

SUPER SATURNA

By Ron Kirstein
Edited by Linda Kirstein & Lisa Cole

"Saturna" comes from the Spanish sailing ship Saturnina, which was under the command of Jose Maria Narvaez during his exploration of the Pacific Northwest coastline in 1791. The Island was first settled in the late 1800's. The first and largest landowners were Warburton Pike and several of the Payne brothers.

Saturna Island's moderate climate and quality accommodations make it an ideal year-round destination. Saturna borders Georgia Strait on the East side and Haro Strait to the south. It is a rural hideaway with abundant wildlife and great natural beauty. It features scenic trails, spectacular views and easy-access beaches. Rent a kayak and tour the coastline, or shop for local arts and crafts at local galleries. Island amenities include two general stores, a pub overlooking the ocean, a bakery, a café and a fine-dining restaurant. Saturna Vineyard offers tours, a bistro and tasting at the wine shop.

Our adventure began with a one-hour ferry ride from Swartz Bay to Lyall Harbour. We arrived late in the afternoon, had a quick tour of Winter Cover Marine Park (one of the most beautiful spots on Saturna and the site of the July 1st Lamb BBQ) and drove to our accommodation at East Point Resort.



Fabulous Boat Pass in Winter Cove - Photo by Ron Kirstein

Just steps from East Point Regional Park, we had an ocean view cabin with a spectacular view of the entire East side of Saturna Island. The view was to die for. We checked in and headed off to Saturna Lodge for an evening dinner. The manager, Ingrid Gaines was there to greet us and we thoroughly enjoyed our three-course dinners. The scallops



East Point
Photo by Ron Kirstein

East Point Resort consists of a small number of cabins with kitchens and is situated on oceanfront property on the southeastern tip of Saturna. It is a great place for an extended stay retreat and is family oriented with a sandy beach. Serene, comfortable, and views that go on forever best describe this resort. From East Point you can see many of the San Juan Islands and you can see much of the coast of the mainland from Vancouver south into Washington State. There's a beach below the Resort that is easily accessed and there's a Lighthouse next door, as well as a Regional Park. The cabins face Tumbo Island, which is part of the Gulf Islands National Park.

were divine and for the main course we savoured fresh halibut and tenderloin steak. Chef Kevin Davidson presented the dinners superbly. Although we did not need dessert, we thoroughly enjoyed Kevin's creations.



Fine Dining at Saturna Lodge
Photo by Ron Kirstein



Oceanfront Cabin at East Point
Resort
Photo by Ron Kirstein



Fabulous View from East Point
Resort Cabin Photo by Ron
Kirstein

Thoroughly satiated, we headed back for a great night's sleep next to the water's edge at East Point Resort. When we arrived, the owners and managers of the Resort already had a roaring blaze going in the outdoor fireplace. We shared a bit of their wine and great company for a few hours before retiring. Good food, great company and comfy accommodations - Our trip was off to a fine start!



Staff & Owners at East Point
Resort
Photo by Ron Kirstein

The next morning, we started off with breakfast at the Lyall Harbour Bed and Breakfast, with our tour organizers Len and Donna Digance. They have a beautiful B&B that overlooks Lyall Harbour and the North Vancouver Mountains. It is a spectacular house with well-organized B&B services. Len and Donna are exceptionally hospitable hosts and Len is a professional chef. The breakfast was sensational including West Coast eggs benedict, with warm scones, fresh fruit salad, juice, coffee and tea and

SUPER SATURNA

Page 2

After breakfast we toured the B&B. Donna then became our tour guide for an Artist Studio and Gallery Tour. Donna's Studio, Dreamscapes was the first. She has many excellent etchings and does fantastic fabric art including landscapes, pillows and wall hangings.



Gallery Rosa - Photo by Ron Kirstein

Next we visited Gallery Rosa. Karen Muntean is the resident artist with her forte being encaustic paintings and etchings. Some of Karen's work currently is displayed in the Saturna Lodge. Her gallery has a collection of Island artist's paintings, sculptures, jewelry, glass art, wool blankets and much more.

Right on time, our host Alf Reynolds of Orca Pass Adventures and Viable Marine appeared from around the point. We boarded a sturdy aluminum boat complete with a cabin and 90 horse Honda. Viewing Saturna from the water provides a unique view many visitors do not get. There are some spectacular homes dotting the shoreline and the scenery changes by the minute.



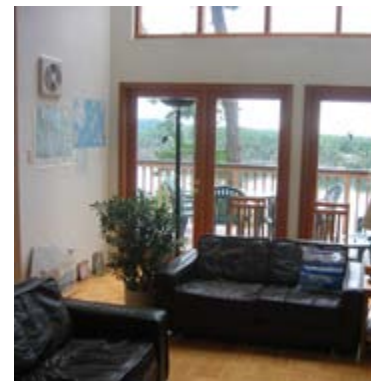
Saturna Beach
Photo by Ron Kirstein

We approached some islets just off Saturna in Georgia Strait. Although it is near the end of their time in the area, there was a large group of sea lions sunning themselves on the rocks. Our guide informed us that sea lions have the same ancestry as bears and that seals have the same ancestry as weasels. We could definitely see the similarity between seal

more. It was delightful.



Gourmet Breakfast at Lyall Harbour B&B
Photo by Ron Kirstein



Beautiful Lyall Harbour B&B with Exceptional Views.
Photo by Ron Kirstein



Karen Muntean at Gallery Rosa
(right)
Photo by Ron Kirstein

Next we visited Jill Sabre at Boot Cove Art Studio. Jill is an excellent artist and works in mixed media with an appealing fusion of Western and Asian styles. Then we paid a visit to the Jack Campbell Gallery. Jack is a highly regarded artist who has a great selection of nautical paintings and prints available in his studio. He is a master at capturing the play of light through water on canvas, as well as the movement of water in his paintings.

Next was artist Anne Popperwell. Her paintings were beautiful and included her current study of clouds and spectacular flowers (Georgia O'Keefe style). Don't miss her fabulous garden, which provides inspiration for her art! The final step of our arts and crafts tour was to Avanti Artifacts. Paul White has the most amazing collection of artifacts I have ever seen outside of a museum

generally scatter as boats approach, but the magnificent Stellar and California sea lions seem unperturbed. They raise up on the rocks and roar with defiance. On one other occasion when we were near sea lions, a brash young male came towards our boat and rose up out of the water and hissed at us. We did the noble thing and left the area, immediately!



Sea lions in Georgia Strait
Photo by Ron Kirstein

As we motored along the shoreline, we passed sandstone-eroded cliffs that are artistically sculptured into caves and deep indentations from years of wave action. We cruised through the marine park between Cabbage Island and Tumbo Island both parts of the Gulf Island National Park.

including rare books, maps, prints, mining & geology texts, northern Canadiana, classic jazz memorabilia, antique musical instruments, willow pattern dishware and much more. Paul makes his collection available on Ebay. I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of artists and artisans on the Island.



Caves on Tumbo Island
Photo by Ron Kirstein



Wine Tasting at Saturna Vineyard
Photo by Ron Kirstein

Next on our tour was a visit to the Saturna Island Vineyard. When we arrived Michael Vautour greeted us. Michael treated us to a wine tasting session. He was very cordial and had a thorough knowledge of the development of the vineyard and the wines presented. The wines were enjoyable and several had won awards, a feat for such a young vineyard. We had lunch at the vineyard Bistro. It was excellent and featured Mediterranean cuisine. Our meals were very tasty and the Bistro overlooks the vineyards. We were delighted with the

Then we rounded East Point, the spectacular tip of Saturna that reaches out into the entrance to Boundary Pass and Haro Strait. Most of the marine traffic headed from Vancouver to Victoria or Asia passes very near this point. It is the best location in Canada to observe marine traffic. Cruise ships, freighters, container ships, tugs and barges all pass East Point and can be captured by most cameras as they are so close to the shore. The lighthouse at East Point and the sculpted shoreline rocks make this a great stop on your Saturna tour, whether by land or by sea.

blooming rosebushes planted at the ends of each row of grapevines. Presumably, the roses attract the bugs away from the grapes.



The Bistro at Saturna Vineyards
Photo by Ron Kirstein

After the vineyard we worked our way down to Saturna Beach. We saw feral goats on the slopes just beside the beach and they created quite a dialogue with us as we waited for our next adventure.



East Point
Photo by Ron Kirstein

After East Point we followed the south shore of Saturna, which is a stretch of residential properties all perched high on a cliff. After you pass these spectacular homes you come to Narvaez Bay, named after the captain of the Saturina. Just before you get to Taylor Point watch the shoreline closely. There is a large rock sitting in the water. If you are on shore and walk past this rock, it distinctly appears to be the head of an eagle. Behind it just up the shore is a monolith of tremendous proportion. It is a huge piece of rock that seems totally out of place. Where it came from or how it got there is truly a mystery.

