

# Ashland's Culinary Festival

## *A Taste of the Northwest*

November 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

We'll head to one of our favorite places to take in their 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Culinary Festival... Ashland! Have you heard of the shows *Chopped* or *Top Chef*? Talented chefs compete with one another testing their skills and competing for prizes. Many view their experience inside the ring as so integral to their development as professionals that they are now shepherding younger chefs and mixologists into the arena. Oh... and we'll also take in some top-notch entertainment that Ashland is famous for!

### INCLUDED:

- ☞ Personal services from your OregonWest Tour Director
- ☞ Roundtrip motor coach transportation
- ☞ 3 nights at the Ashland Springs Hotel
- ☞ 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- ☞ Attractions as described below!
- ☞ All gratuities & lots of fun!

Our first stop is lunch at the **Schmidt Family Vineyards**. Owners Judy and Cal Schmidt began a life-long dream of farming the land. Cal's great love and passion for wine and wine making made grapes the obvious crop. In 2000, the old Bennett Ranch was purchased and became the setting for what is now the Schmidt Family Vineyards. Welcome to our **home for the next 3 nights the Historic Ashland Springs Hotel...** located in the heart of downtown Ashland. After a we "freshen up" we'll head to our **first event the Mixologist Competition...** enjoy delicious bites and cocktail samples by local restaurants while 12 bartenders take stage to compete. One bartender with the highest score from each round will advance to the FINAL Round to become the "Wild Card Mixologist".

This morning we'll take in the **Junior Chef Competition...** four teams will be competing from local high school culinary programs. Junior chefs will be given a secret ingredient to complete much like the Top Chef Competition. The winning team of the Junior Chef Competition will have a chance to shadow the festival judges during the Top Chef Competition and will win a college scholarship. You'll have some time to sip, sample, and taste as 30+ vendors will be on hand each day. Next, it's the **Top Chef Competition...** 12 local chefs competing using ingredients from local farms and artisans. One chef with the highest score from each round will advance to the FINAL Round. The fourth position in the FINAL round will be a "Wild Card" Chef – selected by the judges. Last year, chefs were asked to create a warm salad with goat cheese and an entrée using venison, dried porcini mushrooms, either fresh or dried pears (Chef's pick) and smoked bacon, a true Southern Oregon wintery pantry. In addition, EVERYTHING on their plates had to be GLUTEN-FREE. What will this year's secret box contain? We'll head back to the hotel to rest up before we head to the **Cabaret Theater for their production of "Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"**, a 1979 musical thriller based upon the book by Hugh Wheeler with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

Your **morning is free to explore the wonders of Ashland**, and as Sunset Magazine says, "The town itself is the major attraction". This afternoon we'll head back to the **Top Chef Competition** to cheer on our favorite chef and learn who will advance to the final round and who will be crowned "Wild Card" Chef. You'll have a little time to rest up before we head to one of our favorite restaurants in town... **Beasy's on the Creek for a delicious dinner.**

We'll head home today but the fun isn't over. First stop is **Harry & David's for a tour** of their facilities. You will see delights come to life! From their entertaining tour guide, learn about the company's rich history while you watch their dedicated culinary team create silky-smooth chocolate truffles, creamy cheesecakes, and baklava. See how they make their incredible Moose Munch Premium Popcorn, with buttery caramel, nuts, and chocolate. We'll continue south to the **Climate City Brewing in Grants Pass where a delicious lunch awaits!** We head home with great memories and perhaps a few new recipes!



**OREGONWest**  
EXCURSIONS



Enjoy Ashland's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Culinary Competition

**\$1,084 Double**

**\$1,278 Single**

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**Excluded:** Items of personal nature such as telephone calls, movie rentals, etc.

**The Fine Print:** A 24 person minimum is required for this tour to operate. Tour deposits and payments are subject to penalties unless the minimum is not met and the tour is canceled. Cancellation insurance is available by calling our office. OregonWest Excursions is not liable for damage, delay, or inconvenience which may occur through acts or defaults of any other company or person engaged in providing services, provisions, accommodations, transportation or facilities in connection with this tour, nor are we liable for any acts of war, whether declared or not, damage, loss, or acts of God connected with this tour.

**A \$100 deposit will hold space; balance is due by September 8<sup>th</sup> 2019**

