

## Top Ten Oregon Wine Industry Stories of 2007

### 9. The Allison

#### **Details of Oregon wine region's first luxury inn, spa revealed at groundbreaking ceremony**

*By Wine Press Staff*

An 85-room country estate-style inn, timeless in design and rising from a gentle hill in northeast Newberg, will provide the most luxurious accommodations in the Willamette Valley's famed Pinot Noir wine region, said Alan Grainger, a principal in the Seattle design firm GGLO.

A detailed description of the inn, spa, restaurant and conference center was provided during a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday, Oct. 9, led by Newberg philanthropist and businesswoman Joan Austin (pronounced Jo Anne) and her family.

The development, to include 1,200 homes and a retail village, will be built over a decade. The inn, spa, restaurant and conference center are the first components and will open in late spring 2009.

Joan Austin with her daughter, Loni Austin Parrish, son, Ken Austin III, and daughter-in-law, Celia Austin, turned a few shovels full of earth to signify the beginning of construction on the 450-acre Springbrook Properties site, one of the largest new developments in the state.

While civic leaders, area winemakers, family and friends looked on, Joan said the occasion marked another step on the way to fulfilling her dream of developing the family's private land into a property that will attract world-wide visitors and provide many amenities for the local community to enjoy.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Joan revealed the inn's name: The Allison.

Allison refers to a 300-square-mile lake that briefly covered the entire Willamette Valley during the last ice age and deposited much of the rich soil that produces an abundance of fruits, nuts, berries and wine grapes. Lake Allison was named for the late Ira Allison, an Oregon State University geologist whose work helped prove the existence of the lake.

In addition to the hospitality and residential areas, the development will feature 50 acres of green spaces including recreational trails for biking and walking, wetlands, streams and a small vineyard.

The entire development will be called Springbrook, paying homage to the historic community of Springbrook, once a major shipping center for the bounty of the Willamette Valley. Peaches, pears and berries were canned and shipped to such prominent customers as the Queen of England. As the development progresses, the historic schoolhouse will be renovated and an old church and train station may be restored.

“A great deal of consideration has gone into the planning, design, construction and operation of the development,” Grainger said. A LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification will be pursued for the inn and spa.

The development has won praise from some of the region’s most prominent winemakers because it is entirely within Newberg’s urban growth boundary and does not encroach on valuable vineyard land.

Guests will drive under a porte-cochere upon arrival and enter the natural stone building where they will enjoy a “feast for the senses.” Through the windows, they will see groves of shimmering aspen trees, enjoy the scents of a crackling fire and hear the gentle sounds of a water feature that begins outdoors and continues indoors.

The lobby will echo the exterior’s natural feel with reclaimed limestone floors, slate and a rich combination of Northwest woods such as black walnut, white oak and Douglas fir. Floor-to-ceiling windows will let light pour into the lobby and reception area and will create a glow from within at night.

Sculptures, handmade rugs, built-in window seats and details of etched copper, glass and tile will engage the tactile and visual senses.

The great room—adjacent to the lobby area and restaurant—will function as the inn’s “living room,” and will feature a massive two-sided stone fireplace and an adjoining 15-seat bar.

GGLO interior design principal Carol Schaefer said she was inspired by the area’s natural surroundings in creating a color palette that draws on the rich farmland legacy and the earthy colors of the nearby wooded hills and vineyards—lichen, bark, berry, pear, beet and squash.

These colors will be reflected throughout the inn, including the guest rooms, which will range in size from 500 to 600 square feet, to three 900-square-foot suites and one two-bedroom, ultra-deluxe suite with 1,600 square feet.

The Spa at The Allison is destined to become one of the most luxurious on the West Coast, according to Mary Arnstad of Arnstad Associates who has managed some of the leading hotels and resorts in the Pacific Northwest.

Arnstad is consulting on the project with Bruce Hraba of Waterford Hotels and Inns.

One feature will be a waterfall that will spill gently from one level to the next, creating a sense of serenity.

International spa consulting firm Health Fitness Dynamics of Pompano Beach, Fla., has been retained to provide insight on design, treatments and spa products.

In addition to deluxe treatment rooms, guests will be able to enjoy special services that may include use of natural materials from the area—berry, fruit and nut scrubs and lotions—or even

wine-based treatments in recognition of the region's world-class varietals.

The Allison's conference center will be able to host up to more than 200 for meetings and social events. The ballroom can be reconfigured for smaller meetings and all meeting rooms have access to outdoor terraces.

GGLO, which also is designing the landscape on the property, said it took cues from Springbrook owner Joan Austin.

"Mrs. Austin loves the trees on the property so we will save as many of the majestic oaks, firs and Norway maples as possible," said Mark Sindell, GGLO landscape designer.

"Large shade trees on rolling hills of green will welcome guests to the stately arboretum next to the inn," Sindell said. "Visitors will arrive through drifts of seasonal color—from tulips and daffodils in the spring, to colorful summer annuals and perennials, followed by the muted brown and red colors of fall and winter.

"She also asked for flower gardens throughout the property and with several fabulous nurseries just miles from Springbrook, we will be able to make her dreams come true," he continued.

Guests also will enjoy territorial views of the nearby mountains and meadows, along with an entry drive lined by vineyards—a welcome to one of the world's great wine regions.

For more information on The Allison or Springbrook Properties, please visit [www.springbrookproperties.com](http://www.springbrookproperties.com) or call 503-537-2000. For media inquiries, contact Olga Haley, 971-244-0661 or e-mail [olga@leoketel.com](mailto:olga@leoketel.com). ♦ *Reprinted from the November 2007 OWP.*