

HarbourView Inn is Aptly Named

Peace and Quiet Amidst Charleston's Bustle

Over the last four years Charleston has been a regular destination for James Knight who appears as a guest speaker and simply "enjoys this wonderful city." He was overjoyed to find the **HarbourView Inn**.

There's noise, there's bustle and there's 24-hour activity all within a few hundred yards of Charleston's new HarbourView Inn. Yet once inside the doors of this three-year-old hotel you'd think you were in a sleepy seaside town. Perched above the street, the main reception has a small lounge area and huge windows that let in the light, give a magnificent view of the harbor and keep out the noise. When you've traveled the world and seen the worst hotels, endured broken promises about rooms, locations and sea views, HarbourView is a welcome respite.

Finding the right hotel—one you feel comfortable in—is not always easy, so when you book yourself in remotely, and sight-unseen, you always arrive with a little trepidation (ocean view often means you can see a tiny portion of it if you stand on tip toe on the toilet seat). But the HarbourView Inn is a hotel you'll always come back to; looking across the Water Gardens, the piers and the harbor that's as big as a bay, is too relaxing by half. You feel as though you never want to go outside to sample Charleston's many delights (or, unfortunately, work, if you have to).

The HarbourView Inn is a modern hotel with an old world feel. The lobby decoration is reminiscent of the city's early years as a nautical trading hub with the Caribbean colonies. Fine antiques and collectibles, reflecting the British influence found throughout Charleston, populate all areas of the hotel, while much of the furniture is modern and colorful. There are cane chairs in the reception area where you can sit and let time slip by, enjoying the wine and cheese available at 5 pm every afternoon, or a hot cookie and milk at 9 pm, just before retiring. After a quiet, restful night you'll be ready for sightseeing the next day, or for any conferences you may be attending.

Guest rooms are large and superbly decorated with warm wood tones and the traditional Charleston four-poster beds covered with Matelassé bedding. Some rooms boast Charleston brick and plantation shutters; all have luxurious European tiled bathrooms, some-



Historic Charleston's premier waterfront inn.



Cool, elegant bedrooms.

rooms, including king suites, in a contemporary setting, with antique touches that make it feel more like home than a hotel.

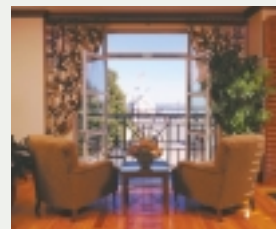
The HarbourView Inn is convenient to many of Charleston's restaurants, shops, and attractions. Immediately opposite the hotel you can look for spirits and specters on one of the Ghost Tours that depart twice nightly. There's also a rooftop garden where you can enjoy a quiet drink on those balmy summer nights for which Charleston is famous.

The hotel has already earned many awards, among them the coveted AAA Four Diamond Rating, "a true compliment and acknowledgement of the outstanding commitment we have to our guests and to our property," says Daniel R. Wilson, HarbourView Inn's general manager. Winning the 1998 People's Choice Merit Award for outstanding architectural design from the Charleston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) was another significant achievement. The AIA award was based on interior and exterior elements of the hotel's design and is awarded by a consensus of the local chapter of the AIA. Accommodations that

thing not often found in America. There are 52

meet the sophisticated traveler's needs have helped to place Charleston as number three in the top USA cities to visit (Condé Nast traveler's 12th Annual Readers' Choice Awards) and fifth in the top meeting-and-conference destinations.

HarbourView Inn has already established a regular domestic and international clientele, something many hotels take years to achieve. This early success has enabled the owners to plan a new hotel in the market area in October 2001. Traditional French in style, the French Quarter Inn has 1,000



One of the many wonderful views of the harbour.

sq. ft. of state-of-the-art meeting, boardroom and banquet space, with the same quality bedrooms as HarbourView. Both hotels have integral car parking.

Which is just as well, since they're certain to be very popular and very well frequented.

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James Knight is an international journalist, whose column appears in the London Chamber of Commerce's Business Matters.