



THE FERRINGTON HOUSE INTRODUCES A SOUTHERN ROUTE DU BONHEUR

Pittsboro, NC, September 22, 2009 – The Ferrington House Country Inn and Restaurant, along with fellow Relais & Chateaux properties The Inn at Little Washington and Planters Inn, announce the creation of the Southern Route du Bonheur, or “Road to Happiness.” Travelers can now experience the finest of the South’s regional cuisine, tour some of its most scenic byways and stay at its finest independently owned luxury properties through this self-directed itinerary. Located in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina’s Piedmont and South Carolina’s low country, these inns offer an exceptional way to experience and learn about this vibrant and culturally rich region.

The Route du Bonheur

In 1954, five unique small properties in France banded together to create a touring route from Paris to Nice called the "Route du Bonheur." Guests were welcomed to each unique and special property in turn as they traveled south. As guests experienced the quality and service these properties offered, the Relais & Chateaux association began to grow. Today, Relais & Châteaux is an exclusive collection of 475 of the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants in 55 countries.

The Properties

For the first stop: the incomparable Inn at Little Washington, in Virginia. Only an hour’s drive from Washington, D.C. and located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Patrick O’Connell has created a luxurious hideaway in the country, lauded by many as one of the finest American inns. This 18-suite property, centered in the charming colonial village of Little Washington, features luxury accommodations and American gourmet cuisine locally sourced from the Virginia countryside. The Inn at Little Washington also has two tables in the kitchen which allow guests to watch dinner creation nightly.

Five hours south by car lies the next stop: The Ferrington House Country Inn & Restaurant, in North Carolina. On a tranquil farm setting, Ferrington House is located near Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Durham, the cultural and academic center of the state. The 35 room inn offers expansive gardens, elegant boutique shops, gourmet restaurants and one of the South’s finest independent bookstores.



The Restaurant, recently voted one of America's top 50 best overall restaurants by the voters of OpenTable, is located in the former Fearington family homestead and serves sophisticated contemporary American cuisine.

Five hours south is your final destination, Planters Inn in Charleston, SC, one of America's most historically significant and romantic cities. Planters Inn offers the best location in town, overlooking the Old City Market with its galleries and shopping, in an exquisitely restored historic building. Expect to find upscale period-style furnishings and four poster beds in each of its 64 luxurious rooms. Antique shops, art galleries and the theatre district are just outside the door. The Peninsula Grill – named Charleston's best restaurant 12 years running – offers award-winning fine gourmet dining and wines.

Reservations and Contact Information

Starting and concluding the tour at the same or different airports is easy with the following major airports to choose from: Washington, D.C.'s Dulles Airport (IAD), the Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) and Charlotte's Douglas International Airport (CLT). Charleston's airport (CHS) offers direct service to a number of Southeast and East Coast cities.

There are two convenient ways to reserve a Southern Route du Bonheur. Reserve all three properties at one time by contacting Relais & Chateaux's Central Reservations via email www.relaischateaux.com/en/ or toll free in the United States at (800)735-2478. Or contact the reservations department of each property directly:

The Inn at Little Washington
Middle and Main Street
Washington, VA 22747
www.theinnatlittlewashington.com
Reservations: (540) 675-3800

The Fearington House Country Inn
and Restaurant
2000 Fearington Village Center
Pittsboro, NC 27312
www.fearington.com
Reservations: (919) 542-2121 or
fhouse@fearington.com

Planters Inn
112 North Market Street
Charleston, SC 29401
www.plantersinn.com
Reservations: (843) 722-2345 or
reservations@plantersinn.com

About The Fearington House Restaurant and Country Inn

The Fearington House Restaurant is a member of Relais & Chateaux, an association of the finest restaurants and hotels in the world, and is the only Green Certified™ AAA Five Diamond restaurant in the country. The farmhouse restaurant is recognized for its sophisticated contemporary American cuisine. Opened in 1980 and surrounded by extensive gardens, The Fearington House Restaurant is located 8 miles south of Chapel Hill, NC.



The Fearington House
2000 Fearington Village
Pittsboro, NC 27312

www.fearington.com

For immediate release

For images or other information, contact Kerstin Lindgren (919) 545-5704 or kerstin@fearington.com



(Left to right) The Planters Inn, The Fearington House, and The Inn at Little Washington



Itinerary of the Southern Route du Bonheur

