

POCONO RECORD

By MARIA HORN

Print Page

August 02, 2012 1:31PM

Castle Inn a treasure of shopping, art and edibles

If you Google "Castle Inn," you'll get a long list of establishments with the same name all over the country. Only if you refine your search to include Delaware Water Gap will you discover this stronghold of Pocono treasures.

If you Google "Castle Inn," you'll get a long list of establishments with the same name all over the country. Only if you refine your search to include Delaware Water Gap will you discover this stronghold of Pocono treasures.

Once a refuge for flocks of turn-of-the-century tourists, it still attracts guests who wish to take a stroll back in time and treat themselves to something special. You need not navigate a moat to enter the Castle Inn. It sits on the extreme edge of town, catty-corner from the historic Deer Head Inn, just off Route 611. Locals, tourists and hikers find it a worthy stop as they quest through the Gap.

You can't miss the giant hedge-hewn squirrel enjoying an ice cream cone. This beacon attracts you to Zoe's Ice Cream Emporium. Make sure you indulge in this nostalgic Victorian parlor during your visit. Old-fashioned ice cream and specials from bygone "soda jerk" days abound.

Owners Frank Paccione and Theresa Veltri are likely to be there and greet you with a smile. They restored the shop to its original splendor from a century ago and named it after their granddaughter. Not wanting to be outdone by his sister, their grandson requested a shop to be named after him. Just down the original tile walkway is Orion's Toy Works, which features educational toys and games, many of which are made by the Melissa & Doug Co.

The colonnade is lined with a variety of shops to entice your senses. The Castle Inn Gallery is currently featuring local artist Jose Santamaria of Shawnee. His work will beckon you to look closer to determine how he created such precise images. Are they photographs, paintings or both?

Wrought-iron tables and chairs provide seating and a place to enjoy treats from the Candy Cottage or a \$5 lunch from Zen Safari Ethnic Arts Center.

Here, Nyrvah Richard, who's originally from Haiti, sells an assortment of art, both functional and decorative.

"I've traveled the world to pick up art, but found recipes, too," Richard said. One of her most popular: dumplings.

"They are the best-kept secret in the Poconos," says Meg Watt of Megawatt Communications, a public relations service. Her office is on the second floor, and her daughter works for Richard.

Other intriguing shops include Soul Antiques, D.M. Studios Custom Framing, Vintage Baubles, Camp Pocono Antiques, Sherri's Bags and Baubles, Bridget's and Scarlet Ice Jewels, JS Advanced Skin Care, Eileen Noelle Photography, Custom Creations Tailoring and KC's Bid Board Auction and Antiques. Recent additions are Mountain View Vineyards and Memory Lane Antiques.

Whether you are of royal descent or common stock, you're welcome within these castle walls. Special events are featured throughout the season, such as an American Girl Doll tea party, which delighted children and collectors alike.

Treat yourself to a journey back in time and return to the future with a treasure from your quest. It's likely you'll repeat this voyage with family and friends.



PHOTO/ M. HORN/FOR POCONO RECORD

Owner Frank Paccione puts a cherry on top of a sundae at Zoe's Ice Cream Emporium at the shops at the Castle Inn, Delaware Water Gap.

<http://www.poconorecord.com/article/20120802/NEWS13/208020340>

Print Page

