



FOODIE

Getaways



**Hit the
road for
great
gourmet
vacations.**

By Allison Williams



Rivers of the West Wine and Culinary Cruise



WHAT YOU'LL DO

Cruise down the Columbia River in a high-end yacht.

WHAT YOU'LL EAT

Meals paired with local wines, prepared by the onboard chef.

WHERE YOU'LL GO

Lewiston, Idaho, to Portland; Oct 15–22 and Oct 29–Nov 4, \$4,995–\$7,195, 888-862-8881; americansafaricruises.com

The Itinerary

Day 1

Lewiston, Idaho

Day 2

Hells Canyon

Though the 105-foot *Safari Spirit* is no cruise liner, it's still too big to nose up this scenic leg of the Snake River. Instead, a jet boat takes the trip's 12 passengers up past steep, rocky shores and over the bumpiest water of the cruise.

Day 3

The Palouse Canyon

From the deck hot tub you can watch the mechanical puzzles of the locks operate as the boat passes through four dams. With only six staterooms, you won't have to fight for a space in the bubbly water.

Day 4

Walla Walla Appellation

The first dry-land excursion is a trip into the capital of Washington wine

country, Walla Walla. Headquartered in a World War II-era hangar in town, Dunham Cellars is known for its Cabernet Sauvignon XIII from 2007. At the stone-and-wood-accented Northstar Winery, winemaker David "Merf" Merfeld—a beer brewer before he was a wine guy—kicks European ass during blind tastings with his Northstar merlot.

Day 5

Red Mountain Appellation

While the Red Mountain appellation is small—home to a tenth as many wineries as the Walla Walla behemoth—it's mighty. Terra Blanca Winery sits in the rolling, treeless hills outside Benton City and features strawberry and raspberry notes in their Onyx and sangiovese wines. At the Hedges Family Estate Winery, the winemaker and employees alike are so fanatical about the concept of terroir that they call themselves Guardians of Red Mountain (and got matching tattoos in 2010); their flagship wine is a syrah.

Day 6

Columbia Gorge Appellation

It's so close to the river's edge that if you blew too hard on the Maryhill Winery, it would tip right off the cliff into the Gorge, taking its massive lawn and amphitheatre with it (but then where would Michael McDonald play on September 17?). Next door, a faded mansion is home to the Maryhill Museum, and in the winery, the proprietors pour syrah and sangiovese.

Day 7

Hood River, Bonneville Dam, and the Columbia Gorge

Day 8

Portland, Oregon



PREVIOUS SPREAD: ISTOCKPHOTO / MARY GASCHO. THIS SPREAD: COURTESY AMERICAN SAFARI CRUISES; ARTHUR YEO

