

## Information about the Inn at Sunrise Point for 25th Anniversary

The Inn at Sunrise Point, located on the famous rocky coast of Maine, celebrates 25 years of excellence this season!

The Inn at Sunrise Point began operations in 1992 when Jerry and Louise Levitin of Napa County California bought the property and converted it to a bed and breakfast inn with 3 rooms and 4 cottages. They had honeymooned in Camden and loved the mid-coast area. While their primary residence since retiring from the inn business in 2002 is in California, they maintain a second home next door to the Inn and continue to spend time in Maine every year.

While they owned the Inn at Sunrise Point, Jerry was also the author of a well-known traveler's guide book, *Country Inns and Back Roads*, a primary tool for travelers throughout North America in pre-internet days. Starting in early 1989, Jerry travelled to, inspected and reviewed hundreds of small inns and bed and breakfast properties and included the best of those properties in annual editions of *Country Inns and Back Roads North America*. He aspired to create an exceptional inn at the ocean's edge and established the Inn at Sunrise Point in 1992 using best practices and ideas from the properties he reviewed across the U.S. Within a short time, the inn began receiving a AAA 4-Diamond rating and numerous other accolades, a tradition that continues to this day.

The property that now constitutes the Inn at Sunrise Point was originally a small salt water farm, complete with a classic Maine cedar shingled farmhouse built in the early 1900's (now the Main House of the Inn), a large barn (now the site of a newer building known as the Inn's Garden House), and 3 small outbuildings, now transformed into the Winslow Homer Cottage, the Rachel Carson Cottage and the Fitz Henry Lane Cottage. Based on accounts from local residents, prior to the purchase by the Levitins in 1992, the property was primarily a family home and farm with small livestock --including Max the Goose who served as "watchdog" and reportedly terrorized all visitors. By the 1980's it was owned simply as investment property and rented out each summer to visitors to the area.

The Levitins were responsible for the conversion of the small outbuildings to cottages, and the addition of the ocean facing conservatory and cherry-paneled library, features which make the Inn so very special today. The buildings are sited very close to the water's edge and provide stunning views of sunrise, moonrise, and the waters of Penobscot Bay. Today's Shoreland Protection Regulations prohibit new buildings or expansions of existing structures so close to the water, so the Inn's owners have been careful over the years to maintain the existing "grandfathered" buildings in impeccable condition. The unique location of the Inn and its cottages at the ocean's edge have delighted guests for the past 25 years. The Levitins also were responsible for naming the Inn's accommodations after famous writers and artists with close personal ties to Maine.

In 2002 the Levitins decided to retire and sold the property to Stephen and Deanna Tallon. Between 2002 and 2007, on the original barn foundations, the Tallons built what is now known as the Garden House building as their family home.

In February 2008, a retired New York City attorney, Daina Hill, bought the Inn from the Tallons . After renovating a small, 1950's cottage at the entrance to the Inn's grounds to serve as her home (now known as the "Gatehouse Cottage"), she renovated the Tallon's Garden House to create 4 new suites for the Inn's guests, bringing the total number of luxurious guest accommodations to 12. As a garden lover, she has also overseen the creation of stunning gardens on the property, featuring flowering plants and trees that thrive in coastal Maine. And she has drawn on her own experiences as a frequent global traveler to develop the inn's reputation for providing exceptional service and guest experiences.

While the Inn offers quick and easy access to area towns and villages as well as Camden Hills State Park, it is off the beaten path. It exudes an air of secluded tranquility and warm hospitality that brings guests back time and again. The Inn's tag line "Simple. Perfect. Luxury." captures the essence of this coastal Maine retreat.