

Point of No Return

Before the “purse dog” or the “Labradoodle,” there was the gundog, and in the late 19th century, the age of the Great Camp, these hunting companions were treated with the utmost respect. This mind-set prevails at the Point, an Adirondack resort that happily allows, and even

caters to, man’s best friend. On request, the resort will outfit your room with a plush dog bed and a locally handcrafted ceramic bowl. On special occasions, the kitchen will prepare a made-to-order meal for the hound of honor.

Human companions are in for an even bigger treat at the Point. Originally known as Camp Wonundra, the summer home of William Avery Rockefeller (great-nephew of John D.), this wilderness retreat sits on 10 acres of wooded peninsula that stretch into Upper Saranac Lake. Each of the 11 guest rooms has a chiseled stone fireplace, antique and Adirondack furnishings, and a panoramic lake view. None of the rooms, however, has a television or touch-tone telephone; the rotary phone by the bed is good only for reaching other guest rooms or the Point’s ever-attentive staff.

The resort’s subtle and sophisticated hospitality presents a pleasant contrast to the wild surroundings. A soft knock on the door may be the prelude

to a gourmet breakfast on your private terrace. If you and your spouse are celebrating an anniversary one night, the chef might create a small replica of your wedding cake. Should you mention a desire to paddle on the lake the next day, you might find a picnic basket waiting for you in a canoe.

For those interested in experiencing the Point’s unique form of hospitality, waiting may not be an option. Last November, the former owners sold the property to Everlands, a members-only destination club, and sometime within the next few years the Point will close to the public. In the meantime, however, the resort promises a fond farewell: When you check out, you will find your car freshly washed, perhaps with a thoughtfully packaged meal—and a bone for your best friend—placed in the backseat.

EMILY LIEBERT

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www.thepointresort.com



SETTING

On 10 acres on Upper Saranac Lake in upstate New York. The Point’s exact location is kept secret; directions are not revealed until reservations are confirmed and paid in full.

SLEEPING

The 11 guest quarters are spread among four buildings. The Boathouse, which has a suspended king-size canopied bed and optimum views of the lake, should be reserved at least a year in advance.

DINING

Chef Kevin McCarthy, who trained under three-Michelin-star chef Albert Roux, plans all meals—even communal dinner parties—at least a week ahead of time, taking into account each guest’s preferences.

DIVERSIONS

Boat rides, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, tennis, skiing, ice-skating, snowshoeing, and ice fishing. Hikers and snowshoers can stop for hot chocolate and picnics at Camp David, the resort’s rustic, one-room cabin set deep in the woods.

RATES

\$1,350–\$2,600

