ARTHUR FROMMER'S

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## Vacations for Real People

September 2007

SPECIAL ISSUE

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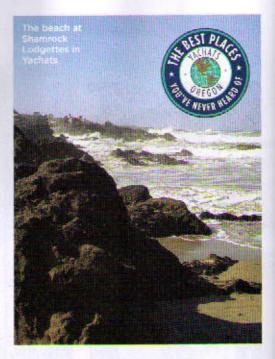
A delicious little corner of Europe

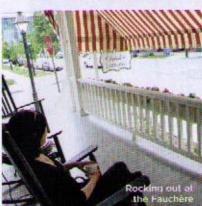
America's 10 Coolest Small Towns

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"After work,
I like to go
swimming in
a waterfall,"
says a resident
of Milford



#### Milford, Pa.

Population: 1,292

Nearest City: New York, 71 miles A resort town since the Gilded Age, Milford is popular with newcomers interested in its Victorian houses, Sean Strub (a direct-mail and publishing entrepreneur who moved here in 1997) and retired executive Richard Snyder spearheaded the town beautification effort, launched Milford Magazine, and in 2001 bought the 1880s-era Hotel Fauchère. Five years and \$6.5 million later, it reopened with heated slate bathroom floors, Frette sheets, and a price point that's ritzy for such a small town, not to mention Budget Travel (401 Broad St., 570/409-1212, hotelfauchere.com, from \$275). The 70,000-acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is nearby (nps.gov/dewa); buy picnic supplies at Fretta's (223 Broad St., 570/296-7863). Kitchen and bath designer Derek Roberts moved to Milford in 1991. "My mountain bike is well used," he says. "After work, I like to go swimming in a waterfall." He has become such a civic booster that he began organizing Fluviarchy dance parties-named for the network of waterfalls at The Emerson House (call the Fauchère for info), "Find me for free-drink tickets," he says. - Drew Limsky

#### Yachats, Ore. Population: 617

Nearest City: Eugene, 86 miles In 2005, Dave Thomas and Deb Gisetto left Vermont for Oregon and soon found themselves awestruck by the scenery around Yachats (yah-hots). "It was just unbelievably beautiful," recalls Thomas. "And the people were possibly the most friendly in the country." Thomas and Gisetto put down roots by opening Green Salmon Bakery & Coffee House (220 Hwy, 101, 541/ 547-3077). Yachats also has cute shops, like Raindogs (162 Beach St., 541/547-3000, rain dogsonline.com), and a deli called Grand Occasions where you can watch the sea roll in while you eat pie made with blackberries, strawberries, or whatever's in season (84 Beach St., 541/547-4409). After staying in a Shamrock Lodgettes beachfront cabin, you may move to Oregon, too (105 Hwy. 101, 800/845-5028, shamrocklodgettes.com, cabins from \$99). -Colin Lingle



### Waitsburg, Wash.

Population: 1,212

Nearest City: Walla Walla, 21 miles
Ross Stevenson and Leroy Cunningham
settled in Waitsburg six years ago, in search
of a quieter lifestyle. With two partners, they
opened the Whoopemup Hollow Café in
2005. The Whoop, as it's known, dishes up
jambalaya and Coca-Cola cake to wheat
farmers and wine snobs alike (120 Main St.,
509/337-9000, jambalaya \$19). Just across
the street, Jim German recently opened
Jimgermanbar, which specializes in classic
cocktails and small plates (119 Main St., 509/
337-6001). His wife, Claire Johnston-German,
owns the AMO Art gallery next door