

# A Vineyard



By Kristy Alpert

**R**esting serenely in the foothills of the Chehalem Mountains of the Willamette Valley, Árdíri Winery and Vineyards may look like a quiet respite from its zany neighbor city of Portland, but the boutique winery is ablaze with a passion for creating memorable moments and flavorful experiences.

“Árdíri means to be consumed by fire, which is figurative for being full of passion,” said Joscelyn Zell, event and marketing director for Árdíri Winery and Vineyards in Cornelius, Oregon. “Our team embodies this spirit, ensuring our guests walk away feeling like they had a special experience in wine country.”

With fire tables set throughout the facility, there is a literal representation of the winery’s illustrious identity, and as Zell likes to point out, those are the only fires they like to keep contained on the property.

That love for creating fine wines and crafting unusual events has trickled down from the winemakers themselves. John Compagno and Gail Liza both worked in the molecular and diagnostic field of DNA testing, which explains their keen interest in working with pinot noir, the notoriously genetically unstable variety of wine. Now more interested in wine than laboratories, they remain actively involved in all aspects of this hillside vineyard.

Their award-winning wines come from their vineyards in the Willamette and Napa valleys, and the estate at the main Árdíri property in Oregon is stunning, with sprawling acres of vines and breath-



*Photos courtesy Árdíri Winery*

**Top left: The Chehalem Mountains overlook the vineyard at Árdíri Winery.**

**Above: Outdoor fire pits make an ideal location for a small-group brainstorm or relaxing wine break.**

taking mountain vistas that look out over the Willamette Valley.

“Not a day goes by that I don’t take a moment to appreciate the sheer beauty and tranquility of this venue,” said Zell, who noted that her favorite way to spend a day at the vineyard includes sitting by the fire, sipping wine and soaking in the incredible view. “It’s a joy to have people come here and experience the same thing.”

It’s with open arms – and frequently an open bottle – that the vineyard welcomes guests for off-site events and unforgettable meetings.

# Retreat



## Árdíri Winery and Vineyards

### LOCATION

Willamette Valley, Cornelius, Oregon

### TYPE OF VENUE

Off-site vineyard

### CAPACITY

35-75 people

### NEARBY ACCOMMODATIONS

McMenamins Grand Lodge

### CONTACT INFO

503-628-6060

[www.ardiriwine.com](http://www.ardiriwine.com)

## Meeting Spaces

To accommodate the often-fickle weather in Oregon – sunny one day, then dreary and rainy the next – the meeting space at the Árdíri Winery and Vineyards is a covered patio encased in convertible glass to adjust to anything Mother Nature decides to throw out.

The patio holds up to 40 people

in the winter when the glass is up and the weather is cool, and anywhere from 50 to 75 people in the summer when the glass comes down and the sun comes out. The patio's views and intimate setting make it ideal for corporate planning meetings, social and charity events, and dinners. Custom setups are available upon request.

## Bites and Sips

Catering to off-site business meetings, retreats and events, the lush landscape offers a feast for meeting professionals looking to immerse themselves in local flavor. The on-site event coordinator works closely with groups to select the perfect caterer for that specific event, offering a list of recommended local vendors or

letting guests select their own.

But when it comes to the beverage service, Árdíri has it covered, from tasting flights served in their brand-new tasting room, which features a poured black concrete bar and roll-up windowed doors for an indoor/outdoor experience, or just an added bottle service to pair with a selected menu.

## Extras

There are a great many options for occupying any free time at the vineyard. Meeting attendees can use a break in the action to attend a public tasting; those take place throughout the day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Árdíri also arranges private tastings and tours of the property for meeting groups looking to dig deeper into

the roots of the vineyard and sample Árdíri's exceptional pinot noir and white wine blends.

During the cooler months, groups tend to gather around the fire pits during breaks with a glass of wine; but when it warms up, the staff sets up a movie screen and projector for movie nights in the vineyard.

## D'Vines

Although the venue may be quietly tucked into the Oregon countryside, it's not shy on amenities. The property is handicapped accessible; welcoming to dogs, bicycles and limos; and offers facilities for picnics, along with free Wi-Fi throughout. Its main amenity, though, is the homegrown wine.

Árdíri's unique meter-by-meter Burgundian vineyards generate a limited harvest of gravity-fed estate wines produced and bottled

on-site. The winery offers award-winning pinot noirs from its Willamette Valley Estate in addition to vintages from a five-acre vineyard in the Carneros region of Napa Valley. Along with its array of pinots, it also boasts the fabulous Pink Tractor rosé, the buttery Amante chardonnay, a delicate pinot gris/pinot blanc blend and a blend of pinot noir from both estates named Due Stati, which is Italian for "two states."