



## A Luxury Oasis in the Cherry Creek 'Hood

By Claudia Carbone

**T**UCKED INTO THE FASHIONABLE neighborhood of Cherry Creek North, The Inn at Cherry Creek welcomes guests through its unpretentious front door in the middle of the block on Clayton St. One would never guess that inside the simple red brick facade is a charming European-style boutique hotel, with luxury amenities and services that rival the fanciest downtown accommodations.

All 33 guest rooms include everything discerning visitors desire for a comfortable night's stay: distinctive furniture, elegant decor, luxurious terrycloth robes, cable TV, irons/ironing boards, hair dryers, desks, phones and free Wifi. Deluxe rooms have fireplaces and soaking tubs, while the Terrace rooms open to furnished patios. A small lobby with tastefully appointed cozy groupings hint at the stylish hotel's understated elegance.

With its prime location in the heart of Cherry Creek and five minutes from downtown Denver, the Inn caters to business travelers, offering two suites, three completely furnished corporate apartments with daily maid service and in-unit laundry room, and meeting rooms. The executive suite, also the bridal suite, has a 600-square-foot private terrace for parties up to 50 people, such as rehearsal dinners or business cocktail

receptions. The apartments, rented monthly, also have small furnished balconies for a breath of fresh Colorado air. Three meeting rooms with complete A/V setups can be used separately or combined to accommodate up to 150 people. The Garden Room opens up to The Terrace, a lovely roof-top veranda for al fresco parties. With parking at a premium in Cherry Creek, underground overnight parking at only \$10 is a welcome convenience.

The Weber is the Inn's on-site restaurant open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The cozy bistro exudes ambiance that carries outside as a sidewalk cafe in summer months. Under the warm glow of pendant lighting, diners can enjoy quiet conversation without the din of large dining rooms. Sunlight peeks through floor-to-ceiling windows for cheery breakfasts. Menus offer a nice selection of popular items like Benedicts for breakfast; soups, salads, sandwiches for lunch; and seared salmon for supper. Portions are good-sized and service is friendly.

Every last Friday from May through September, the Inn hosts a public Beer Garden on the terrace with German fare and suds for \$5 per item. Live bluegrass music plays from 5-9 p.m.



Photograph by Kerry Koeppling, Janet Koelling, KoKo World Photo



Couples seeking romance will find it in spades at the intimate inn. The Couple's Retreat overnight package includes a bottle of wine and apps at The Weber, breakfast (in room, perhaps?), discounts for area shopping and parking (\$219 and \$239). With the Romance Package couples get a bottle of Champagne, dessert, breakfast with morning newspaper, parking and late checkout. The fireplace in the deluxe room (\$229) is nice for this offering, as is the balcony for breakfast in the classic room (\$209).

The Inn partners with Cherry Creek Theatre, offering two theater tickets with overnight lodging and parking, a three-course pre-fixe dinner with wine for two and breakfast for \$279 in a classic room. The small 100-seat theater is a walkable three blocks away. Playing weekends in June is Amy Herzog's dramatic comedy *4000 miles*; *The Last Romance*, a romantic comedy about late-in-life love, opens October 7 for a month's run.

The dog-friendly hotel even has a Pampered Pet Package with overnights for two. It includes breakfast for you and your mate and dog treats for Fido, plus a doggie bed in the room and free parking.

Shopping in Cherry Creek is unparalleled in the state. The indoor mall is home to 160

high-end retailers, and the outdoor Cherry Creek North district comprises 16 blocks of upscale boutiques, galleries, spas and salons, and restaurants. A giant summer sidewalk sale is a popular event in the hood annually, this year July 14-17.

Cherry Creek Fresh Market, the largest in the state, operates Saturdays May through October 31 and Wednesdays through September 30, in the parking lot of the Cherry Creek Mall on First Avenue.

The Cherry Creek Arts Festival, a three-day gathering of visual, performing, and culinary arts occurs over the July 4th holiday; and the Cherry Creek North Food & Wine festival will be held August 13 this year.

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