

TRAVEL

Mushrooms And More In Mendocino

When Italian immigrants came to Mendocino County in the 1860s, they went into the woods after the first rain. They found wild mushrooms like the ones back home. Their great grandkids today still slip out to their family "secret spots", gather these delicious gifts from the earth, and share them and their home-made wines with family and friends at the dinner table.

Mushroom Harvest Season in Mendocino County is November through January. Festivities include tasting, mushroom walks, culinary lectures, wine pairings and more. Visit gomendo.com on the web for a complete schedule of activities.

One wonderful spot to spend time during the season is the Inn at Schoolhouse Creek. They will be hosting a mushroom weekend, December 16 and 17, which includes events such as a mushroom walk with Dr. Ryan Snow, Ph.D. (a local mushroom herbalist and guru), a five-course dinner with wine pairings, and a special breakfast – all for just \$95 per person.

The Inn at Schoolhouse Creek is the oldest resort on the Mendocino stretch of the

North Coast. Its opening coincided with the completion of the "Shoreline Highway" in 1932, now Highway One. Turn-of-the-century mill workers' houses were moved onto the property. During World War II, it was turned over to the U.S. Coast Guard to house the shore patrol. Recent acquisitions and upgrades have developed the property to its current status.

The Inn's 19 rooms and cottages are nestled on nine acres of lush gardens, meadows and forested land, providing a true escape from the stresses of daily life and encouraging guests to enjoy "life without a schedule". Accommodations include luxury rooms, private cottages, private hot tubs, decks, fireplaces, free high speed wireless internet, Jacuzzi baths or Whirlpool tubs, ocean and garden views. Rates also include a full buffet breakfast (except off-site ocean Cliffside cottages) and use of the Inn's ocean view hot tub in the meadow with evening Alexander Valley wine and food pairings. Guests can enjoy spa services at the Inn and Innkeepers can make arrangements for picnics, special occasions, dinner reservations and a wide variety of coast activities.

The picturesque Inn was

recently featured on the CBS "Eye on the Bay" program. Throughout 2006, it has received national media attention and accolades as one of the most romantic spots on the Mendocino Coast, as well as for its award-winning family oriented services and pet friendly accommodations. The Inn will be featured nationally this fall on "Great Escapes", which airs on The "E" Entertainment, Style and Outdoor Life Network channels. Forbes.com listed the Inn at Schoolhouse Creek in its 2006 list of "10 Best places to take your children". Pet owners know it as a recipient of the prestigious "Golden Bone" Award by The Dog Lover's Companion to California for being one of the best dog-friendly destinations in America.

Innkeepers Steven Musser and Maureen Gilbert are experts at what they lovingly call, "welcoming the world into our home." One guest said this: "The view, the quiet (interrupted only by the buoy bell), the ocean smells, the birds, trees, flowers, the food and extraordinary hosts. After a busy day in Mendocino it was so nice to come home to the glow of the fireplace and the warmth of our cottage."

For reservations or additional information, call 800.731.5525 or visit schoolhousecreek.com.



Exterior view of the Inn at Schoolhouse Creek




A garden room at the Inn

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