Things to Consider When Touring Assisted Living Communities

- Are you greeted and welcomed when you walk in to the community?
- Do the building and common areas feel comfortable and look clean?
- Are the common spaces in the community pleasant and appealing?
- Are there enough common areas where the residents can spend time with each other and with visiting family members?
- Can you imagine your loved one using these common spaces?
- Do you feel pressured or like the staff member meeting with you is "selling" you?
- Does the staff member seem knowledgeable and able to answer your questions?
- Do the other residents seem to be in a good mood?
- Is there socialization and interaction going on between residents?
- Are the dining rooms clean and attractive?
- Are the meals served at a set time or during a range of time?
- Are there options on the menu or are there set entrees?
- Do the dining rooms have assigned seating?
- Can the community cater to specific dietary needs?
- Is there a private room available for private family dinners?
- Do the activities seem like they would interest your loved one?
- What is the ratio of staff to residents?
- What is the staff turnover rate?
- Are additional services and care options available on the same campus if a resident’s needs change?
- Is there a nurse or physician onsite?

Most importantly, how does it feel to you? There are many different types of settings and lists of amenities that appeal to different people, but the response you get from staff, the feeling you get from residents, and your own instincts play a big role in finding just the right fit.