



# CLIFTON INN

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

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*Venture out to explore the area or just stay put and relax at this historic property in Thomas Jefferson's backyard.*

With Thomas Jefferson's home Monticello as well as Jefferson Vineyards nearby (the founding father was a huge oenophile who unsuccessfully tried to cultivate a vineyard there during his lifetime), staying at the Clifton Inn is a step back in time.

Originally built in 1799 by Jefferson's son-in-law Thomas Mann Randolph as a small office, this Charlottesville, Virginia property evolved into a residence before being restored and converted to an inn in 1985 by current owners Mitch and Emily Willey.

Check into one of its 17 rooms or suites located in the main building or adjacent properties, all of which include continental breakfast and afternoon tea each day. Rooms combine traditional decor with modern amenities, and feature details including hardwood floors and sleigh-style beds. Larger groups may consider renting out the 4-bedroom Collina Farm just up the street.

Spend the afternoon on the deck of the sparkling infinity pool or soak in the hot tub, while enjoying a cocktail like the zesty French 1705, with gin, elderflower, lemon and Champagne, garnished with black pepper. Afterwards, lounge on a sofa on the sunny back patio while taking afternoon tea, complete with finger sandwiches, pastries, fruit and custard.

Chef Yannick Fayolle leads the culinary program, and he can often be found foraging around the property or harvesting ingredients from the garden for dishes for his ever-changing seasonal prix fixe menu. Dinner is a four-course affair (with optional beverage pairings including bottles from area wineries like a grippy Petit Verdot from Jefferson Vineyards or an aromatic Viognier from Keswick Vineyards.) Grab a seat or table before dinner at the Porch Bar and sip a libation like the Montpelier, with Booker's Bourbon, Ransom Vermouth, Angostura Bitters and Virginia maple syrup, then snag a table in the sunroom rather than in one of the sitting rooms. Dishes like scallops whimsically paired with scalloped potatoes, horseradish parsnip puree, garlic parmesan custard and caviar, and grilled octopus with popcorn grits, curry, parmesan, chrysanthemum apple and wildflower honey, combine local ingredients with international flair.

After a seated breakfast that includes lighter fare like fruit and pastries as well as eggs or quiche, it's all too easy to waste away the hours relaxing on the property with a book, swimming in the adjacent lake, walking the trails or playing croquet or tennis. But if you wish to venture off-property, the friendly concierge is happy to arrange a tour of Monticello, Montpelier (James Madison's home) or the University of Virginia, a tasting at an area winery, or a massage or facial at one of their local spa partners. No matter if you venture off-site or stay put, you're sure to be wrapped in history and a sense of rejuvenation. ■

