

DELUXE DIGS>

Cave B at SageCliffe

More than simply “allowed” at the Pacific Northwest’s only fully-integrated premium winery and luxury resort, your dog is warmly welcome. BY J. NICHOLE SMITH

The very first delight upon arrival at Cave B, was the sight of the estate’s 140 acres of vineyards, reaching up from the earth in precisely manicured rows—right to the edge of the windy road that leads to the Inn. Just beyond this first impression of grandeur, over the crest of a hill, was the expanse of the Columbia River Gorge, soaking in the last liquid light of an Eastern Washington sunset. The Inn, nestled just above the property’s 15 finely appointed Cliffhouses and just below the Spa at Sagecliffe, is perfectly suited to the majestic landscape it inhabits.

The 24-hour staff greeted both humans and canines with a warm welcome and in a matter of moments *CityDog* editor Brandie Ahlgren and I were off to our individual Cliffhouses. Offering breathtaking views, private terraces, feather bedding, floor-to-ceiling windows, wireless high-speed Internet, sitting area with comfy leather sofa and chairs, four-fixture bath with Italian granite slabs, two-sided gas fireplace, high curved ceilings, a pivoting flat-screen satellite television—and for the pooch, food/water bowls, bottled water and Milkbones—the Cliffhouse was nothing short of exquisite. Olivia made herself at home and I immediately wished I could extend my stay.

At the Inn’s restaurant, Tendrils, I was taken by the dramatic red glow spilling from dining room, along with the 30-foot basalt fireplace and rich aroma of fine cuisine, the mood of indulgence and relaxation was firmly set before we even sat down. Although Tendrils executive chef Fernando Divina was in Italy, chef de cuisine Shauna Scriver did not disappoint.

We started with the SageCliffe salad, with apples, farstead blue cheese, toasted hazelnuts and a divine honey and cabernet franc verjus. We followed our salad with grilled loin of beef with potato puree, squash and carrots. And for dessert, we couldn’t resist the chocolate ganache torte and huckleberry crème brulee.

Upon returning to our respective rooms, we were delighted to find evening turn-down treats, gourmet chocolate for us and a Milkbone for each canine guest. The rest of the evening was spent indulging in a Cave B Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, described on the wine list as a bold wine “boasting complex aromas of blackberry, blueberry and black current.” Described by me: the perfect conclusion to an evening of indulgences.

Although not typically an early riser, I couldn’t resist catching a glimpse (and a few photos) at sunrise. I awoke to the shared glow of the fireplace at the foot of the bed and morning sunlight creeping past the vineyards, orchards and Inn, spilling into my window and the dramatic cracks and crevices of the panoramic gorge. As Olivia sat silently with me, watch-



Above clockwise: The main Inn at Cave B; Scout at sunset; Tendrils’ chef de cuisine Shauna Scriver.

ing the slow, silent revelation of morning, I couldn’t help but dwell on the idea that the stunning beauty before us was only a few hours from the city. How privileged we are to live in this part of the world.

Once daylight officially arrived, me and the dogs, Olivia, Scout and Ziggy, set out to explore the grounds. Cave B neighbors the Gorge Amphitheatre. I can only imagine the pleasure of sitting on the trellis-lined piazza overhearing one of the Amphitheatre’s many sold out acts.

Other seasonal delights on the Estate include snowshoeing, ice skating, boating, climbing, biking, golf, fishing, star gazing, bird watching and hiking (trails lead all the way down to the Columbia River). Although Cave B is very Fido-friendly with lots of room to run, on trails it is important to keep your dog on a leash, as to not disturb the surrounding flora and fauna (in the summer especially, since Eastern Washington is rattle-snake country).

Currently, Cave B at SageCliffe sits on 700 acres of land and in addition to the existing vineyards, orchards, the Inn, Cliffhouses, spa, gardens, driving range and hiking trails, future design plans include an additional lodge with restaurant, artists’ studios, indoor and outdoor theatres, 18-hole golf course and pro shop, equestrian center, exhibition halls and galleries. 🐾

CONTACT: Reservations 888.785.2283; www.cavebinn.com.

RATES: Inn (per night) \$125-200 off season, \$200-300 peak season; Cliffhouses (per night) \$150-250 off season, \$200-350 peak season; pet fee, \$30 one time deep cleaning fee.

GETTING THERE: 344 Silica Road NW Quincy, WA 98848. From Seattle, take Interstate 90 to exit 143, Silica Road. Turn left onto Silica Road and drive about 5.5 miles to the Cave B entrance.