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Gerry Frank's picks: Discover Cannon Beach's Stephanie Inn, chocolate, spa



The Stephanie Inn at Cannon Beach has been on the AAA Four Diamond list since 1995. *(Staff/2007)*



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Find comfort and serenity this summer at the newly renovated **Stephanie Inn** (2740 S. Pacific St., Cannon Beach; 503-436-2221; stephanie-inn.com).

As if the \$5 million renovation in 2009 was not enough, this New England-like hotel has

done it again with a hotelwide room refresh of \$1.3 million. Walking in, you can sense a new kind of sophistication. The goal of owners Ryan and Stephanie Snyder was to create a more intimate, comfortable space where guests could escape their busy lives -- and they did just that with their tastefully placed accent features, a change of interior design and an overall modernized look. The rooms are refreshed and comfortable with spectacular ocean views of nine miles of walkable beach. Accommodations that make for a more luxurious experience include a complimentary afternoon wine gathering featuring Oregon wine and beer, an evening nightcap in the library, coffee service with delivery options, turn-down service and a complimentary chef's breakfast buffet. The renovation included renewing the dining room, giving it a more elegant, romantic feel. I was very impressed with the ever-changing menu options, and being a bit of a chocoholic encouraged me to try the house-churned Belgian dark-chocolate ice cream, which, I might add, was the best I've ever had. This distinctive inn welcomes all world travelers and keeps its title as one of the nation's best hotels. The rates are hefty, but the superb service is priceless.

GERRY FRANK'S PICKS

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Being a chocolate lover, **The Chocolate Café** (232 N. Spruce St., Cannon Beach; 503-436-8772; cannonbeachchocolatecafe.com) caught my eye. If you, too, love chocolate, this is the place for you. The assortment of artisanal chocolates, all made by hand, was impressive. The cafe also serves hot chocolate and what locals consider "legendary" milkshakes made with 70 percent Colombian chocolate ganache and Alpenrose ice cream to create a smooth, rich, flavorful shake. The best part is that the owners also run the sister business, the **Cannon Beach Spa** (232 N. Spruce St., Cannon Beach; 503-436-8772; cannonbeachspa.com), celebrating its 15th year in Cannon Beach. There's no guilt in indulging because the owners will be the first to tell you about the health benefits of cacao. All of this while attending to your physical needs whether it is injury rehabilitation, therapeutic stretching, deep-tissue muscle work or a simple massage to help you have a more restful and relaxing stay in Cannon Beach. This husband-and-wife duo, a chiropractor and massage therapist, have trained in Japan and France to really understand the treatments and culture. A couple of their most popular treatments include Asian foot reflexology and French sea-salt scrubs and wraps. Combine your love of chocolate and relaxation, and enjoy the nutrient-rich chocolate body wrap and muscle-melting massage.

"Gerry Frank's Oregon" complete Oregon guidebook is available through oregonguidebook.com; 503-585-8411; gerry@teleport.com; or P.O. Box 2225, Salem, OR 97308.