

Olde Rhinebeck Inn – Great for a Short ‘Staycation’

By Abby Luby

For a short jaunt north, the Olde Rhinebeck Inn makes for a great getaway destination. Just about 40 miles away from Mahopac, this historic inn was built three decades before the Revolutionary War and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The four-bedroom B&B offers patrons all the comforts of a modern day inn; spacious rooms replete with super-comfortable beds, Jacuzzis tubs, bath robes, TV, wireless Internet, small storage fridge with complimentary beverages, CD/stereo. The early American, tasteful décor is warm and cozy with large planked wood floors and beamed ceilings and period furniture dotted with fresh cut seasonal flowers. The sitting room has overstuffed chairs and love seats in front of a large fireplace, a baby grand piano anchors one corner for guests who are musically inclined. The inn is on a small country road and you can sit outside on the stone patio or by two fresh water ponds usually inhabited by ducks.

There's a lot to do in this historic part of the country and an area that has attracted the wealthy for over one hundred years. A plethora of estates to visit include the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home in Hyde Park and Eleanor's home just down the road, the Vanderbuilt Mansion, Olana – to name just a few. Entertainment spots in town include the Center for Performing Arts, Upstate Films, and a few miles away, the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College.

The area also attracts foodies because of the Culinary Institute of American as well as many good, diverse restaurants right in downtown Rhinebeck that are moderate to expensive. For a basic, 'down-home' meal there's Fosters Coach House Tavern and Pete's Famous Restaurant known for their Bison Burgers. More expensive but well worth the meal is Arielle – with a Moroccan influence, the rustic Traphagan Restaurant at the Beekman Arms hotel.



ABBY LUBY PHOTOS

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Olde Rhinebeck Inn is an early American bed and breakfast. The inn is located just three and a half miles southeast of the Village of Rhinebeck.

And of course there's five CIA restaurants to choose from: Escoffier Room, American Bounty, Caterina de Medici, St. Andrews Café, and The Apple Pie Bakery & Café – ranging from casual to elegant.

Antiques shops are plentiful, as you might expect in an area steeped in American history, and many scenic walks and hiking trails nearby such as the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and the Hudson Valley Raptor Center.

Innkeeper and owner Jonna Paoella

opened the inn ten years ago and at the time was the youngest innkeeper in the country. Paoella has a great knack for putting together mini packages that appeal to travelers from Brooklyn to Boston. Among those that have been popular among the inn's visitors are "Garden Galavanting" – exploring some of the area's spectacular gardens, an historical day trip to Hyde Park Paoella calls "Travel south 10 miles and 50 years back," where in a 500 foot stretch there are active businesses built in

the 1950's including a roller skating rink, a 1950's diner and a Dairy Queen.

Paoella's other packages appeal to prospective first time parents she calls "The Last Hurrah" with pre-natal massage, a basket of special treats for the expectant mom, a gift certificate to a local kid's shop, a \$50 gift certificate to a Rhinebeck restaurant.

A "Tax Time Special" that offers a refund started April 15th and is good through May 15. It offers any two nights for a refund of all the taxes on your bill at the inn. In general, from April to November weekend rates range from \$295/per night for two people to \$325 for a family or group of four people. Midweek the rates drop to \$250/per night for two people and \$275 for four. Weekend bookings require a minimum, two night stay. Rates drop down from December to March.

A home cooked breakfast is included on a dining table said to be made from an old stable barn owned by James Cagney, dishes include fresh baked muffins, pancakes, frittatas, bacon, fresh fruits. Eggs are from the inn's hormone-free chickens.

About five miles away the inn runs their Apple Blossom Cottage, an 1840's cottage on an old apple orchard that is ideal for a couple or small family.

The Olde Rhinebeck Inn is perfect for a mini "staycation" for it's proximity to the Fairgrounds and Aerodrome, local museums and a diverse selection of activities and events. There is one small caveat: beware of the well know speed trap on route 308 going into town from the inn, law enforcement is very active after the "35 mph" sign.

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