



# JORY RESTAURANT AND THE ALLISON INN & SPA

| BY TRACY ELLEN BEARD

Located in the heart of Willamette Valley Wine Country, JORY Restaurant and The Allison Inn & Spa represent luxury at its finest. JORY Restaurant boasts delicious farm-to-table dining and offers one of the most comprehensive wine lists in the valley. The Inn has opulent accommodations, deluxe spa treatments, indoor and open-air art galleries, gardens, vineyards, and stunning valley views. The Allison Inn & Spa provides everything a discerning traveler desires and is the perfect home base for discovering exceptional Willamette Valley wines.

## Food at The Allison Inn & Spa and JORY Restaurant

Executive Chef Jack Strong stands at the helm of the food scene at JORY Restaurant at The Allison Inn. Before working at JORY Restaurant, Chef Strong was nominated for the James Beard Best Chef Southwest while working at Kai Restaurant. Chef Strong is known for his New Native American Cuisine, and with over 30 years of experience in the culinary world, he says, “Good food starts with the soil.” Chef loves to tell stories through food. At The Allison Inn, he and his team have implemented a vast 1.5-acre garden project, a new greenhouse, and eight beehives to help pollinate his plants and provide honey throughout the year.

The team collaborates on planning for each season and is working to rekindle relationships to provide additional locally sourced ingredients for JORY Restaurant. The kitchen makes almost everything from scratch, and Anna is the master gardener and master beekeeper.

Chef Strong is part of a relatively new management team. Their goal is to make The Allison Inn & Spa and the JORY Restaurant approachable. The Allison will host wine dinners throughout the year, and Chef Strong is utilizing different talented chefs from his team for each event. He said, “We don’t want this to be where you just come for anniversaries or special occasions, but a place to frequent regularly.”

## Dining at JORY Restaurant

My daughter, Brittney, and I enjoyed a fabulous dinner at JORY Restaurant. Wine Director Brian Cook partnered with

our server Jeremy to pair our menu with several fantastic wines. We began with an Apple and Pear Salad featuring spiced apple butter, pinot noir poached pears, goat cheese, white balsamic vinaigrette, and candied walnuts. Jeremy paired the salad with a crisp and delicious glass of 2018 Argyle Blanc de Noirs Brut. Another delicious course and one of the chef’s favorites was the Northwest Mussels with butternut squash fume, in-house cured venison apple sausage, sage, and focaccia bread. We savored a 2019 Les Allées Du Vignoble Chablis that mellowed the dish’s saltiness and created a delectable creaminess between the food and the wine.

Next, we enjoyed the Seared Fort Klamath Sturgeon with ivory lentils, purple cauliflower from the garden, mirepoix, house pancetta, and preserved Meyer lemon butter. The fish was tender and light, and the lentils added a heartiness to the dish. A Tasting of Duck included pan-seared duck breast, crepinette of confit and duck sausage, sweet potato gratin, crispy Brussels sprouts, caramelized onion puree, leeks, and huckleberry jus. The perfectly cooked duck arrived with a sweet potato gratin and huckleberry jus that added just the right sweetness to the dish.

## A Stay at The Allison

The Allison Inn & Spa has 77 deluxe guest rooms and eight suites. Each room features custom-crafted furnishings, warm and cozy robes, slippers, a basket of locally produced snacks, and all the expected amenities in luxury accommodations. During my recent visit, I stayed in a spacious Deluxe King Room with custom built-in closets and an inviting upholstered window seat. I especially appreciated the gas fireplace in the room that staved off the cold from the February wind and rain.

## Art at The Allison

Viewing the artwork inside and out is a favorite pastime at The Allison. Whether meandering the hallways, walking the outdoor paths on the property, or taking a pre-arranged guided tour, art at The Allison is something to see. The late owner and philanthropist Joan Austin and her daughter, local Oregon artist Loni Parrish envisioned the Art at The Allison many years ago. Their curated collection includes over 500 original pieces



from 100 local artists. The artwork adds to the contemporary design of the Inn and brings an added layer of warmth to the property.

Guests can peruse the complete collection in The Art at The Allison catalog in each guest room. Most pieces are available for sale. I particularly enjoyed the floral paintings lining the hallways. Although it was rainy outside, it felt like spring inside.

#### The Allison Spa

Guests can book various treatments,

including facials, massages, body therapies, salt therapy, waxing, and more. Brittney and I tried the Himalayan Salt Therapy treatment. We relaxed on comfortable chairs with footstools in a room boasting one wall filled with Himalayan Salt stones. We buried ourselves beneath warm cozy blankets and took in the peaceful and serene setting. It is said that this treatment can provide relief from respiratory issues and skin conditions, boost the immune system, and improve one's overall well-being. Visitors can add a foot and or hand massage to elevate the experience.

## WHAT TO DO IN WILLAMETTE VALLEY

### Winery Hopping

Visiting the local wineries is a must-do in Willamette Valley. Arborbrook, owned by Copper Mountain Vineyards, is near the Inn. This family-run biodynamic vineyard produces tasty wine served in a beautifully refurbished barn. During my visit, Brittney and I enjoyed a quartet of chocolate bonbons made by Teeter Totter Treats & Sweets with our tasting.

Another delicious place to taste wine is at Nicholas-Jay. This winery, a partnership between former music executive Jay Boberg and Burgundy's Domaine Méo-Camuzet's Jean-Nicolas Méo, showcases delicious world-class Oregon wines. The wines we tasted were paired with yummy Briar Rose Creamery cheeses during our tasting.

### Shop Until You Drop

When you have had your fill of wine, head to downtown Newburg and check out some of the unique shops: Pulp & Circumstance, Lineage, and be sure not to leave Willamette Valley without a supply of goodies from Good Company.❖