

“...a blissful retreat.”

-Southern Living magazine

“...a smart, comfortable, friendly, ably high-tech but genuinely rustic full-service hotel masquerading as a small inn...This kind of thing doesn't go unnoticed for long.”

-Roger Piantadosi, The Washington Post



Indeed, people have noticed the Savage River Lodge, a unique, secluded inn in the forested mountains of Western Maryland. This small, upscale, casual hotel features 18 luxurious private cabins and a spacious Lodge building housing relaxation space, restaurant, bar, library and conference facilities—surrounded by hundreds of acres of forested land.

The Savage River Lodge opened in the fall of 1999 and immediately garnered a reputation for its exceptional comfort, atmosphere and hospitality. Owners Mike Dreisbach and Jan Russell, combining his career as an outdoorsman and her career in the hospitality industry, have created a nature-focused retreat that exudes comfort and relaxation.



Background

Mike Dreisbach and Jan Russell, owners and managers of the Savage River Lodge, share a strong love of nature. They know that those who stop, listen, look and learn reap great benefits from what nature offers and teaches. They also know that nature, and a few hours of quiet, has a unique power to relax and restore a hurried mind and body.

It was with this in mind that Mike and Jan went looking for a place to build a retreat. Inspired by nature, and with backgrounds in hospitality, training and the outdoors, they happened upon the perfect property in the perfect place. Eight years later, after six years of planning and paperwork, and almost two years of very careful construction (to minimize environmental damage), they opened the Savage River Lodge.

Originally envisioned as a corporate retreat center, Mike and Jan also realized that the emphasis on nature would apply even more to the weekday or weekend get-away

Mike and Jan draw heavily on their experiences to make the Lodge a comfortable place. Mike consults with organizations to teach them to understand how to create effective communities, and has helped develop some of the most successful, non-traditional workplaces in North America. His love of the outdoors and strong desire to be a responsible steward of the earth's resources has driven him to show and teach others how to live with, enjoy and share the natural world's abundance.

Jan's experience in management, development and customer service in the hotel industry has found fluent expression at the Lodge. A former executive with Rosewood Hotels and the Zimmer Group, she helped develop some of the worlds most interesting luxury resorts: Inn of the Anasazi (Santa Fe, New Mexico), St. Andrews Old Course Hotel (Scotland), Hotel Hana Maui (Maui, Hawaii), Hotel Bel Air (Los Angeles, California) and many others. In addition, Jan has been a sought-after consultant and trainer, helping numerous companies and municipalities improve their customer service and hospitality skills. Jan's extraordinary personality and ability to turn strangers into a community of friends are the hallmarks of the Savage River Lodge.

The Facilities

The Lodge's 42 private acres is completely surrounded by more than 700 acres of Maryland's Savage River State Forest. The mile-and-a-half long gravel drive traverses the headwaters of the Savage River and winds uphill through the hardwood and evergreen forest to the Lodge's front door. With access to over 13 miles of trails, a native trout stream (Mudlick Run), and a diverse wildlife population, guests at the Savage River Lodge are encouraged to experience nature firsthand.



The Savage River Lodge's log structures were designed to fit into the forest with minimal impact. The 10,000 square foot Lodge building and eighteen private cabins, though newly constructed, convey a rustic, lived-in comfort. The Lodge's amenities and appointments, however, are upscale, and infused with a highly professional and genuinely friendly hospitality.

The eighteen private cabins each sleep up to four comfortably and feature a sleeping loft with down-clad queen bed, overstuffed furniture in the first floor sitting room (including a custom made queen sleeper sofa), freestanding gas fireplace, ceiling fans, an oversized soaking tub with shower and two sinks, and a large front porch with rocking chairs. Most appointments, such as sinks, lighting fixtures, and cabinetry, are handcrafted by local artisans. Unique cabin amenities include forest-scented toiletries, an umbrella for two, and fresh half-and-half in a



small, hidden refrigerator (there are no kitchen facilities) to accompany the gourmet hot beverage center. Morning brings a picnic basket by the cabin door containing juice and muffins. All cabins are non-smoking. In addition, the Savage River Lodge is pet-friendly, though by advance arrangement only. Each cabin has computer modem capabilities. The cabins do not have televisions, encouraging guests to enjoy the outdoors.



The main Lodge building, a spacious three-story structure, houses a comfortable and popular great room with a massive stone see-through fireplace, bar, a 50-seat gourmet restaurant, and a wrap-around, multi-level porch on the main floor used for outdoor dining (weather permitting) and relaxation. The upstairs level features a 1,200 square foot facility with for corporate seminars and meetings or private parties (also used for dining on weekends), another porch, and break-out spaces overlooking the great room. The small loft area houses an eclectic library and offers a secluded spot to utilize the Lodge's free wireless internet access (available in the Lodge building only). The ground floor houses a 1500 square foot retail space, the Savage River Trading Company, offering clothing, antiques, snacks, furnishings, decorative items and garden goods.

The restaurant's casual atmosphere, open kitchen, and summer dining porch make it one of the Savage River Lodge's most popular destinations. Open not only to guests but also to the public *by reservation only*, the Lodge features "new American classics...dressed-up comfort foods", often centered around the restaurant's wood-fired brick oven. Executive Chef Greg Carter and his staff are young, talented and creative--and cook from scratch, using fresh high-quality ingredients.

We also offer our unique Chef For a Day program, where participants spend a day in the kitchen with Chef, learning professional-level skills such as planning, knife use, prep skills, wine selection and presentation, and assist in preparing their meal. When the dinner is ready, the "Chef For a Day" enjoys dinner and has the option of inviting others to the table.

A frequent diner program, the Lodge Club, offers regular incentives for repeat diners, and the new Wine Club is in the planning stages.

Corporate and Group Facilities

Originally conceived as a corporate retreat center, the Lodge's meeting facilities are a world apart from the "standard" hotel meeting room. The upper level 1,200 square foot main meeting room



features log walls, cathedral ceiling, French doors leading to a treetop-view deck, comfortable furniture, ample break-out spaces and business amenities. In designing the meeting facilities, Mike and Jan reflected on their many years of teaching, training and facilitating in ill-designed and ill-equipped meeting spaces. The meeting space at the Savage River Lodge is a meeting planner's dream, furnished with sensible, sometimes unexpected details—high-tech audiovisual equipment, above-average refreshments, a wall of tack-boards, discrete service, even the option to hire secretarial assistance—at a rare all-inclusive per-person package price. The Lodge offers business guests free wireless internet access while in or around the Lodge building.

In addition, the Lodge offers business groups their own *Nature of Business™* program. This unique program can be integrated into the group's existing agenda or offered as a stand-alone development program. The *Nature of Business™* involves physically engaging outdoor activities designed to build cooperation, team awareness and leadership skills. For many years, this program has been one of Mike's most requested training sessions nationwide.

The Outdoors

The Lodge features programs in a wide range of interests, often centering around appreciation/enjoyment of the natural such as nature-oriented "treasure" hunts, guided nature walks, orienteering lessons, fly-fishing lessons and more. Guests indulge in informal activities "right outside the cabin door" such as hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hunting (in season in the state forest lands), lawn games and wildlife/nature photography. Golf and downhill skiing/snowboarding are a short drive away.

The Lodge's outfitter can provide sports equipment, and a range of other activities such as white-water rafting, climbing, caving, canoeing and other sports in the nearby forests, rivers and mountains of Western Maryland. For relaxation, numerous rocking chairs abound, and reservations can be made for in-cabin massage therapy sessions.



In addition to our numerous outdoor activities, the Lodge hosts regular Wine Tasting sessions, gourmet cooking classes and seminars, and other group activities.

The Lodge offers special packages for weddings, family reunions, private parties and other larger group activities. Due to our small size, a guest can arrange, with adequate notice, to reserve the entire Lodge facility, including cabins and restaurant, for their special event.

Location

The Savage River Lodge is located approximately 5 miles from I-68 in Western Maryland, south from Exit 29 (Finzel), just west of Frostburg, Maryland. The Lodge's private road (Mt. Aetna Road) is a 1.5-mile gravel drive from Frostburg Road. Air service is available through US Airways to Cumberland, Maryland (25 minutes away). Once daily Amtrak service is also available to Cumberland. The Savage River Lodge is approximately 2 hours from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and less than three hours from Baltimore, Maryland or Washington, D.C.

Reservations

Our office is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week. Our standard rate is \$210 for a one-night stay for two people. There is a two-night minimum on weekends and holidays. Rates do not include meals or gratuities. Special weekend and holiday package rates are offered. Advance reservations are recommended. Please call 301-689-3200 or e-mail us at info@savageriverlodge.com for more information or for our brochure.

If you are a member of the press and would like more information, photographs, or would like to make an appointment to visit the Lodge, please contact Jan Russell at jan@savageriverlodge.com.

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Published Articles

“Something to Wine About at Deep Creek Lake”

George Collins

Deep Creek magazine

April 2006

“Where you can play chef”

Kitty Bean Yancey

USA Today

February 2006

“Apparently Maryland is for lovers, too”

Michelle Deal-Zimmerman

The Baltimore Sun

February 2006

“You’re Free to Make Tracks”

M. M. Ghannam

Washington Post “Weekend”

January 2006

“Warming Up to Winter”

Annapolis magazine

December 2005

“Mountains of Fun”

Caroline Kettlewell

Washington Post “Weekend”

November 18, 2005

“The Koan of Maryland”

Amber Matheson

Cleveland Magazine

November 2005

“Chef for a Day”

Cassandra Vanhooser

Southern Living

April 2005

“Dream Weekends”

Washingtonian

April 2005

“A Weekend With the Flakes”

Gayle Keck

Washington Post

April 2005

The WeeK Magazine
New York City
March 2005

“Red Hot Romantic Getaways”
Carolyn Spencer Brown
Baltimore magazine
February 2005

“Winter Magic”
Kathleen Ganster
Pittsburg Boomer
January 2005

“The Secrets of Fishing”
John Woestendiek
The Sun
Sunday, June 20, 2004

“Have Baby Will Travel”
Elizabeth E. Thorp
Washingtonian
May, 2004

“Food Finds Across the Region
Southern Living Favorites
2004

“A Natural Winter Wonderland That’s Just a Car Ride Away”
Angus Phillips
The Washington Post
Sunday, January 25, 2004

“Three Inns for Cozy Comfort”
Cassandra M. Vanhooser
Southern Living
January, 2004

“A Small Town Chef Hits the Strip”
Kathleen Ganster
Pittsburgh Post Gazette
Sunday, October 5, 2003

“Take Your Dog on Vacation”
The Washington Post
Sunday, June 8, 2003

“Fly Fish Trip was a Keeper”
Ben Moyer
Pittsburgh Post Gazette
Sunday, May 18, 2003

“Winter Cross Country Fun”

Sam Dalton
Fido Friendly
Winter Holiday 2002

“Mountain Meals”

Todd Silver
Restaurant Digest
August 2002

“Pick of the Inns”

Bark
Spring 2002

“The Quiet Beauty of Cross-Country Skiing

Barbara Frye
The Washington Post Weekend
Friday, February 8, 2002

“Winter Havens”

Sloane Brown
The Sun
Thursday, February 7, 2002

“Winter at a Cozy Lodge”

Les Thomas
Southern Living
January, 2002

“The Lure of the Log”

Donna Calerone
Log Home Living
August 2001

“Make a Strategic Move”

Small Market Meetings
March, 2001

“Taking the Lead on Cross-Country Trails”

Angus Phillips
The Washington Post
Sunday, January 7, 2001

“Wintery Landscape Sets Scene for a Getaway in Maryland”

Barbara Sturm
Asbury Park Press
Sunday, December 24, 2000

“Savage River Lodge, Your Cabin in the Woods”

Jim Yenckel

Great Getaways
October, 2000

Savage River Lodge
Joanne Howl
Dog Gone
September/October 2000

Fall Weekends
Elise Ford
Washingtonian
September, 2000

Savage River Lodge
Shari Kallmyer
The Maryland Beverage Journal
May 2000

“Little Things Mean a Lodge”
Roger Piantadosi, Great Escapes column
The Washington Post
Wednesday, March 15, 2000

“Western Maryland Lodge a Trail-blazing, Rustic Retreat”
Larry Walsh, Snow Sports column
The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Sunday, January 30, 2000

“From a Dream Emerges the Savage River Lodge”
Angus Phillips, Outdoors column
The Washington Post
Sunday, May 9, 1999

“’Tis the Season of the Elusive Turkey”
Angus Phillips, Outdoors column
The Washington Post
Sunday, November 7, 1999

Savage River Lodge -- Summary

Owners:	Savage River Lodge LLC Mike Dreisbach & Jan Russell
Management:	Mike Dreisbach & Jan Russell Bodhi the Lodge Dog
Executive Chef:	Greg Carter
Open:	365 days a year
Facilities:	Eighteen luxury cabins sleep four comfortably Comfortable sitting room Gas log freestanding fireplace Ceiling fans Open loft bedroom with queen bed and down bedding Luxury custom queen sleep sofa on lower level Refrigerator, coffee maker, coffee & teas Porch with rocking chairs Oversized soaking tubs/showers, two sink areas, closet space No televisions Modem hookup Handicap-accessible cabin available Well-behaved pets welcome by prior arrangement only 10,000 sf Lodge building with: Restaurant (seats 75) Summer dining porch (seats additional) Bar Library Meeting facilities Great room Kitchen Offices Gift shop "Savage River Trading Company" Wireless internet access (free) Outdoor dog wash station
Meeting facilities:	30 x 36 foot main meeting room: Upper floor Cathedral ceiling French doors opening to balcony and forest AV & video equipment Facilitation services (optional) Meeting planning services (optional) Catering Numerous break-out options

Group events: Weddings
Reunions
Special events
Private dinners/parties
Receptions
Club meetings/socials
Church groups/nonprofits
Holiday and special weekend packages available

Programs/Education: Outdoors/environment/ecology programs
Hunting/fishing/safety programs
Gourmet cooking/wine
Chef For a Day
Outdoor sports and recreation

Restaurant Breakfast/Lunch 10:00 – 2:00 Sat & Sun
Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 1:30p.m. Mon - Friday
Dinner 5 – 8 p.m. Sun – Thurs , 5-9 p.m. Sat & Sun

Reservations Required

Location 3.7 miles from I-68 in western Maryland, south from exit 29
Just west of Frostburg, Maryland
1.5-mile gravel road through private and state forest lands to the Lodge

Log Structures Hearthstone
Dandridge, Tennessee

Interior Design Gift Interiors
Hagerstown, Maryland

Graphic & Web Design Main Street Arts
Sharpsburg, Maryland

For information or reservations, please call 301-689-3200