

BED & BREAKFAST

FALL 2006


America[®]

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Mackinac Island, Michigan

Bay View Bed & Breakfast

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BAY VIEW BED & BREAKFAST

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

by Elaine Warner
Photography by Jeffrey Dupre

Remember old movies with idyllic little towns, tall-steepled churches nestled in groves of towering shade trees, houses with rambling front porches, and people greeting one another as they pass on the street? That place still exists. It's Mackinac Island, a franchiseless, automobile-less bit of heaven sitting in the brilliant blue waters of the Straits of Mackinac between lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

And on this island paradise, you'll find a dream-come-true inn overlooking the harbor. It's the Bay View, the perfect picture of a summer "cottage."

Bay View has been in Doug Yoder's family for over a century, though the present structure is a far cry from the original home built in 1891. Purchased by Doug's great-grandfather, Matthew Bailey, and built by a member of the Armour meat-

packing family, the house had never been occupied. With its seven rooms and two bathrooms, it was ideal for the family of the young pharmacist.

In the 1930s, Doug's grandmother, Sara, opened the home to tourists for the princely sum of \$1 a night. Doug's mother, Marcella, continued the tradition.

Doug had a successful career and was on the fast-track in the Nashville music scene when he decided to make a change in his life – to follow in the family footsteps. With his business savvy, he knew the small tourist home needed to grow. In the 1990s, he and his wife, Lydia, began expanding and renovating the property.

Lydia, a surgical nurse and college instructor, turned a natural flair for interior decorating into a full time job. Skillfully combining prints and plaids, paints and polished cotton, she created welcoming



Indulge yourself in one of the Bay View's most luxurious suites

and appealing spaces while Doug oversaw the project as the inn grew to twenty rooms, each with private bath.

The results were felicitous. Rooms shine with true-to-period pieces, marble-floored baths, clever window treatments, and elegant bedding ensembles. Some of the deluxe rooms feature balconies and whirlpool tubs. All rooms have air conditioning, seldom needed but occasionally appreciated, TV/VCRs, and private phones.

It's hard to pick a favorite spot for guests. For some, it's the front porch with its summery wicker furniture. Others choose the big back balcony with its unimpeded view of the harbor with the Round Island Lighthouse in the distance. This is a popular place for star-gazing and, if you're lucky, watching the shimmering Northern Lights. All of Bay View's visitors love the cheery sun porch.

In the afternoon, the buffet is set with lemonade, cookies, and the ever-present carafe of Bay View Blend coffee. Breakfast is served here at floral-skirted tables topped with tablecloths of crinkled gingham trimmed with ribbon and embroidery. Fresh flowers grace each table. Chef Rose Grant-Rios has been pleasing palates for 12 years with specialties like her Caramel Apple French Toast.

She shines again in the evening when guests, beckoned by the sounds of gentle



Continued on page 31



▲ A spectacular view from the harbor

▼ Chef Rose Grant-Rios has been pleasing palates at the Bay View for over 12 years





▲ The owners and staff will see to your every need

Continued from page 29

jazz music or a sweet ballad, gather for evening dessert and a last cup of coffee. Every appointment is chosen to add to the romantic atmosphere, whether it's the flower-patterned plates or the ivory-handled silverware.

Night falls gently on Mackinac as the brisk clip-clopping of horses' hooves taper off to a restful andante. Like Brigadoon, the magical Scottish village that reappears once a century, Mackinac Island has an air of timelessness. Life moves at a slower pace, and there's time for dreaming and falling in love.

Doug and Lydia's own story has Mackinac magic about it. As a young college student, Lydia had a summer job at an island inn – the one owned by Doug's mother. The two women became best friends. Doug was far away, busy with his own life and had little time for Lydia then.

The two didn't meet again until 18 years later at Marcella Yoder's memorial service in Nashville. The rest is history.

Doug says, "I am more aware now that my mother always had designs for Lydia and me to be together. I never realized it at the time. Now it seems I actually ended up married to my mother's closest friend and we have a beautiful eight-year-old daughter, Sara Bailey Yoder." And, like so many Mackinac endings, they're living happily ever after. **BBA**

Bay View Bed and Breakfast

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AMENITIES & POLICIES



Bay View Bed & Breakfast offers 20 rooms, all with private baths.

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Mackinac Island is a franchise-less, automobile-less bit of heaven. Be prepared for a slower pace of life.

- Fort Mackinac
- Tea at the Grand Hotel
- Carriage tours
- Butterfly exhibits
- Bike around the island
- Boutiques/fudge shops
- Horseback riding or buggy driving
- Golf



Mackinac Island, Michigan
 Average Weather Statistics

	AVG HIGH	AVG LOW	AVG PREC
JAN	28°	12°	1.7 in
FEB	28°	8°	1.3 in
MAR	35°	17°	1.7 in
APR	50°	30°	2.3 in
MAY	62°	39°	2.7 in
JUN	73°	50°	2.6 in
JUL	78°	55°	2.7 in
AUG	77°	53°	2.9 in
SEP	68°	48°	3.5 in
OCT	57°	37°	2.7 in
NOV	41°	30°	2.4 in
DEC	32°	19°	1.9 in