

INN ON THE TWENTY NIAGARA

BY ALISON GZOWSKI, JORDAN, ONT.

Is it a sign that I've lived too long in downtown Toronto that the very thought of a weekend on my own in a country inn is both tantalizing and terrifying? Who hasn't daydreamed at the desk about getting away for some quiet and pampering? But be honest: Has the thought never crossed your mind that there are only so many times you can meander the main street of a village?

With the recent addition of the Jordan House, the owners of Inn on The Twenty now offer exquisite rooms for both those who want to linger in luxury and those who want to explore the Niagara region. You don't even have to decide: Over a couple of days, it's possible to do both.

First, the luxury. The inn, now in its 10th year, is a perfect blend of antique furniture and modern convenience. The suites are spacious, with king-sized beds, airy bathrooms with Jacuzzi tubs and a sitting area by a gas fireplace. Next to the inn, a full-service spa offers everything from a manicure to a wine body wrap (which may sound like a lost weekend, but is an hour-long treatment taking advantage of the anti-oxidants from grape seeds).

If that leaves you so mellow you feel like staying put, Jordan's main street hosts Cave Spring Cellars and has an array of boutique shops, a few antiques stores, a settlement museum (with a restored 19th-century house and school) and a cafe.



Inn on the Twenty's award-winning restaurant, overlooking a creek, serves outstanding meals made from regional produce.

Behind the museum is a waterfront trail leading to Ball's Falls Conservation Area and connecting to the Bruce Trail. You won't want to be too far afield by evening, as the inn's restaurant, overlooking the creek, has a deserved reputation for serving the best cuisine in the region.

Not being much a shopper, I opted for the road. Jordan is smack in the heart of Niagara's wine country and you can easily spend the weekend visiting, sampling and touring along the wine route. (The winery signs are so dense they sometimes whip by, so prepare yourself for a few tailgaters, unless you don't mind retracing your path.) For my driving day, I checked into the sleek Jordan House, which caters to a

younger, more business-oriented clientele. Situated next to a tavern, the place is surprisingly quiet and the rooms have a modern feel, designed in chocolate brown and teal and complete with LED televisions.

A half hour on the road and you can be in the Butterfly Conservatory, at a casino, on a boat at Niagara Falls, on a sandy beach in Port Dalhousie, or at the theatre. What you can't do, I'd suggest, is think of a good reason to head back to humid Toronto.

Rooms at the Inn on the Twenty cost from \$239 to \$339 (for the deluxe suite). For more information, visit www.innonthetwenty.com or call 1-800-701-8074.