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URGENT

INVIGORATE Boutique getaways close to home

Gina Grillo Jan 20, 2016

TRY 1 MONTH FOR 99¢



How far do we really have to go for that ideal romantic getaway, a creative escape, or the opportunity to renew our soulful connection to nature? While there are always corporate hotel alternatives for a weekend away, we'd like to share a few boutique options — inns and B&Bs along Lake Michigan's southern tip that offer a stay as an event, rather than simply a place to lay one's head.

These venues will provide a home base for your exploration of area wineries, the opportunity to savor local organically grown food, a chance to sleep in a handcrafted bed, to connect the work of local artisans, or enjoy surrounding beaches and towns rich in history. Here are a few of our favorites, sure to offer a refreshing and relaxing reprieve no matter what the season.

Tryon Farm Guest House



1400 Tryon Rd, Michigan City

219.879.3618

tryonfarmguesthouse.com

Farmhouse bed and breakfast with four rooms | Rate: \$168 per night

Tryon Farm Guest House provides a quiet agricultural setting on this former dairy farm. Owner/innkeeper Claudia Geise says guests enjoy their conserved 150 acres with ten miles of walking trails, fishing and picnicking, community gardens, meditation labyrinth, and their flock of chickens that provide fresh organic eggs for breakfast. The inn is conveniently located in Michigan City, close to area beaches, local shopping, restaurants, parks, and live entertainment. Serving thousands of guests since their opening in 2004, "friendships have been forged between guests from as close as LaPorte to as far away as Brazil, Belgium, and Alaska," Geise says. Many European travelers visit Tryon Farms, either before or after a trip to Chicago, for a rural experience to contrast the urban one. Tryon was recognized as a 2013 Hoosier Hospitality Award Winner from Indiana State Tourism.

The Oliver Inn Bed and Breakfast

630 W Washington, South Bend

574.232.4545

oliverinn.com

B&B with ten rooms | Rates: \$140 to \$339

The Oliver Inn Bed and Breakfast was home to the Oliver family for more than 100 years before opening as a B&B twenty years ago. Located in downtown South Bend's Historic District, the inn is a Queen Anne-style architectural treasure, given by James Oliver to his daughter, Josephine, for "one dollar and love." Stately guest rooms and claw-foot tubs add to the Victorian grandeur, as do the full hot breakfast by candlelight and grand piano accompaniment. The B&B is within walking distance of the Oliver Mansion at the History Museum, the Studebaker Museum, and 2.5 miles from the Notre Dame campus. Oliver Inn has received the Trip Advisor Hall of Fame Excellence Award for 5 years of excellent service.

Goldberry Woods

9902 Community Hall Rd, Union Pier, Mich.

269.469.9800

goldberrywoods.com



Inn with eight rooms, two cottages | Rates: \$140 to \$250

You'll find Goldberry Woods nestled deep into a forested road in Harbor Country on 28 acres that include a fruit and nut orchard, hiking trails, and more than a half-mile of frontage along the Galien River, where guests can use canoes, kayaks and bikes. Located less than a mile from the beach, this farm-to-table bed and breakfast focuses on organically growing or locally sourcing all ingredients served to their guests. "It's great fun to introduce guests to new fruits and vegetables," says innkeeper Julie Haberichter. "We grow wonderberries, salmonberries, aronia, goji, and sea buckthorn, and in different harvest seasons, we showcase crops during our wine hour, like an heirloom tomato tasting with bruschetta or sampling of salsa, pepper jellies, chutneys, or preserves." Each room has a gas fireplace and double Jacuzzi tub, and a one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted bed frame made of native Michigan wood by local artist Andy Brown of Hearthwoods.

South Cliff Inn Bed & Breakfast

1900 Lakeshore Dr, St. Joseph, Mich.

269.983.4881

southcliffinn.com

Seven guest rooms | Rates: \$125 to \$265

Perched high on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan is the South Cliff Inn, a treasured destination for new visitors and a beacon for those loyal guests who return year after year. The inn is one mile from downtown St. Joseph, close to an eclectic array of shops and restaurants, and a five-minute walk to the shores of Silver Beach. At South Cliff Inn, the consummate owner and innkeeper, Bill Swisher, has been providing excellence in service and breakfast fare since 1987. Swisher's farm roots blend with his formal culinary training, evolving into a series of cookbooks showcasing favorites of his guests and some of his personal favorites. Not surprising, you will generally find Swisher in the kitchen, whipping up graceful concoctions like bread pudding, pear crumble coffee cake, and sausage and mushroom frittata. Lake views and landscaped grounds add to the magic of this Southwest Michigan sanctuary, which attracts mostly the pleasure vacation travelers. A stay at the South Cliff Inn is full of sensory surprise, and the impeccable service is guaranteed to renew and refresh.



📷 +10

Red and white looks for men and women



📷 +11

4 local shops for chocolate lovers



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Keeping your hands moisturized in the winter



📷 +11

Things to do in February