

Nature's Window to Paradise: The Wickaninnish Inn **by Ann Walther**

Heaven, Utopia, Paradise... these are all words that perfectly describe The Wickaninnish Inn, in Tofino, BC. Walking into the "The Wick", you won't see grandiose crystal chandeliers, gold-leaf stair cases or the newest high-tech TV & stereo equipment. What you will see is raw, powerful, majestic views of the ocean crashing up against rocks while a bald eagle swoops by and disappears into the neon green forest. The Wick serves as a picture frame into this magical wilderness and enhances the natural beauty that surrounds you. The spectacular views are only heightened by the warm comfort of the Wick's incredible rooms and suites.

Located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, Tofino is near the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve which is part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Clayoquot Sound. Tofino also happens to be the "Surfing Capital of Canada"... who knew?! There are multiple ways of getting to Tofino, but however you choose, the journey will be one you will not forget. Since I was already in Seattle, we decided to take a ferry from Seattle to Victoria, BC then rented a car and drove about 4 hours to Tofino. The drive took us thru old growth forests where the lichen covered trees looked like they were wearing neon green sweaters. Waterfalls poured down the granite cliffs along the highway as we drove along a glass-like lake surrounded by snow-capped mountains. For those who don't want to drive, private planes can be chartered from Victoria BC or Vancouver BC. There is a small airport a few minutes from The Wick. Shell Beach, next to the Wick can also serve as a helicopter landing area. The staff at The Wick are happy to pick up guests at the airport or Shell Beach. Les Clefs d'Or Concierge on site are able to assist with booking flights or local activities for guests.

Upon walking into our room at the Wick, I loved that the room had simple décor. I'm told there was a flat screen tv that was hidden in the dresser, but I can't confirm that since we never once felt the need to watch tv during our stay (even when it was pouring rain outside). I appreciated that the Wick is extremely eco-friendly and works closely with neighboring businesses in the Tofino area. The walls are decorated with art pieces from local artists, mostly with an ocean theme. On the mantle over the fireplace were books about the area and a guest book with helpful hints from past visitors (great Tofino restaurant suggestions!). Along with the traditional white terry cloth robe in the closet were also raincoats & pants to wear on the beach during rainy weather. Rain boots are available for guests at the front desk for people who appreciate a good storm. The storm season in Tofino is very popular and people often book their favorite rooms a year in advance for prime viewing of these powerful storms.

Other small details that I enjoyed are the 2-person bathtubs next to picture windows overlooking the ocean, heated slate floors in the bathroom, fireplaces in every room AND it's a dog friendly-hotel. Great for longer visits and families, the Chesterman Beach Loft Suite is a 2-story suite with a kitchen and breath-taking views. The Wick's chefs can prepare meals for your clients and can also stock the kitchen with their favorite groceries. When visiting the Wick, visitors should take advantage of the gorgeous Pointe

Restaurant. The restaurant has a 240-degree view of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding beach. The refined menu highlights the local ingredients including fresh seafood and organic vegetables. Our meal was stellar and the sommelier helped us choose the perfect wines to accompany our romantic meal. The Wick's incredible Ancient Cedars Spa was recently awarded Top Resort Spa in Canada by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine. It's easy to see why when you tour the facility. The couples massage room, Cedar Sanctuary, is a separate "chalet" right on the rocks along the ocean. With the doors open to the refreshing outdoor area, the waves are crashing nearby and the beauty all around instantly melts away any and all worries.

For a more casual meal, guests can go to the Beach Building and have a light meal at the Driftwood Café. Perfect for a quick muffin & tea in the morning or a sandwich at lunch, the views of the beach and the scrumptious food are a perfect way to start off the day. In the evening, we enjoyed expertly crafted cocktails at the On The Rocks bar. The bartender will be happy to suggest a local favorite or an old-time classic.

When the sun came out on our second day, we decided it was a great day to go for a hike. We drove about 30 minutes to Ucluelet where we went on a 2.5km Lighthouse Loop hike on the Wild Pacific Trail along the rugged coast. We were surrounded by an amazing green forest with trees that curved and bent in a way that I've never seen trees grow. The views of the ocean became more and more gorgeous with each step. With the small islands out in the ocean surrounded by the mist and the gentle breezes, I wished I could just sit there for hours and take it all in. I've traveled to many gorgeous spots around the world, but this one takes the top spot.

I cannot recommend The Wickaninnish Inn enough for your VIP clients. The Wick has welcomed many high profile guests over the years and understand that their guests' privacy is paramount. It is the perfect location to get away from the chaos & frantic lifestyle of the city. Whether it's a romantic get-away or an adventure-filled trip with the family, The Wick will be a place they will never forget and will be a place where memories are made.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the Wick. I would be more than happy to share more stories and photos with you and my experiences in the lovely town of Tofino.

To view gorgeous, professional photographs of The Wick:
<http://www.wickinn.com/media-inquiry>

For help booking reservations, please contact:
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For more photos or questions, please contact me directly:
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Photos Below:

1. View from my window on the 2nd floor
2. View of The Wickaninnish Inn from Shell Beach
3. Bath for Two with a view!
4. View from inside a corner Deluxe room
5. Low Tide at Shell Beach



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