



with
**CHERYL
MacKINNON**

TRAVEL & lifestyles



Cathedral Mountain Lodge, Field, BC

Coastal Travel

The past year saw several exciting events taking place around this great province of British Columbia. From Tall Ship celebrations in Victoria, to the outstanding exhibits at the Royal BC Museum, as well as numerous heritage experiences, I also reviewed several uniquely "BC" inns and resorts which left a fond and lasting impression. Take Cathedral Mountain Lodge located near Field, BC. With its beautiful handcrafted log cabins boasting floor to ceiling stone fireplaces, lots of windows, and generous decks from which to reflect on life...and the sparkling views of Kicking Horse River and the mountains, put this together with the fresh, 'Rocky Mountain' cuisine served all day in the main lodge, and this is just one of many fabulous getaways to consider in '09!

A SPECIAL REPORT PROVIDED BY GLOBAL TV'S CHERYL MACKINNON

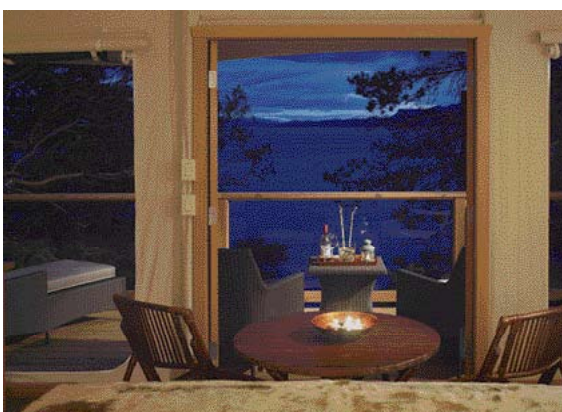
YEARNING TO RETURN

2008's BEST GETAWAYS



Painted Boat Resort Spa & Marina

I so love it when a resort development really gets it right – from the setting, to the guest rooms AND the restaurant. The brand new Painted Boat Resort Spa & Marina, opened this past May in Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast, appears to have accomplished this. In my humble opinion, they are set to become one of the best getaways in the province. From the moment you turn into the driveway, you know you're arriving at a location which truly speaks to BC's spectacular Sunshine Coast. Built predominately of wood and gleaming glass, with big, bold metal joints, the resort rests majestically at the water's edge. Each building is home to classy, modern and superbly comfortable, two bedroom, two bath villa-style condominiums...every single one of the 31 units with a breathtaking, beautiful view of water and boats! Perfect for a couples' getaway, gal pals or families, everything is right here in this gorgeous, eco-savvy resort!



Rockwater Secret Cove Resort

Thirteen, fully serviced canvas tents overlook the Pacific Ocean while artfully resting amongst elegant Arbutus trees. A brief stroll along a sturdy boardwalk trail carved through the forest marks the way to your unique accommodation. The beautiful hand carved bell hanging by the stairs to each tent suite is the hotel room equivalent to knocking on your door announcing room service. They've thought of everything here, with discretion being tantamount to your romantic getaway. Upon entering your private 'suite' it will be a tough call whether to snuggle amongst the cozy covers of your king sized bed (yes, no foamies and sleeping bags here), before or after a luxuriating soak in the utterly decadent two-person Bain Ultra Hydro Thermo Massage Tub. Put the soak together with the Resort's dreamy massage à deux, followed by a nibble from your complimentary gourmet fresh fruit basket and quite frankly, you might not be heard from for days!



Nita Lake Lodge

Whistler's newest lodging is all alpine elegance with only 77 suites. Nita Lake Lodge boasts views of mountains and the lake, while sitting in a quiet location minutes away from the main village. For the energetic, hike into the centre of town along the trails or, simply hop on the complimentary shuttle.

You certainly won't want to wander too far off property as the cuisine is outstanding – compliments to Chef Julian Owen-Mold and his dynamic kitchen team, as are the guest rooms. With oversized ensembles – soaker tubs and separate rain showers, extra long vanities and heated floors included, as well as floor to ceiling fireplaces and spacious balconies from which to relax in the 'ever so peaceful' surroundings, this is living! Upon entering the Lodge, the vast expanse of the lobby and lounge area flows out to the well appointed exterior patio where you can sip a cocktail or enjoy a leisurely meal.



Villa Marco Polo

The exquisite, adult-oriented Villa Marco Polo Inn located in the stylish neighbourhood of Rockland in Victoria, is all comfortable elegance, history and relaxation. The gorgeous Italianate gardens play host almost year-round to weddings and anniversary parties which speak of intimacy and love. The mansion provides a stunning backdrop as the flow and furnishings of the home's public rooms invite soft conversations and relaxation; the enormous guest suites providing peaceful, private retreats.

Middle Eastern influences abound, right down to the charming basket of slippers for use by guests, thoughtfully placed near the front door. Persian carpets adorn the gleaming hardwood floors, with classically elegant floral arrangements artfully placed throughout. The Inn is located only minutes from downtown Victoria and even closer is the charming village of Oak Bay.

Rowena's Inn on the River

Turning down the long, winding entrance to Rowena's Inn on the River is like arriving at a fairy tale destination. Located in historical Harrison Mills, and owned by one of BC's founding timber brokerage families – the Pretty Family, the Inn is actually the family's former home. Exquisitely decorated with fine antique furnishings collected for decades by family members, the Inn's guest rooms and public areas evoke a luxurious standard from a by-gone era. More recently built, The Cottages offer authentic west coast ambiance with the finest linens, soaker tubs, river rock fireplaces and a cozy seating area from which to take in the soothing views of Harrison River. Breakfast can be enjoyed in the bright solarium overlooking one of BC's best golf courses, the Sandpiper Golf Club. In the evening, linger over a superb dinner, then perhaps take a night cap amidst the ambiance of the Inn's lounge (history embraces you from the antique stair railing rescued from the Hotel Vancouver decades ago, to the end tables and crystal boasting European lineage).

Book One of 2008's Best!

Cathedral Mountain Lodge – Yoho National Park - www.cathedrallmountain.com or call 1.866.619.6442

Painted Boat Resort Spa & Marina – Pender Harbour, crmr.com/paintedboat or call 1.866.902.3955

Rockwater Secret Cove Resort – Half Moon Bay rockwaterssecretcoveresort.com or call 1.877.296.4593

Nita Lake Lodge – Whistler Resort – nitalakelodge.com or call 1.888.755.6482

Rowena's Inn on the River – Harrison Mills - rowenasinn.com or call toll free to 1.800.661.5108

Villa Marco Polo – Victoria - villamarcopolo.com or call toll free 1.877.601.1524



WHAT'S NEXT? The Newest Resorts in the inviting communities of Parksville and Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island