

2014-03 McGinnis – 83rd Birthday Party

83rd Birthday Party

By Mari Lu McGinnis

It was on a flight to Maryland to celebrate my 83rd birthday that I noticed in the flight magazine a small list of highly recommended restaurants. Little did I know that one of them, The Inn at Little Washington, would be my first and only experience with a five star getaway.

It was a short drive into Virginia from Maryland so I showed the article to my escort. He called and got reservations for the night, adding that we weren't going to stay the night because it would be \$800.00 per night. That alerted us, but not much. We were used to nice restaurants. We found another inn and drove to a very rural area a Virginia, where the Inn at Little Washington is located. Interestingly, it was laid out by George Washington in the 70s. In the 1770s that is.

The counties around there didn't allow cell phone towers. Our hosts kindly offered their phones for our use, since it was my birthday. George Washington really got around this part of the country. There is a log cabin in nearby Winchester, Virginia, that he actually lived in for a year. It is open for visiting. He really slept there.

Next day we drove to the Inn at the appointed time. It was indeed imposing and not old. It was gorgeous and lushly planted and full of surprises. Not surprisingly there was a gift shop.

We were settled into a side-by-side table with a view of the garden. On my menu, which they gave me with a happy birthday greeting, I checked what we had. For my first course I had roasted eggplant ravioli in a tomato basil butter sauce, with medallions of Maine lobster. The second course was olive oil poached Atlantic halibut on parsley risotto and ginger stewed tomatoes. With caramelized baby bok choy and baby shrimp. We also had wine. At the bottom of the menu it read: One Hundred and forty eight dollar per person: beverage, tax and gratuities not included. Dessert was. We were properly impressed. What a getaway. I have since learned the Inn at Little Washington in considered to be among the top five in the United States.