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UNION STREET INN

7 Union Street, Nantucket, 888-517-0707, www.unioninn.com

Last October with the thought of a Cape winter closing in, we decided to speed across to Nantucket on the fast ferry to pamper ourselves with a night at the Union Street Inn.

We had heard that this is an exquisite B & B where owner Ken Withrow—a boutique hotelier with world class experience—and his wife, Deb, pay attention to every detail in all 12 of the historic 1770 manse's sumptuous rooms. And then there was the word that each bedroom features deluxe pillows and ultra-thick mattresses, something we long for when we are away from home. The deal was sealed when we also heard that Union Street is the only B & B on the island to serve a complete home-cooked breakfast—including my husband's favorite, Eggs Benedict with Light Lemon Hollandaise Sauce.

Every one of Union Street's elegant rooms—all of which feature tasteful designer fabrics, handsome furnishings, and luxurious bathrooms (\$140-\$575)—is a cozy haven where the world stops, even though you are just one block from the village's historic center. Our queen-sized poster bed was piled high with big pillows, and after a day exploring, we donned soft Frette bathrobes and climbed up with a cup of tea and a good book before heading out for dinner. Be sure to sample some of the inn's tasty afternoon snacks—we hear the new made-from-scratch carrot cake is delicious. Several of the rooms have working fireplaces and if you're really looking for some pampering, you can order breakfast in bed, something we hope to try sometime soon.

During the summer, breakfast is served on a picturesque patio cooled by sea breezes from the harbor. We enjoyed a feast of Eggs Benedict and French Toast with challah bread, fresh strawberries, and sausage at a linen-covered table. Ken stopped by to regale us with some stories from his hotelier days and sent us off laughing, full of fine food, and the good cheer that comes from a good sleep. We smiled all the way home.—Susan Dewey