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14 don't-miss events for the spring season

Farm-fresh feasts at Trellis restaurant

Supersize snow at small resorts in remote BC

Talking trash with a green garbage man

Break open the bubbly for your Valentine



BEND, OREGON

QUIETLY LURKING in the middle of Oregon, the town of Bend is a Boulder, Colorado, in the making. It is a place of unabashed outdoor worship. Residents and vacationers come to Bend because they live to ski, bike, golf, climb, kayak, fish, hike—and some will knock all those off in just one week. And Seattleites find Bend’s high desert climate provides welcome respite in winter.

A classic Bend summer evening rolls in with a fuchsia-heavy, orange-tinged sunset that plunges into deep purples framed by clusters of Lodgepole pine and Douglas fir trees, with Mount Bachelor and the western Cascades

silhouetted in the distance. Smelling of brush and clean mountain water, the air has a vibrant, calming energy that slowly erodes thoughts of work, responsibilities, and traffic backups.

Along with its smorgasbord of outdoor activities, Bend has a wide range of urbane restaurants and a collection of brewpubs. August brings the Bend Brewfest to town, where you can quaff

TRAVEL TIME FROM SEATTLE Six hours by car

MEDIAN HOME PRICE \$345,000

SUNNY OUTLOOK Bend boasts 300 days of sun per year, which means there is no bad time to visit.

more than 60 different beers from Northwest brewers. Summer also brings musical acts as varied as Willie Nelson, Alison Krause, the Shins, and Pink Martini to the picturesque Les Schwab

stage next to the Deschutes River. It’s precisely this mix of desert frontier and city culture that has contributed to Bend’s explosive growth over the past decade.

“We were originally looking in Sedona, Arizona, but we visited Bend a few times and eventually were won over. We love that we can go mountain biking right out our back door. But most important, along with the natural beauty of the area, Bend has a heart and soul to its community.”

—Second-home owners Linda and Randy Balsiger, *Phinney Ridge*