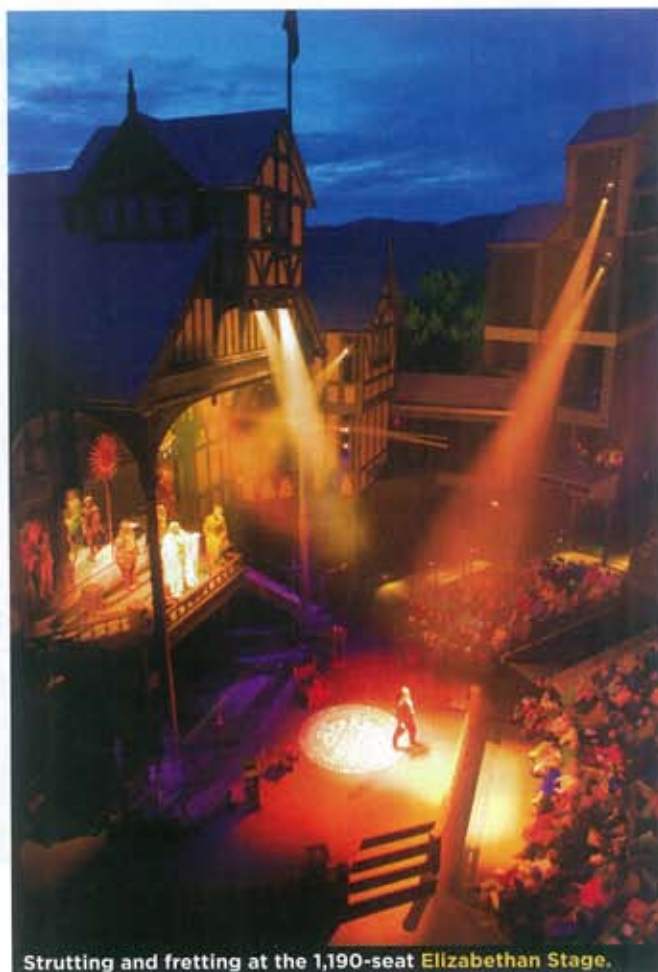
Shakespeare Festival Feb. 19–Oct. 31. OSF celebrates its 75th year with 11 classic and modern productions. 15 S. Pioneer St., (800) 219-8161, osfasbland.org. **Oregon Chocolate Festival** Mar. 5–7. Tastings, speakers, and workshops—next door to a year-round chocolate bar at Enchanted Florist. 212 E. Main St., (888) 795-4545, asblandspringshotel.com.



Peerless Restaurant duck.

Ashland Independent Film Festival Apr. 8–12. A five-day cinematic marathon with screenings at the Varsity Theatre. 488-3823, asblandfilm.org. **A Taste of Ashland** Apr. 23–25. Gourmet foodies present their delicacies in galleries around town. 488-8430, atateofasbland.com.

SIPS Enoteca by EdenVale A wine library that showcases southern Oregon offerings. 17 N. Main St., 482-3377, edenvalleyorchards.com. **Liquid Assets** More than 20 vintages by the glass in a classy wine bar and restaurant. 96 N. Main >>



Strutting and fretting at the 1,190-seat Elizabethan Stage.



Out of the Blue highlights precious and semiprecious stones.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBBIE McCLARAN

Weekender **ASHLAND OREGON**



The elegant lobby of the Ashland Springs Hotel.



Enchanted Florist chocolates come in every form, from truffles to drinks.



Indie films shine at the Varsity.



Imported? Domestic? Liquid Assets has both.

►► St., 482-9463, liquidassetswinebar.com. **Southern Oregon Wine Tours** \$79 (includes lunch). Guided four-hour odysseys among the area's 50-plus wineries and 140 vineyards. (888) 488-5075, asbland-tours.com. Or design a **self-guided wine tour** using a map of the region's producers. sorwa.org.

SHOPPING **American Trails** Native crafts and whimsically painted Oaxacan animal figurines. 27 N. Main St., 488-2731, americantrails.com. **Out of the Blue** An eclectic gallery bursting with beads, baubles, and exotica from around the world. 101 E. Main St., 482-6416.

EATS **New Sammy's Cowboy Bistro** The renowned little restaurant halfway between Ashland and Talent has doubled its capacity and kept its quality. 2210 S. Pacific Hwy., 535-2779. **The Peerless Restaurant & Bar** Perfection is a garden table and chef Mark Carter's affordable small plates. 265 Fourth St., 488-6067, peerlessrestaurant.com. **Standing Stone Brewing**

Company A former auto garage turned high-tech brewpub and eatery. 101 Oak St., 482-2448, standingstonebrewing.com.

SLEEPS **Ashland Creek Inn** From \$135. Ten unique suites overlook gardens and Ashland Creek. 70 Water St., 482-3315, asblandcreekinn.com. **Ashland Springs Hotel** From \$125 for AAA members. A nine-story 1925 tower with 100 luxurious rooms. 212 E. Main St., (888) 795-4545, asblandspringshotel.com.

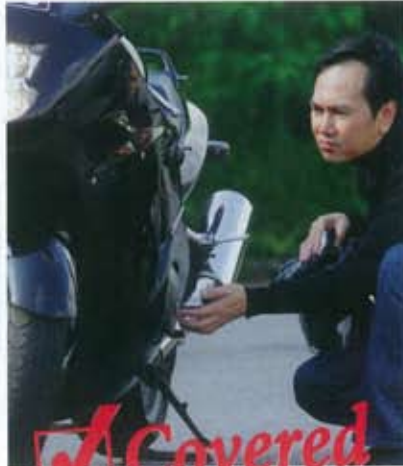
GET GOING Request the *Oregon & Washington* TourBook and map at AAA.com or any AAA branch office. To learn more about area attractions or to get a winery map, contact the **Ashland Chamber of Commerce**: 110 E. Main St., 482-3486, asblandchamber.com. —MICHAEL McRAE

► Visit viamagazine.com for a complete archive of VIA weekend getaways and travel articles. See Michael McRae's "Dunes!" on page 30.

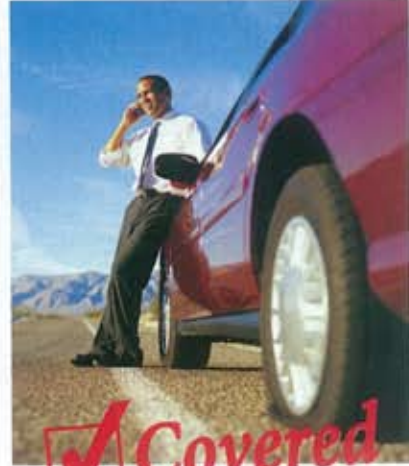
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