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Sunset

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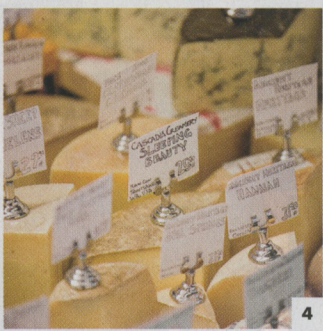


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DISCOVER

1. Ceramics old and new at boho-chic Maven Collective. 2. For this view, enter Mt. Tabor Park at 69th Avenue and climb 283 steps. 3. House Spirits' Coffee Liqueur is sold at the Montavilla Farmers Market. 4. Cheese Bar. 5. Tabor Bread Bakery & Cafe makes its loaves in a wood-fired oven.



A PERFECT DAY IN
MT. TABOR, OR

Although the extinct volcano that gives this Portland neighborhood its name is forever quiet, the food scene is exploding, bringing diners to a less-traveled part of town. *By Beth Collins*

A bird's-eye view
 Word is getting out about the Portland neighborhood abutting buzzy Hawthorne: Mt. Tabor may be small, but its eateries are mighty. And food lovers are coming in droves. But before you embark

on a restaurant crawl, hit up the neighborhood namesake: an extinct volcano that rises 636 feet above the city. **Mt. Tabor Park's** trails wind through 197 acres of magnolias, madrones, and redwoods. Admire these beauties, and the park's

200-foot-tall giant sequoia, on a free tree-ID walk. Or check out the delightfully weird PDX Adult SoapBox Derby, where grown-ups race down the park's roads in cars shaped like fish, hot dogs, and ramekins. As fun as the race is,

though, the real treat here is a Mt. Tabor sunset. Climb to the volcano's summit and you'll be rewarded with views of the downtown skyscrapers across the Willamette, and, above it all, streaks of orange and gold. *Derby: Aug 20; taborfriends.org.*



GETTING HERE

Mt. Tabor is 5 miles east of downtown Portland via Belmont St.

Euro-style lunch

Without a reservation, it can be tough to score dinner at **Coquine**, a James Beard Award-nominated bistro beloved for its handmade pastas and delicate *macarons*. That's why lunch, or breakfast, is the way to go at this new husband/wife-owned eatery. Expect creative midday fare in the form of, say, a roasted-carrot salad with sumac, spiced yogurt, and pepitas. Coquine has made a name in sweets too; pick up a chocolate-chip cookie starring smoked almonds and salted caramel. \$\$; 6839 S.E. Belmont St.; coquinepdx.com.

The big cheese

Just down Belmont, Cheese-monger Invitational Champion Steve Jones holds court at **Cheese Bar**, behind a counter full of oozing triple creams, gloriously stinky blues, and beautifully aged manchegos.

The friendly staff doles out samples, cheese advice, wine, cider, and beer. If you want to become an expert in any of the 200 cheeses crowding the display case, sign up for one of their monthly classes. Or, to experience an all-around food education, head to the **Montavilla Farmers Market**, which features artisan spirits, Oregon oysters, and fresh-baked goods. **Cheese Bar**: 6031 S.E. Belmont; cheese-bar.com. **Farmers Market**: montavillamarket.org.

Famed fried chicken

No Portland neighborhood would be complete without a spoof-worthy brunch line. At **The Country Cat**, that line leads to housemade bacon, sweet-cream biscuits, and Bloody Marys with jerky garnishes. The Cat is the brainchild of Adam Sappington, who channels food memories from his Missouri childhood using Northwest ingredients. At dinner, the draw's the crispy fried chicken. Or, for the truly hungry, there's The Whole Hog, a plate with pork three ways (brined and grilled loin, roasted belly, and braised shoulder). \$\$; 7937 S.E. Stark St.; thecountrycat.net.

Time warp

Though the Bagdad Theater hogs the press, Mt. Tabor's **Academy Theater** is an equally glorious art deco gem. When renovating it in 2006, the



6. Food lovers flock to the Montavilla Farmers Market, where Nectar Cafe slings coffee and vegan fare. **7.** Maven Collective. **8.** Chef Adam Sappington makes fried chicken using his grandmother's recipe at The Country Cat. **9.** Academy Theater.

designers referenced photos from the theater's opening day in 1948 to perfectly re-create the vintage marquee and shiny metallic lobby. Even the ticket prices are a throwback (\$4 for a second-run movie), and they show seasonal vintage flicks—*Rosemary's Baby*, *A Christmas Story*—when the time is right.

Across the street, **Maven Collective** stocks pieces like a fruit cupboard from the early

1900s and Japanese stoneware from the '70s, alongside locally made jewelry, soaps, and stationery. The goods are arranged in a setting so inviting that you might be tempted to browse for hours. But don't wait too long to buy—the shop posts its latest acquisitions on Instagram for its nearly 30,000 eager followers. **Academy**: 7818 SE Stark; academytheaterpdx.com. **Maven**: 7819 S.E. Stark; mavencollective.com.

THE LOCAL LOWDOWN

"The drive into Mt. Tabor is beautiful. All the colors in the fall, the evergreens in winter, everything blooming in spring and summer."

—KATY MILLARD, CHEF AND CO-OWNER, COQUINE