

Lori's Picks

Restaurant Reviews



The Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant

4 West Main St. Cambridge, NY - (518) 677-5626

Nestled in the heart of the charming village of Cambridge, New York sits The Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant. This turn-of-the-century treasure, has actually been deemed a National Historic Landmark. The Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant offers its guests a taste of old fashioned gracious living, with the comforts and amenities of the twenty-first century.

The Cambridge Hotel is an impressive sight both inside and out. From its beautiful two story wrap around veranda on the outside to its handsome woodwork, tin ceilings, lovely period pieces, and tasteful decor inside, no matter where you turn there is history and beauty to behold. My overnight stay at The Cambridge was a total delight from beginning to end.

As I arrived and made my way through the lobby with its cozy seating areas and turn-of-the-century antiques, I could not help but notice how warm and inviting it all was. The Cambridge Hotel has seventeen rooms each uniquely decorated with either a Victorian or country theme. As I turned the key of my door I was very pleased with what I saw. My room had a white iron bed, white wicker furnishings, and was wallpapered in soft yellow wallpaper, with a wonderful foliage design throughout. My bathroom was wallpapered in a fabulous hydrangea paper with a cheerful yellow background. They did an exemplary job in remodeling— keeping the integrity of the period, yet making it viable for modern day living. Each room not only has a unique décor, but air conditioning, heating, ceiling fan,

television, and phone. The common areas of the hotel are wired for the Internet. A couple of the most notable icons of our time have been guests at The Cambridge Hotel. Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy was a guest while campaigning for the presidency. Elvis also stayed at The Cambridge Hotel, while he was on the county fair circuit.

After a busy afternoon, I made my way to the dining room for dinner. The dining room is elegant in shades of cream and burgundy. Antique mirrors, oil paintings, and a baby grand piano are all part of the rich ambiance. Even though the surroundings are refined, the atmosphere is totally relaxed and comfortable. You can feel at ease to bring the entire family and come as you are. I began my meal with an Underwood Farms salad. Underwood Farms is a local organic farm, one of many The Cambridge Restaurant uses. My salad consisted of vine ripe tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil with a pleasing vinaigrette. There is nothing better than fresh ingredients in cuisine, and this was superb! For my entrée I ordered their fresh jumbo lump crab cakes. My entrée came with a choice of soup or salad, so I also tried their house-made minestrone. The minestrone was savory, hearty, and could have been a meal itself. My crab cakes were bursting with fresh crab, and beautifully prepared. They were served with a nice remoulade that had a kick without being overwhelming. There was no doubt in my mind that I wanted the apple pie a la mode for dessert. After all, The Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant is the birthplace of pie a la mode. It seems a music professor by the name of Charles Watson Townsend one day ordered his pie with ice cream. An employee,

working that night deemed it “pie a la mode.” At the time, a la mode was a term used for anything that was very fashionable. When Mr. Townsend later dined at Delmonico’s in New York City, he asked for his pie a la mode. The staff at Delmonico’s did not know what to make of this strange request. It seems a reporter from the New York Sun heard the whole incident, and hence the birth of pie a la mode. In my humble opinion there has been no greater discovery ever made! My apple pie a la mode was delicious. Piled high with apples, nicely spiced with a flaky crust, and warmed with a scoop of creamy vanilla ice cream... it just does not get any better!

After a sweet nights sleep, I made my way down to the complimentary breakfast. There was an array of luscious breakfast pastries, bagels, English muffins, cereals, bowls of fresh fruit, juice, Seattle’s Best coffee, and tea. The breakfast was served in Tink’s Tavern, which has all the character of an old world tavern. It seems to be a very popular spot, and was busy the entire time I was at The Cambridge. From the warm seating arrangements to the welcoming sports bar, functioning fireplace, and varied menu it is easy to see why it is such a happening destination.

You owe it to yourself to take a trip to The Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant. Ideally situated on the Battenkill and just a short distance from both Vermont and the Berkshires, this is a splendid place to spend an evening. The Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant also hosts all sorts of events in their magnificent historical surroundings. Take it from me—this is a very special spot right here in our own backyard!