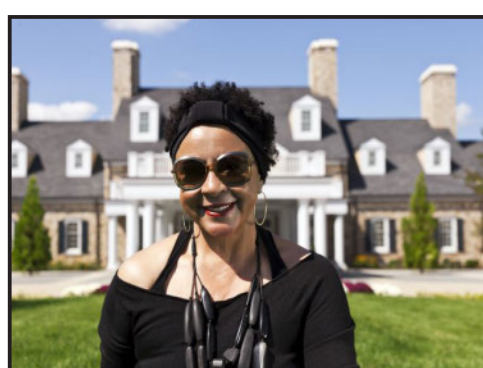


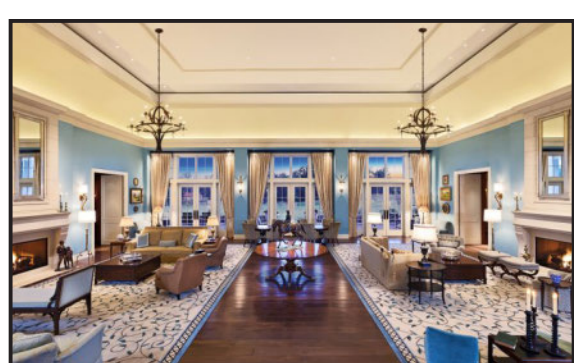


## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE SALAMANDER RESORT & SPA

We recently spent a weekend at the Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, and what a unique and enjoyable experience it was. Salamander exudes hospitality, and from the time you walk through the front door, you feel welcome! The resort is impressive in itself, but the staff is over the top, taking their cue from Salamander owner Sheila Johnson, whom we were surprised and delighted to meet shortly upon our arrival.



*Sheila Johnson, Owner*



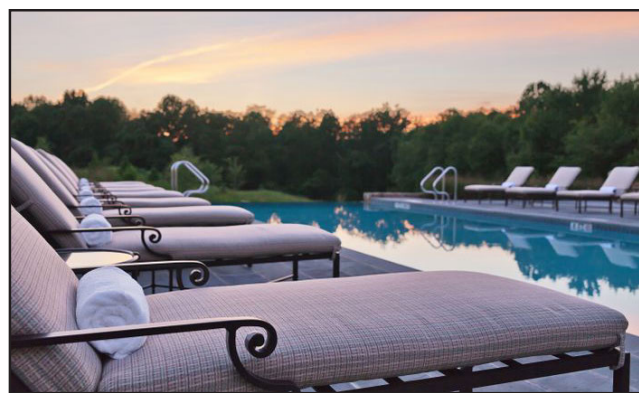
At the registration desk, we were offered a glass of wine from one of the area wineries. A perfect beginning! We had arrived at a time when a number of other guests were checking in, so Gemma Brown, Rooms Director, suggested we move to the adjoining “living room” to relax and enjoy our wine. There we struck up a conversation with Ms. Johnson, the dynamo businesswoman who is “hands on” at the resort and, like the staff, anxious that you enjoy your experience. A lovely lady, she is obviously committed to Salamander’s success.

Our accommodations were spacious and in keeping with the equestrian décor that is prevalent throughout. The private balcony had expansive views of the countryside. The resort has miles of walking and biking trails and nature based activities, like the unique Tree Top Zip Tour that was to open two weeks after our visit.



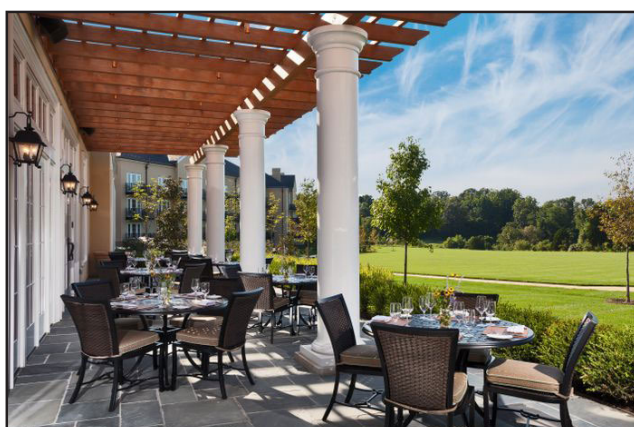
Comprised of a series of rope bridges and zip lines, the Tour offers a bird’s eye view of the countryside surrounding Middleburg.

Within the resort is a deluxe spa with one-of-a-kind features, including a secluded courtyard and infinity pool.



We did not take time for the spa experience but plan to return another time to “rejuvenate and restore body, mind and soul” as described in the spa’s brochure. There also is an outdoor pool, putting green and tennis courts.

Harriman’s Grill is a spacious restaurant that includes an outdoor dining terrace overlooking the Grand Lawn. The menu features Piedmont-influenced cuisine, with sustainable produce coming from a two-acre culinary garden. We enjoyed our dining experience that included a fabulous dinner and breakfasts on the outdoor terrace. The restaurant staff was exceptional from Chef Chris Edwards to our server Nelson. We met Jason Cotton, who had just come on board as the Food and Beverage Manager. He was extremely knowledgeable about Salamander and enthusiastic about his new role there.



Other features include the Billiard Room with its full-sized table and three large screen televisions. The 2,500 book



Sundiun Library has a cozy fireplace and offers visitors a selection of board games. The Middleburg Ballroom is luxurious and happened to be the setting for the Middleburg Hunt Ball on the Saturday of our visit. Also, the Salamander Equestrian Program includes a 22-stall barn, riding arena, miles of trails and instructional classes.

As we walked through Salamander we were struck by the extensive and impressive art collection, particularly paintings and sculptures with equestrian themes. Sheila Johnson is a seasoned photographer and much of her work graces the walls of areas throughout the resort.

Most of our time was spent away from our room as we were either exploring Salamander or the area around Middleburg. This is Virginia wine country where some 50 wineries are within a 60 minute drive. We had great visits at three wineries producing some of the state’s finest wines: Boxwood Winery, Greenhill Winery and Corcoran Vineyards. (See We Were There.) The historic Town of Middleburg is an interesting place to walk around and browse the shops. We had a delightful dinner at The French Hound, a French inspired bistro right downtown.



All in all, we had a wonderful weekend and can’t say enough about good things about our stay at Salamander. We highly recommend it and hope you will visit soon.

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