

# Inn FOR THE Holidays

BY DAMAINE VONADA

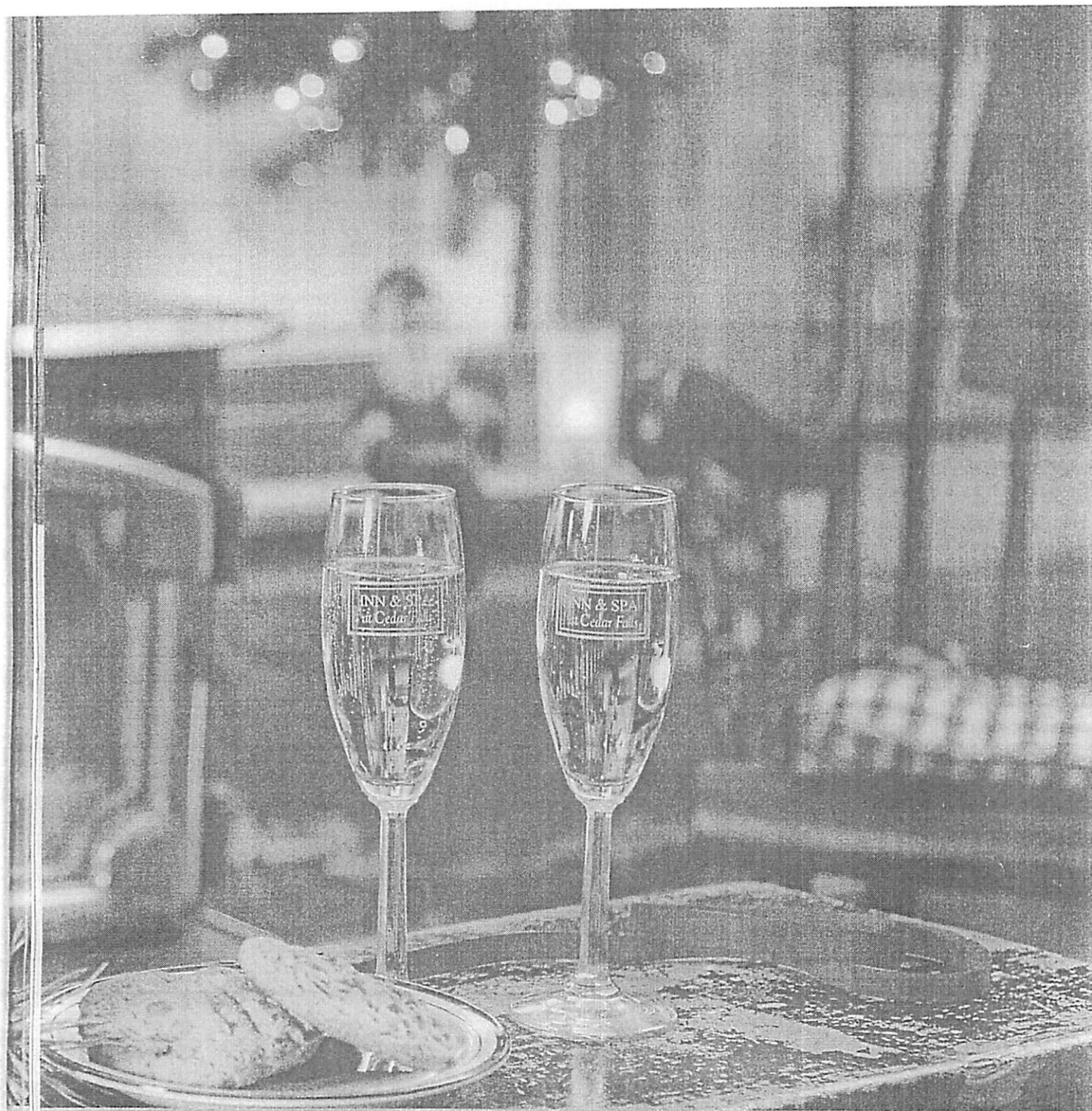
JUMPING ROCKS PHOTOGRAPHY 2011

**Sleep in heavenly  
peace at Ohio's  
Select Registry  
lodgings.**

In the 1960s, travel writer Norman Simpson went on a quest for establishments with "good honest lodging, good honest food, and good honest feeling." He wrote a guidebook celebrating his finds and started an innkeepers' association exclusively for the best independent inns, bed-and-breakfasts and small hotels.

Now called Select Registry, the association is still selective and accepts only distinguished establishments.

"I estimate that just the top 5 percent of all North American inns and bed-and-breakfasts qualify for Select Registry," said Executive Director Will Carlson. Anonymous inspectors



tors perform rigorous evaluations; meeting the association's high standards is an accomplishment.

Ohio has eight Select Registry inns, and although each one is unique, they all offer extraordinary quality and hospitality. 'Tis the perfect season to treat yourself—or someone special—to a stay.

### **The Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls, Logan**

**The setting:** Fantastic rock formations, gorges and glistening waterfalls lure visitors to southeast Ohio's Hocking Hills, where pristine state parks practically encircle the inn.

**Why you'll love it:** Celebrating 25 years of innkeeping, Ellen Grins-

felder and Terry Lingo have set the Hocking Hills standard for casual and cordial hospitality. Lodging options include bed-and-breakfast-style rooms, reconstructed log cabins dating to the 1840s and made-for-cou-

Holiday guests at the Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls can unwind with a drink and fresh-baked cookies.



ples cottages tucked away in the woods. The inn's true heart is its restaurant, where wines flow, candles glow, and guests get the rare pleasure of dining on filet mignon while wearing hiking boots and jeans.

**Holiday happenings:** Thanksgiving feasts feature delights such as butter-nut-apple soup, plum-glazed salmon and bourbon pecan pie, and guests staying Thursday through Saturday get a \$25 gift shop voucher. Catch the Christmas spirit at holiday cookie-baking and wreath-making classes, or score this jolly lodging deal: Stay overnight on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 is free.

### The Inn at Dresden, Dresden

**The setting:** The birthplace of Longaberger Baskets, the village of Dresden boasts the world's biggest basket (at Fifth and Main streets) and many specialty shops. Nearby are the Longaberger Homestead (open April through November) in Frazeyburg and the basket-shaped home office in Newark.

**Why you'll love it:** Basket baron Dave Longaberger lived the American dream, and the rambling, Tudor-style home he built in stages symbolizes his rags-to-riches story. Perched on a steep hill, the house now has 10 guestrooms that blend luxuries such as fireplaces and whirlpool tubs with quirky touches that still reflect Dave's remarkable personality.

**Holiday happenings:** Families often book several rooms for yuletide reunions. Stay three or more nights for a 15 percent discount.

### The Inn at Honey Run, Millersburg

**The setting:** With its contemporary design and nature sanctuary aura, the inn is a refreshing haven in the middle of Amish Country.

**Why you'll love it:** Snooze in a hill-top cottage and you might find deer peering through your bedroom window in the morning. Posh Honeycomb

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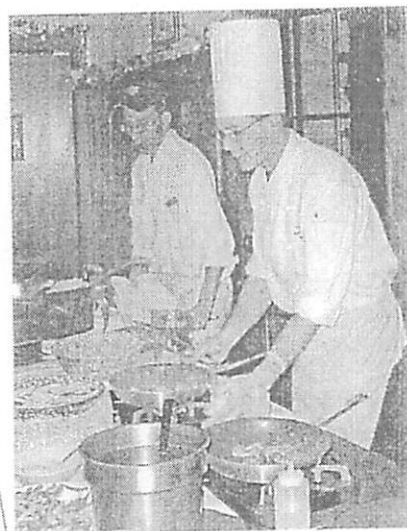
Rooms in earth-sheltered structures have panoramic views, while inn rooms and suites come with decks or window walls for convenient bird-watching. Get a revitalizing spa treatment or grab an Amish buggy ride.

**Holiday happenings:** On Thanksgiving, the restaurant plates roast turkey, and sides get passed around family-style. Numerous Christmas trees cast a warm glow, but many guests favor the outdoor "bird tree" adorned with seeds and suet.

### Glenlaurel, A Scottish Country Inn, Rockbridge

**The setting:** Although Glenlaurel is near Logan in the famously scenic Hocking Hills, it really exists somewhere in a grown-ups' fantasyland—somewhere this side of a bagpipe and just short of Eden.

**Why you'll love it:** Glenlaurel's sylvan, 140-acre estate surrounds a private gorge with walking trails and waterfalls. Indulgent amenities range from spa services to a Scottish links golf course to leisurely gourmet meals. Thanks to the stone fireplaces and stylish Tartan-plaid



Six-course, from-scratch fine dining in Glenlaurel's Manor House entices guests year-round.

Intimate, adults-only  
Honeycomb Rooms at  
The Inn at Honey Run  
feature all the amenities  
one would expect in  
upscale urban hotels.

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Jacobean-floral decor in Glenlaurel's rooms, suites and spacious cottages, as well as intimate crofts, you'll "raist yer weary haid" in a wee bit o' Scotland.

**Holiday happenings:** Six-course Dickens Dinners recall Victorian times with *A Christmas Carol* recitations and traditional dishes. The two-day, Scottish-style Hogmanay celebrates New Year's with food, drink and roaring bonfires.

### Murphin Ridge Inn, West Union

**The setting:** Knuckled Appalachian foothills provide a gorgeous backdrop for Amish farms and shops, the enigmatic Serpent Mound, splendid nature preserves and the inn's idyllic grounds.

**Why you'll love it:** Simplicity, serenity and good taste are the hallmark of Murphin Ridge, where impeccable Early American furnishings grace both guesthouse rooms and deluxe cabins. Genial owners Sherry and Darryl McKenney frequently join guests for breakfasts of homemade granola and signature Foggy Bottom pancakes.

**Holiday happenings:** Located in a 1820s farmhouse, the restaurant appropriately features superb farm-to-table dinners. Thanksgiving Day means Sherry's oyster gratin, turkey with pea and-mushroom stuffing, and Amish whipped potatoes. Christmas Eve



repast commences with the inn's chicken country captain and climaxes with maple chiffon cake, while Christmas Day's festive buffet features roast beef with Madeira sauce, herbed Yorkshire pudding and English trifle.

#### **The White Oak Inn, Danville**

**The setting:** The inn sits along a country road where guests can "escape to the middle of nowhere" yet are within a half-hour drive of Amish Country, historical Roscoe Village and Kenyon College.

**Why you'll love it:** In their classic farmhouse, innkeepers Ian and Yvonne Martin have outfitted guestrooms with ruffled curtains and comfortable antiques. The separate guesthouse has fireplace rooms, while log cabins with whirlpool tubs provide romantic retreats. In addition to hearty breakfasts, Yvonne offers four-course dinners.

**Holiday happenings:** At Thanksgiving, nosh on snacks served beside the living room hearth and pop into the kitchen to watch preparations for a huge turkey buffet. The Inn's Dickens Christmas Carol package includes traditional afternoon tea; theater-in-the-round portrayals of Scrooge, Tiny Tim and other beloved Christmas characters; and a late supper.

#### **Shaw's Restaurant & Inn, Lancaster**

**The setting:** Lancaster has a handsome downtown whose attractions include the Sherman House Museum and the Lancaster Festival, a lively 11-day salute to art and music.

**Why you'll love it:** Built in 1941, Shaw's Inn retains the character of an old-school hotel. The Cork family has operated Shaw's for decades, with dad Bruce Cork ruling its excellent wine cellar and daughter Susie Cork picking the beers and microbrews. Although Shaw's restaurant is renowned for steaks and seafood, its homemade cinnamon rolls are so popular they're served at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**Holiday happenings:** During December, Shaw's presents a weekly series of themed Christmas dinners. You might dine on roast duckling at the Southern dinner; on Beef Wellington during the English dinner; on sauerbraten for the German dinner; and on Steak au Poivre at the French dinner.

#### **Whispering Pines Bed & Breakfast, Dellroy**

**The setting:** In rural Carroll County, Whispering Pines shines like a brilliant blue sapphire on a hillside overlooking Atwood Lake.

**Why you'll love it:** Innkeepers Bill

and Linda Horn operate a traditional bed-and-breakfast in a renovated 1880s farmhouse that looks and feels like a quaint lakeside lodge. Rooms with upscale antiques and gorgeous stained-glass accents are ideal for a relaxing couple's getaway without kids or TV.

**Holiday happenings:** Guests who stay two nights in November and December receive free tickets to see the lavish Christmas decorations at the J.E. Reeves Victorian Home in Dover. From Thanksgiving through Dec. 31, all jewelry in the inn's gift shop is discounted, and on New Year's Eve, the Horns regale guests with complimentary sparkling wine and light hors d'oeuvres.

#### **Planning Your Trip**

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