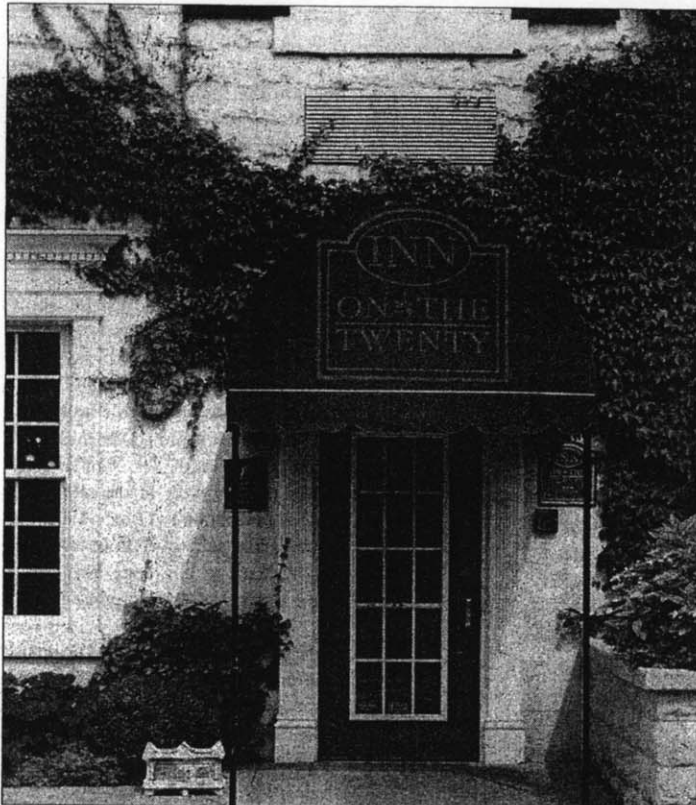


THE DAYTRIPPER

great getaways



▲ Inn on the Twenty makes for a quaint escape

Storybook village of Jordan is a Niagara getaway gem

By Lisa Van de Ven

Day Tripper is a guide that provides you with information about destinations that can be reached and enjoyed over a day or weekend.

It's one of those little towns you'll miss if you aren't looking closely enough. But it's also one of those charming little places that is worth finding. Set amidst the lush landscape of the Niagara region, Jordan is a quaint, storybook village with a magnificent natural backdrop.

When I visit, the village is quiet but not uninhabited. It is a Niagara tourist destination that has yet to be discovered by the masses.

Central to the small village is Cave Spring Winery. Though the vineyards themselves are about ten kilometres west, the label's wines are filtered and aged at the Jordan location. Built up around the winery are the On The Twenty Restaurant and the Inn On The Twenty, both owned and operated by the Pennachetti family — also responsible for the Cave Spring label.

Entering the Inn on the Twenty to check in for a Monday night stay, I'm

welcomed warmly by the woman at the front desk. The building reminds me of a large, sprawling, elegant old house, with corridors that tangle into one another, detailed mouldings and hidden nooks and crannies.

The Rittenhouse suite, my room for the night, is particularly gorgeous. The room is both elegant and inviting. The peach walls and antique furnishings make the suite look like something you might find in a nineteenth-century home, but with all of the modern conveniences of the 21st century — a television, Jacuzzi tub and modem hook-up. My favourite feature is the private terrace. With lush green gardens and wooden benches, it provides perfect privacy.

With a wine tour scheduled for 3 p.m., I set out across the street where I join a couple from Scarborough for the tour. Together we follow Sue, our tour guide, through the Cave Spring facilities, learning step by step how wine is made. When we're done all of that, we head up to the tasting room.

Feeling particularly relaxed after the wine, I head back outside to

continue my tour of the village. My next stop: the shops lining the village's Main Street.

The storefronts are leased by the shopkeepers from the Pennachetti family, who have picked out unique store ideas that will interest their guests. From local art at the Jordan Art Gallery (my particular favourite is a piece called *Alice's Chair*), to a charming array of garden accessories and supplies at The Copper Leaf, the shopping is just what I had hoped for.

And sure, the inn is beautiful. Definitely, the winery is interesting. And, no doubt, the shopping is amazing. But the food is out of this world.

Part of what makes the dining experience so wonderful is the design of the restaurant. More specifically, its views. With a soft, subdued interior, the spacious restaurant seems to feed into the huge windows on the west side of the building and onto the expansive views of the beautiful Niagara landscape.

Chef Roberto Fracchioni has created a full, delightful menu of gourmet selections. The wine choices are of course plentiful, and the staff offer knowledgeable advice on which wine goes best with each dish. To top it off, the desserts, by pastry chef Irene Katerberg, are absolutely scrumptious. I savour every bite of my seared scallops and shrimp with potato rosti and orange soya butter sauce and the delicious lemon panna cotta with raspberry ice, mixed berry hazelnut trifle and lemon curd I have for dessert. And, when I arrive the next morning for breakfast — included with a stay at the inn — I find an equally delicious morning meal waiting for me.

I spend a relaxing evening in my room and go to sleep early. When I awake, I am relaxed and ready to return stress-free to the fast-paced life of the city. A quick trip, for sure, but worth it.

Travel Tips



Directions from Toronto:
QEW west toward Niagara to Vineland exit #57. South on Victoria Avenue and then east on Regional Road 81 (Highway 8) and then turn left on Main Street.

Visit www.innonthetwenty.com or call 1 800-701-8074 for info.