

The Inn at Perry Cabin

One of the best kept secrets on the Eastern Shore of Maryland

The Inn at Perry Cabin is one of those places that, once you've experienced it, you want to share with everyone you know. It's clear from the outset that the visit is going to be special: approach to the historic clapboard manse—set on 25 waterfront acres in St. Michaels, the crown-jewel town of Maryland's bucolic Eastern Shore—is either down a brick drive flanked with centuries-old trees or up the winding Miles River from the Chesapeake Bay.

The Inn is owned and operated by Orient-Express, a company known for its luxury properties that have distinct characteristics that are true-to-place. The sensibility is clearly evident at



the Inn, where the look is refined maritime-chic: overstuffed armchairs are covered in crisp taupe-and-white stripes, period nautical prints hang above nickel-plated lamps. Each of the 78 guest rooms is individually decorated and has views either to the water or of the expertly tended grounds.

The local in-crowd flocks to the resort year-round, first to have a drink in lively Purser's Pub and then to find out what chef Mark Salter is cooking at the restaurant, Sherwood's Landing. Chef Salter's dishes are innovative twists on regional ingredients—crabmeat spring rolls with grapefruit and avocado, local rockfish with a perfectly fried oyster—and he taps the extensive on-site gardens and greenhouse for fresh produce and herbs. During the summer, Salter harvests his own blackberries (as of press time, 161 pounds so far this year) to make an excellent, refreshing sorbet.

And added proof, if any were necessary, that Chef Salter always happily goes the distance: he's known among dog-owning guests for his gourmet canine menu, including a pooches-only osso buco served on a silver platter. (By the way, each autumn, as part of the Fall into St. Michaels festival, the dog-friendly inn (named the Best Dog-Friendly Bed & Breakfast by Doggie

The docks at the Inn at Perry Cabin are available for boaters to dock while dining or while staying at the hotel.

Esplanade Marina

“Convenience, tranquility, and first-rate facilities on Florida's Gulf Coast”



ABOVE: The Marina has direct (No Bridge) access to the Gulf of Mexico. The survey of depths from Big Marco River to Smokehouse Bay range from 6 to 20 feet at mean low tide.

RIGHT: Visitors and locals flock to Esplanade's onsite tiki bar - CJ's on the Bay

Tucked into protected Smokehouse Bay at the top of Florida's Marco Island, Esplanade Marina is a quick stroll from the city's main shopping district and within easy reach of sugary Gulf of Mexico beaches, but what really sets it apart, according to new dockmaster Captain Kim Kallas, is the people. “It's a community like no other I've ever known,” says Kallas. “You meet people from every walk of life here, and everyone enjoys helping one another, sharing local knowledge about how to navigate that tricky passage, whom to call if you need a diver, whatever you need.”





The Inn sits along the Miles River where guests can watch boat traffic come and go into St. Michaels.

Aficionado magazine in Summer 2009) hosts Jack Russell terrier races on its front lawn; 2009 festival dates are October 30-November 1.

The two-year-old Linden Spa focuses on botanicals-based treatments and is already winning raves from national publications such as Spa Finder. The Linden Spa is the ultimate destination for relaxing and rejuvenation. The facilities include an indoor/outdoor meditation room, outdoor fireplace garden, steam room, yoga studio, fitness facilities, and gorgeous infinity-edge pool.

Autumn is an ideal time to visit this corner of the Eastern Shore. The rural setting makes for some of the best fall foliage in the region, and the just-turned-crisp temperatures are chased away by the Inn's cozy fireplaces. The resort's slips are for the complimentary use of overnight guests or for boaters who simply want to stop by for a drink, meal, or spa treatment, and can accommodate vessels up to 100 feet long and with up to a six-foot draft. Don't miss a spell in one of the wide river-facing Adirondack chairs—the perfect perch from which to contemplate the good fortune of landing in such a charmed spot.



Chef Salter of Sherwood's Landing Restaurant focuses on bringing to the table regional specialties including jumbo lump crabmeat, oysters, and rock fish.

Kallas herself was captain aboard one of the first boats to dock at Esplanade when the marina opened eight years ago, and before becoming dockmaster eagerly anticipated her annual visits. It's easy to understand why. The 77-slip marina can accommodate boats up to 65 feet and is exceptionally elegant, with Mediterranean-inspired buildings, a variety of upscale shops, and several of

the city's best restaurants—Tara Steak & Lobster House is justly popular for its dry-aged steaks and stellar wine list, and Guy Harvey's Grill focuses on just-caught, sustainable seafood. At the end of the day, boaters gather on the patio at CJ's on the Bay for cocktails and spectacular sunsets. Like the rest of Marco Island, the marina's vibe is refined but low-key.

Marco Island is ideally situated for transient boaters cruising along Florida's Gulf of Mexico coast, and many boaters stop at Esplanade for a few days to unwind. The marina has a lounge with complimentary WiFi, laundry rooms, ship's store, and showers, and rents smaller craft so that guests can putter over to Keewaydin Island for picnics and exceptional shelling. Other favorite

"Many boaters stop for one night and end up staying three"

— Dockmaster Kim Kallas

activities include a tour of a remote Everglades manatee hideout through the Manatee Sightseeing Eco-Tourism Adventure Group (239-642-8818), simply relaxing at the marina, chatting with whomever walks by. "I enjoy meeting new people," says dockmaster Kallas, "and boaters cover such a wide span of personalities and backgrounds that being in this environment never gets dull. I have the perfect job."



New Dockmaster Kim Kallas overlooking the marina plans for another busy day.