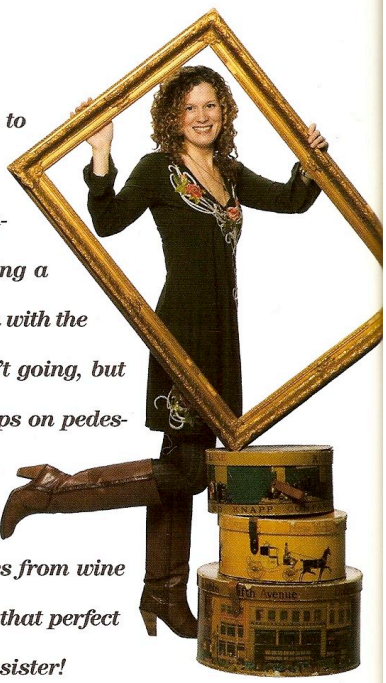
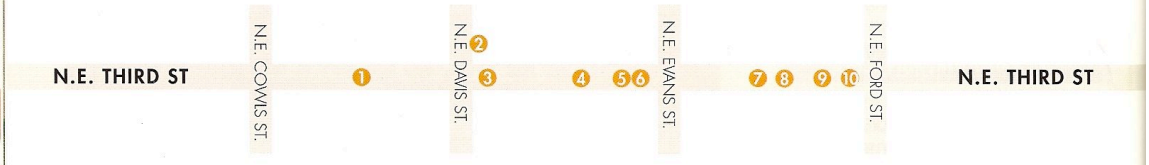
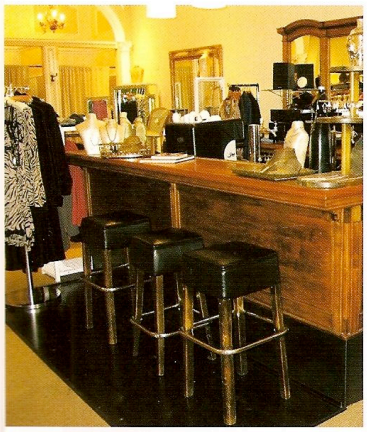
[shop talk] McMINNVILLE



Do you speed through McMinnville every time you drive to Yamhill County's wine country or head for the coast on 99W? Next time, stop the car and explore downtown McMinnville. You'll discover you've been missing a lot when you ignored that HISTORIC TOWN CENTER sign with the arrow pointing in the direction you weren't going, but should've been! When you peruse the shops on pedestrian-friendly N.E. Third St., you'll start empty-handed, but you'll soon want several extra hands to carry all your goodies from wine and chocolate to artwork and, of course, that perfect piece of jewelry for your hard-to-shop-for sister!





THE LEFT BANK, WINE COUNTRY STYLE

With its architectural dressing rooms, artful displays and chandeliers, **MES AMIES** (522 N.E. Third St., 503-474-1721) boutique wouldn't be out of place in Paris. But, since it's in wine country, it has a local twist. Housed in a former tavern, sisters and co-owners Naomi Rubottom and Shanna Dixon (*above*) incorporated the original bar, giving the clothing shop a unique sensibility. "We've made it a social space that makes people welcome when they come in," says Rubottom. "We offer lattes and wine to our customers. People hang out at the bar and eat their lunch."

There are so many eye-catching wearables cleverly laid out on tables, in old display cases and in old trunks that you'll want to leave with the entire inventory! Popular lines include Arianne Lingerie (*$55 for a sapphire-blue velvet tank*), Eileen Fisher, Prairie Underground, Dick and Jayne (*$141 for the ochre wrap sweater Rubottom is wearing*) and Johnny Was (*$174 for the embroidered tunic that Dixon has on*). Some of the sisters' best items are found in the jewelry cases, which include necklaces and earrings from vintage metal designs by Alkemie or sterling silver and bronze necklaces made from old wax seals (*$90 to $160*) by Pyrrha. "Naomi and I used to talk about owing a shop like Mes Amies, and then a few years ago the previous owner made us an offer," says Dixon. "I love owning it. Sometimes, it feels like so much of my life has happened here on Third St."

STYLISH HOME COMFORTS

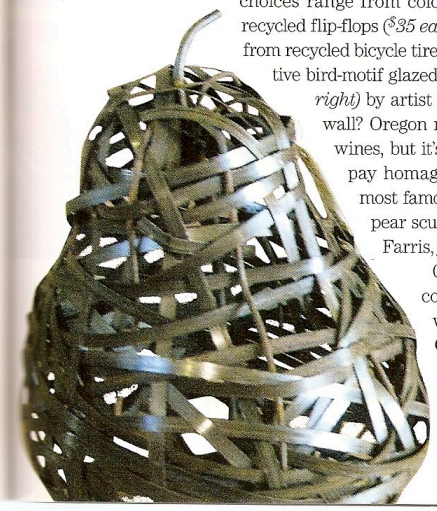
If you dream of turning your home into a space where can pull off that difficult trick of being luxurious and understated at the same time, **LA BELLA CASA** (406 N.E. Third St., 503-435-2313) is the place for glorious goods. Owner Rhonda Feero started the store eight years ago in a small vintage house and has since expanded to a 3,500-square-foot space downtown. "I like to have nice things and a variety of things," says Feero. "Your home is your refuge and you want to have accessories in it that enrich your life. I like my store to be a place where you can relax and come in and browse to get ideas."

A wall by the cash register displays Sid Dickens' intriguing, beautiful hand-poured and hand-painted plaster tiles (*$78 each*). Sugarboo handmade photo box frames (*$260*) add style to traditional snapshots. Deck out your bedroom with a 4-foot by 5-foot rustic curved mirror (*$575*) and sink into a comfortable bed with a matelasse cover (*$250*) by Peacock Alley. Up the romance factor with tall antique brass candlesticks (*$38 to $52*) and you'll have a room you'll *never* want to leave!

Want sophisticated shopping and small town charm? McMinnville's got both!

HANDMADE IN THE NORTHWEST

If you've decided to buy local—even when it comes to gifts—stop in at **ACCOLADES GALLERY** (448 N.E. Third St., 503-472-9400), which specializes in handmade, fair trade and recycled crafts with an emphasis on Oregon and Washington artisans. Your choices range from colorful mats created from recycled flip-flops (*$35 each*) to wallets and totes from recycled bicycle tires. How about a decorative bird-motif glazed ceramic plaque (*$98, right*) by artist Peg Johnson for your wall? Oregon may be known for its wines, but it's pear country, too, so pay homage to one of the state's most famous fruits with this metal pear sculpture (*$125, left*) by Martha Farris, just perfect for that empty corner!



Opened just a year ago, Accolades has a definite community vibe. "Upstairs there's an art gallery with revolving shows," says manager Jessica Gerondale. "We also have a shared space with a tearoom, Two Moon Tea, that serves organic and whole-leaf tea, and it's also where we offer classes in writing, art and cooking."

BY THE NUMBERS

May we suggest: Park your car on N.E. Third St. or one of the adjoining cross streets. (The parking is free!). The five-block stretch of Third St. just off Baker St., between Cowls St. and Ford St., is jam-packed with all sorts of shops in charming turn-of-the-century buildings. Pick your favorite from our lineup as *your* place to start your shopping stroll!

1. **313 N.E. THIRD ST.–HONEST CHOCOLATES.** Chocolatier Dana Dooley creates fresh, handmade, hand-dipped chocolates. Her specialty is chocolates for wine-tasting. You'll want a box to take home!
2. **326 N.E. DAVIS ST.–NW A WINE BAR.** Try a Northwest wine with a bite to eat in this sophisticated, yet casual tasting room.
3. **406 N.E. THIRD ST.–LA BELLA CASA.** In the market for candles or oversized mirrors? This home furnishings shop will have what you're looking for—and what you didn't know you were!
4. **421 N.E. THIRD ST.–PACIFIC FRAME AND GALLERY.** If you've got something odd you'd like hanging on your wall, take it here for a standout custom frame.
5. **448 N.E. THIRD ST., SUITE A–COWGIRL MERCANTILE.** Owners Lindsay Enos and Jean Peterson have put together a great selection of Western-themed clothes, accessories and housewares.
6. **448 N.E. THIRD ST.–ACCOLADES GALLERY.** Showcasing local art, the gallery also shares space with a tearoom and offers classes in art, writing and cooking.
7. **522 N.E. THIRD ST.–MES AMIES.** This French-inspired boutique offers free lattes and wine along with its fabulous selection of women's clothing, jewelry and accessories.
8. **532 N.E. THIRD ST.–CURRENTS GALLERY.** This artists' co-op has a constantly changing display of works by local artists, many of whom also work in the shop.
9. **546 N.E. THIRD ST.–MCMINNVILLE ART AND WINE GALLERY.** Collect china? Well, this store has great finds, ranging from commemorative plates to teacups plus a fun display of cookie jars!
10. **585 N.E. THIRD ST.–WINE COUNTRY KITCHEN.** Find wine accessories, pots and pans, colorful colanders and much more in this kitchen haven.

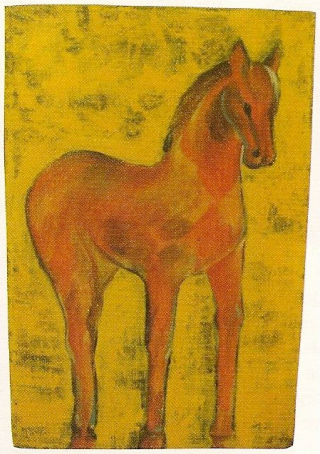
[shop talk]

WESTWARD HOME!

If cowboy boots, hats and the smell of leather make you swoon with happiness, head over to **COWGIRL MERCANTILE** (448 N.E. Third St., 503-472-0159). Among all the wearable goodies, you'll find Old Gringo cowboy boots (*$339*) and clothing by Hazel, Double D and Cowgirl Tough (*$30 to $40 for a T-shirt*). The store, however, is also an unexpected treasure trove of home accessories with a Western flair.

"We got the idea for the store because we were both involved with horses," says Lindsay Enos, who owns the store with her friend Jean Peterson. "We wanted to have some accessories to decorate the store, but also have things you'd want in your home."

Lasso some studded leather drawer pulls (*$14 each*) to change the look of some cabinets or go all out with a dark red bureau covered with metal rivets in a floral motif (*$1,395*). For your buckaroo's bedroom, there's this sweet 24-inch by 36-inch red horse painting (*$195, below*). And what little Roy Rogers wouldn't enjoy bacon and orange juice served up in a cowboy plate and cup (*$20*). The set also comes in pink for your budding Annie Oakley.



TEACUPS GALORE AND MORE

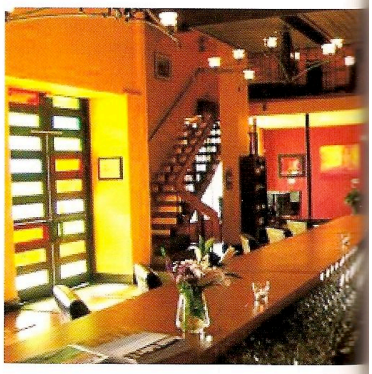
You'll get a new perspective on teacups when you walk into the **MCMINNVILLE ANTIQUE AND WINE GALLERY** (546 N.E. Third St., 503-474-9696) and feast your eyes on its wall of teacups, each with its own saucer. With designs ranging from flowers to animals, there's a teacup to fit perfectly in your hand, such as this Havilland china set with decorated floral edges and double gold-rimmed handles (*$18.95, below*). Lovers of old timepieces will wish they had a vest pocket for an antique watch (*$350*) and will rush home to start clearing out shelf space for a copper art deco Seth Thomas clock (*$245*).

Add to your collection of state plates, with an Alabama 1983 calendar plate (*$12*) decorated with historic Alabama buildings or a 1976 Bicentennial plate (*$12*) adorned with a battlefield-ready Revolutionary drum corps.

Entertainers will rejoice at all the wine, chocolate and kitchen gadgets on offer!

WINE-TASTING NIRVANA

If you like sinking into a comfortable leather chair in a room filled with light and art while indulging in an afternoon or evening of wine-tasting, **NW A WINE BAR** (326 N. Davis St., 503-435-1295 or go to nwwinebar.com) is a must-stop destination. With its ever-changing list from more than 50 vineyards, this inviting space painted in warm colors is the perfect place to take a break and try local and international wines while you nosh on small plates (*$12 for a selection of artisan cheeses or $10 for an antipasto plate*).

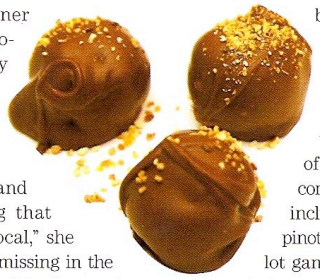


You can sample wines by the flight or the glass and even take your favorite tastes home with you. Local pinot noirs include Bergstrom (*$75 a bottle*) and The Four Graces (*$27 a bottle*). Try some Spanish cavas or, for those celebratory occasions, pop the cork of Margaine champagne (*$45 a bottle*) from France.

There's great street-watching through the large windows or you can chat with fellow tasters at the long bar. When you're looking for a change of pace, just head upstairs for a game of pool.

DARK, DELECTABLE AND PALATE-PLEASING

The only thing better than being a kid in a candy shop is owning the shop yourself! Tucked away at the back of Orchards Bistro, you'll find **HONEST CHOCOLATES** (313 N.E. Third St., 503-474-4092 or go to honestchocolates.com) and most likely owner and chief chocolatier Dana Dooley will be working the counter. "I wanted to make high-end chocolate affordable and have something that was fresh and local," she says. "What was missing in the market was chocolate for people who enjoy flavors, but don't want all the packaging frills."



Dooley, who develops all the recipes for her chocolates, specializes in making chocolates to pair with wines. "Since we're in wine country, local wineries began to ask me for wine-tasting chocolates," she says. These dark-chocolate-dipped and to-die-for creations use a wine reduction to decrease the sweetness of the chocolate so it better complements the wine. Flavors include raspberry or blueberry pinot ganache and cranberry merlot ganache (*$20 a pound*). They taste great on their own, too!

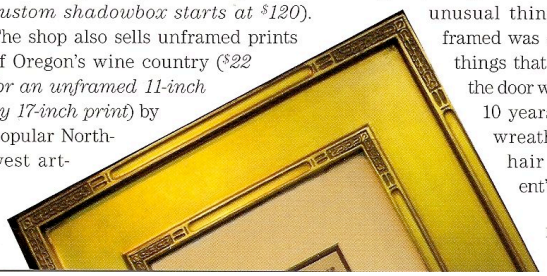
COLORFUL KITCHEN FAVORITES

It may be tucked into a small corner shop, but **WINE COUNTRY KITCHEN** (585 N.E. Third St., 503-884-4190) packs a lot into its space. You'll be happy as a chef with a new set of knives in Jo Taylor's well-thought-out shop, which combines wine accessories (*$55 for a Rabbit corkscrew or $25 for a wine funnel*) with classic kitchen gear. Wine-inspired items include cocktail plates decorated with corkscrews, wine barrels and grapes (*$28 each*), coasters with vineyard scenes (*$6 each*) and flexible, thin cutting boards (*$7 to $9*) with a wine motif.

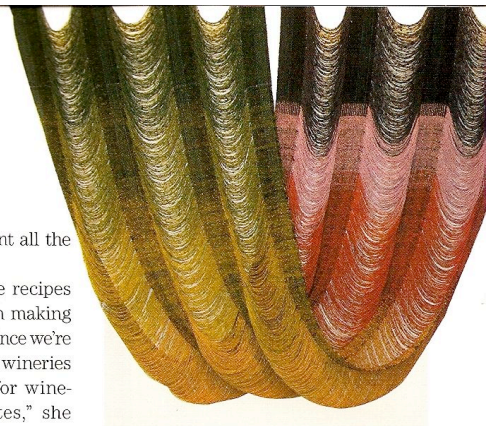
A few of our favorite things included a blue teakettle (*$60*) by Le Creuset and colorful colanders (*$19 or $30*)—just the thing to perk up a kitchen. "It's an interesting mix of people who come in," says owner Jo Taylor. "I have basic items for local people, but also fun things for people who want a reminder of their trip to Oregon's wine country."

HAVE ART OF AN UNUSUAL SIZE? FRAME IT HERE!

Have something out of the ordinary you'd like to hang on your wall? **PACIFIC FRAME AND GALLERY** can frame anything and do it with aplomb, whether it's an illuminated manuscript page or your collection of barbed wire, nails or silver spoons (*a 7-inch by 7-inch custom shadowbox starts at $120*). The shop also sells unframed prints of Oregon's wine country (*$22 for an unframed 11-inch by 17-inch print*) by popular Northwest artist Paul A. Lundquist.



Owners Noel and Leigh Ann Jones have seen everything when it comes to framing. "A local musician once asked us to frame all his CDs, and that frame ended up being more than eight feet long," says Leigh Ann. "One of the most unusual things we've ever framed was one of the first things that came through the door when we opened 10 years ago. It was a wreath made of the hair from the client's ancestors."



FIND SOME ART *AND* MEET AN ARTIST!

As you take a look around the ever-changing mix at **CURRENTS GALLERY** (532 N.E. Third St., 503-435-1316 or go to currentsgallery.com), you might discover that the person working the register is the artist who made the piece you're eyeing! An arts and crafts cooperative, many of its artists work the gallery's counter a couple days a month. "One of the great things about coming in here is that there's always something new to look at," says jewelrymaker Barbara Klabunder, who showed us the gallery. You'll always be looking for an opportunity to flick your wrist or push up your sleeves when you wear one of Klabunder's colorful Czech glass bead bracelets (*$150, right*).

If you're stuck in a rut and only choose from that traditional trio of painting, prints and photographs for art for your walls, branch out with this 39-inch by 30-inch colorful, woven wallhanging (*$675, above*) by Salem, Ore.-based Genie Stewart. Called Primary Colors, it takes its name not from the classic red, blue and yellow of your childhood crayons, but from the colors of the stems and skins and pieces of the grapes found in primary fermentation tanks for wine.