



THE MACCALLUM HOUSE INN

IT'S AN OVERSTATEMENT TO SUGGEST THAT A STAY IN THE MACCALLUM HOUSE INN ON California's rugged Mendocino coast is a life-changing experience. But it may make you want to change your life. If this lap-of-luxury getaway doesn't encourage you to leave your home behind and take up permanent residence, it surely will inspire you to bring home a bit of the "Mac House" lifestyle, which is all about pleasure. The inn, like the village itself, makes you feel both a little more alive and thoroughly relaxed at the same time. Spread over two acres, it creates an atmosphere of a time gone by when the pace of life was slower and people were more gracious.

The inn comprises a main house with six antique-laden rooms; seven unique cottages surrounding the main house; a restored barn with six rooms, many of which have riverstone fireplaces, private decks, and ocean views; and the MacCallum Suites, a Four Diamond mansion overlooking the Pacific Ocean. We spent several lazy days and cozy nights in Room 13, the Tower Room, a three-story suite in one of the protected, historic water towers that dominate the landscape of the village. Awakening in the top floor bedroom, we were treated to a pastel-perfect sunrise over the ocean, and at night we had a window on the stars.

The biker-friendly owners, Jed and Megan Ayres and Noah Sheppard, along with motorcycle enthusiast executive chef Alan Kantor (pictured below on his Triumph Bonneville), have created an elegant yet comfortable retreat where you can rest from the road and indulge your senses. Take in the clean, eucalyptus-scented Mendocino air and watch the ever-changing colors of the water and sky from the wraparound porch, where you can bask in the sun and watch guests playing croquet as you enjoy a luscious complimentary breakfast.



Photo by Rita Crane

You may want to stay in your room all day and night, enjoying a fire, soaking in an oversized jet-bath, relaxing in a cedar sauna, having an in-room massage or spa treatment, napping in a plush, deeply inviting bed, and indulging in room service. But if you can drag yourself outside, the friendly and accommodating staff will send you off for a stroll in the village and point out the attractions in the area. You can also rent bicycles and wheel around Mendocino at a more leisurely, two-wheeled pace.

A highly worthwhile option at the MacCallum House is a guided day-long tour of California's less-well-known wine country—the Anderson Valley. Leave your motorcycle behind and let an affable and knowledgeable guide whisk you away in a luxury car or limo on scenic roads to a string of

the region's finest vineyards where you can taste the valley's best wines. The tour includes a gourmet picnic lunch served on the beautiful grounds of one of the wineries on your itinerary.

Be sure to come back for the complimentary wine and cheese hour in the evening, and don't miss dinner at the Inn's Grey Whale Bar & Café. Kantor, a Culinary Institute of America graduate, has gained a well-deserved reputation as one of the region's leading chefs, and the setting—rustically elegant dining rooms with stone fireplaces—is as appealing as his cuisine: exquisite dishes, created from the best regional food producers, paired with the finest North Coast wines. You won't want to, but if you must be tethered to the outside world during your stay, a computer with high-speed Internet access is available in a sitting room of the main house. (When you see the view from the window, however, it might be a chore to keep your eyes on the screen.)

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