

# pure comfort



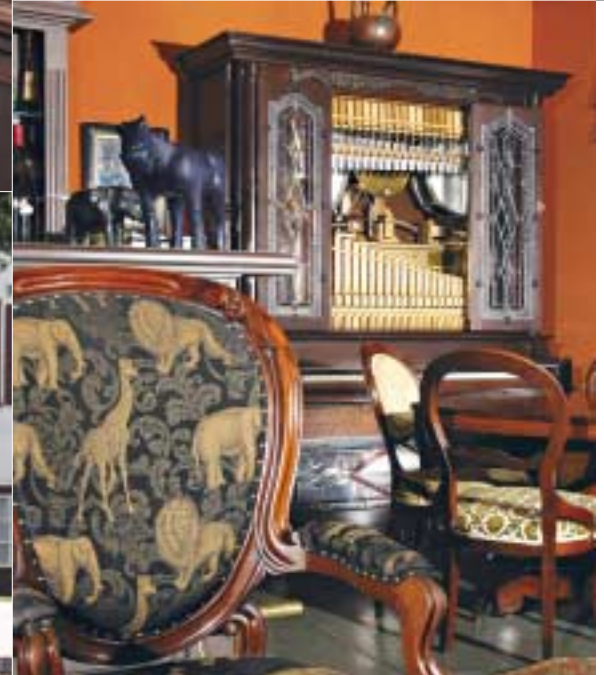
## innstyle

The country inns of New Brunswick  
BY LOUISA KASDON SIDELL

There is something about being close to the sea that makes travellers mad for a cozy bedroom. A room that's cuddly and downy, and gives you a hug when the big blue expanse outside the window makes you feel small and chilled. New Brunswick, a province defined by its proximity to the Atlantic, is abundantly stocked with the coziest of country inns, full of the touches that make any maritime traveller feel welcome, protected and peaceful.

Choosing to stay in a country inn or bed and breakfast is about wanting personality in your accommodations: it's the polar opposite of a big-city chain hotel. The charm of individually decorated rooms and

real, live innkeepers—people, usually couples, who have chosen to earn their living by inviting you into their homes—are what define the country inn experience. Elizabeth and Roger Cooney are the innkeepers and owners of the five-star **Hiram Walker Estate Heritage Inn** in St. Andrews by-the-Sea. The property borders the golf course, and it's just a short hop to the waterfront village. The inn has 11 luxurious bedrooms, each decorated with antiques and family mementoes that give a paying guest the sensation of having been invited to spend the weekend with friends. The rooms are glossy and fussed over with air-conditioning, king-sized canopy beds, and



*this spread, clockwise from upper left: living room at Kingsbrae Arms; a sculpture stands guard at Kingsbrae Arms; a cozy guestroom at Windsor House; a serene, leafy river in New Brunswick; the bar at Windsor House; the entrance at Hiram Walker; dinner service at Hiram Walker; a winter's afternoon sleigh ride.*

Jacuzzis—all the upscale touches. Cocktails, dinner and breakfast are served in a public room decorated with Elizabeth's china collection and fine antiques.

On the other side of St. Andrews (it's a small town, so the other side is a three-minute car-ride) is the **Kingsbrae Arms**, a spectacular *Relais & Châteaux* property, refurbished with

wit, taste and professionalism. Harry Chancey and David Oxford purchased the property in 1996 and have spared no expense in transforming the hundred-year-old Georgian "summer cottage" into a luscious hideaway. There are eight rooms—two premier suites, two one-bedroom suites, two junior suites and two bedrooms—and each guestroom has a private

balcony with views of the Bay of Fundy and the adjacent Kingsbrae Gardens, an 11-hectare (27-acre) formal public English garden. The bathrooms are marble; the beds are king-sized four-posters draped and canopied in sumptuous fabrics; there are CD/DVD players, and high-speed data ports—the works, allowing the most tech-dependent visitor to live the fantasy of



## THE FACTS

For more information on New Brunswick, go to [www.TourismNewBrunswick.ca](http://www.TourismNewBrunswick.ca) or [www.travelcanada.ca](http://www.travelcanada.ca)

**When You Go****The Hiram Walker Estate Heritage Inn**

109 Reed Ave., St. Andrews, New Brunswick  
800-470-4088 [www.walkerestate.com](http://www.walkerestate.com)  
Innkeeper/owner: Elizabeth Cooney.  
Rates from \$125-\$350 (\$90-\$250USD).  
Open year-round.

**Kingsbrae Arms**

219 King St., St. Andrews, New Brunswick  
506-529-1897 [www.kingsbrae.com](http://www.kingsbrae.com)  
Innkeepers: Harry Chancey and David Oxford.  
All-inclusive three-night packages (such as Golf, Whale Watching or the Girlfriends Getaway) range from \$2160 to \$3400 (\$1560 to \$2450USD) includes breakfast, dinner and amenities such as massages, golf fees, and ocean expeditions. Single-night stays are also available. Open May–November.

**The Windsor House**

132 Water St., St. Andrews, New Brunswick  
888-890-9463 Innkeepers: Jay Remer and Greg Cohane. Daily rates, double occupancy, range from \$225-\$300 (\$160-\$215USD). Open April–December.

**The Inn on the Cove**

1371 Sand Cove Rd., Saint John, New Brunswick 877-257-8080  
[www.innonthecove.com](http://www.innonthecove.com)  
Innkeepers: Ross and Willa Mavis. \$145-\$195 (\$100-\$140USD). Open year-round.

from top: the Inn on the Cove's rooms with a view; an elegant bathroom at Hiram Walker; the Bay peeks through the trees at The Inn on the Cove.

stepping back a hundred years without sacrificing modern comforts. The Pinnacle Suite, newly redecorated in 2003, has “His” and “Hers” bathrooms and views that make the most amateur photographers consider submitting their work to *National Geographic*. In addition to a well-appointed mini-bar in each room, there is a mini-kitchen, stocked with juices, baked goods, nuts and an array of imported teas—just in case guests get the midnight munchies. Downstairs are the public rooms: cocktails are in the grand salon, but there are also a library, a parlour, and a dining room lit by a fabulous Russian brass chandelier. Guests dine *en famille* on chef Randy Akey's regional cooking. On-site innkeeper, Chancey, exudes hospitality and good humour. It is a very grand and comforting refuge in an exceptional setting.

On Water Street, which is the main drag in St. Andrews, is **The Windsor House**. Owners Jay Remer and Greg Cohane have worked with local craftsmen to re-invent this 1798 sea captain's house (he had built it for his wife and their ten children), transforming it into an historic treasure furnished with regional antiques, oriental carpets, fine linens, and first-class amenities. The bar offers a special treat: a glass of Canadian whiskey accompanied by the rollicking sounds of a player piano. A full breakfast is included in the room rate, and the dining room ranks as one of the area's top restaurants.

Further up the coast is Saint John, a major harbour that was the third-largest city in Canada in the 19th century. The views of the Bay of Fundy are spellbinding. The **Inn on the Cove** is right on the beach, in a nature preserve. You can have morning coffee or a drink at dusk, and walk right out the front door for an easy hike along a well-maintained seashore trail. Most of the guestrooms overlook the Bay and permit the alert visitor to track the 8.5-metre (28-foot) rise and fall of the dramatic tides. Rooms are comfortable, kind of like your childhood bedroom—if it had a Jacuzzi, a private bathroom and a million-dollar view. Owners and innkeepers Ross and Willa Mavis (who also write cookbooks and have a cooking show on local TV) prepare fish dishes and other local specialties with flair in their oceanfront dining room. The inn is also a day spa, with full facilities for massage, facials, wraps and other therapies to soothe weary travellers. ●

Louisa Kasdon Sidell is editor of Pure Canada.