

February 4, 2008

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Ten Destinations for Southern Sophistication in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. – Travelers with a passion for pampering know that Virginia’s historic inns, B&Bs and resorts are decadent respites steeped in luxury and comfort. Check out these ten getaways to indulge in Virginia’s southern sophistication.

Polo Posh – The tree-lined streets of stylish Middleburg, known as the capital of Northern Virginia horse country, boast upscale boutiques, historic architecture, and luxury accommodations at The Red Fox Inn. Stop off at the Market Salamander for gourmet picnic items before heading out to visit local wineries or take in a polo match. Overnight nearby at Goodstone Inn & Estates with stables renovated into suites and tea time every afternoon.

Historic Pampering – Since 1766, distinguished travelers have rejuvenated at The Homestead Resort. An American classic, Georgian-style resort situated in Virginia’s Allegheny Mountains, The Homestead combines rich ambience with present-day elegance and boasts one of the finest spas and natural hot springs in the country. The resort’s three golf courses gave Sam Snead his start and have challenged golfers since 1892.

Luxury Wine Tours – Wind through Virginia wine country in a luxurious stretch limo, sedan or Hummer with Virginia Wine Country Tours. These customized tours allow wine lovers to soak in the picturesque beauty of the Blue Ridge Wineway or the Loudoun Wine Trail and enjoy the wine, without the worry of driving.

1804 Inn - The founders of Barboursville Vineyards, Gianni and Silvana Zonin, turned their home into a luxury respite unlike any other. The 1804 Inn features Flemish bond walls, hand-hewn floors, period English bone china, priceless furnishings and art of England, Italy, France and Virginia from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Take time to savor the award-winning wine at Barboursville Vineyards and the Northern Italian-inspired cuisine of Palladio.

Tour d'Epique – Pack an appetite for adventure and fine cuisine for the Tour d'Epique. Bicycle through Virginia’s beautiful countryside and indulge on 5-star cuisine such as ginger scones, roasted red pepper and Gruyere soufflé, and seared Ahi tuna from the Inn at Little Washington. The Foster Harris House B&B serves as retreat after each exhilarating ride.

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Martha Washington Inn & Spa – Built in 1832, this historic gem in Abingdon is a gateway to the past with modern amenities amid the genteel elegance of period antiques and furnishings. The historic Barter Theater, directly across the street, is the official state theatre of Virginia and helped start the careers of stars like Gregory Peck.

Bay Front Beauty – The two Bimini Suites at Bay Creek resort in Cape Charles focus on quality, not quantity. Travelers will be astounded by the modern-day opulence of these large guest suites, built on the resort's marina off the Chesapeake Bay. Enjoy the fresh local seafood delicacies at Aqua and a stunning view of the Bay.

Royal Retreat – Luxuriate in the sophistication of Kingsmill Resort and Spa, just outside of Colonial Williamsburg. Virginia's largest golf resort features an incredible spa and acclaimed restaurants offering unique food and ale pairings. The AAA Four-Diamond resort caters to the active with championship golf, a 15-court tennis center, a sports club and a full-service marina. Guests who dock at the marina are treated to full-service including room service – boat side.

Keswick - At the foot of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains near Charlottesville lies Keswick Hall, an intimate luxury hotel of grand style. Whatever your passion – golf, cycling, fishing, horse riding, ballooning, or hiking – Keswick Hall will indulge your yearnings. This resort is also one of Virginia's finest pet-friendly accommodations, for Fidos with discerning taste.

World's Best Repeat – Indulge in the luxury of The Inn at Little Washington, a regular on various World's Best lists every year. One of America's finest country inns, its restaurant masters French cuisine and regional specialties. Magnificently furnished with antiques, oriental rugs, and opulent beds, the Inn is honored for incredible cuisine and style.

Ready to give in to your passion for pampering? Visit www.Virginia.org for more places to indulge in Virginia's southern sophistication and watch a video clip of Joyce Blair, whose passion for music inspired her to create the Ellington Suite at the Magnolia House B&B in Hampton.

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