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autumn in st. michaels, maryland

by Ivette Manners

Often referred to as the Hamptons of the Chesapeake Bay area, St. Michaels, Maryland, is a waterfront vacation spot that never fails to please. Its prime location along the Miles River has made it famous for seafood and sailing from spring through fall. Add to that a long list of entertainment options, plus a boom in celebrity visitors (it's rumored that Julia Roberts and Oprah are house-hunting in the area!), and St. Michaels is the perfect place for a fall getaway.

Stroll down **Talbot Street**, the village's main drag, and you'll pass an eclectic mix of trendy specialty and gift shops, award-winning restaurants and historic sites. Preserved Colonial and Victorian homes and inns, which dot the quaint streets, add to the town's charm. Biking and kayaking are favorite pastimes here, and the fall foliage makes a brilliant backdrop for a ride or row.

Autumn events add to the area's appeal. The town's **Fall into St. Michaels festival** (October 26-28) features a costume parade, a pumpkin pie contest and car shows. And the **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's Oysterfest**, held on November 3, is one of the most popular annual events in the entire state. The celebration, honoring the bay's oyster, includes cooking demonstrations, live music by local bands and boat rides. While at the museum, be sure to explore the **Hooper Strait Lighthouse** and the **Point Lookout Tower**.

St. Michaels is also a place to pamper yourself. Enjoy a luxurious treatment at the **Five Gables Inn's** Aveda concept spa, or check out the **St. Michaels Harbour Inn Marina & Spa**. Afterward, you can indulge at a number of fine waterside restaurants, but don't miss the stellar menu at **Town Dock Restaurant**. Then splurge on a room at **The Inn at**

Perry Cabin, a favorite among celebrities, including Sarah Jessica Parker and Vince Vaughn.

Ten miles east of St. Michaels you'll find the town of **Easton**, known for its fine dining, art galleries and fabulous antiques. Easton is considered to be one of the best small towns in America, but it's not too humble to go unnoticed by Hollywood. The famed **Avalon Theatre** has hosted a number of major movie premieres, including the smash hit *Wedding Crashers*, which was filmed mostly at The Inn at Perry Cabin in St. Michaels.

Expect a fine epicurean experience during your stay in Easton. Be sure to dine at the **Tidewater Inn**, which is also a great place to stay during a family sojourn or a girls' getaway. For a romantic escape, book a room at the new **Inn at 202 Dover**, which is housed in a renovated 1874 home, and boasts five uniquely decorated suites filled with antiques collected from around the world.

For more information, call 410-770-8000 or visit tourtalbot.org



The Inn at
Perry Cabin
in St. Michaels.