

Weekend **J**in St. Jacobs

It was during a summer party when my friend Paulette said, "I'd really like to go to St. Jacobs on our next Ya-Ya trip." Next thing you know, our day timers were out and we were picking the next free weekend.

The day finally arrived. Anita picked me up, all charged up, coffee in hand and stereo already loaded with all our favourite music. We met up with Paulette who was also pretty

hyped up from the excitement of us being together again for a weekend (or maybe it was the coffee she drank on the way.)

Our first stop in St. Jacobs was the market. The smells (some good, some not so good) and noise of the farmers market are what amaze me. I couldn't tell you how many booths we stopped at, chatting with the friendliest, hard working vendors. We loved their stories and were more than happy to open our wallets

to purchase their goods. The Ya-Yas share an Italian charm bracelet and each time one of us has it, we buy a new charm. So we were particularly thrilled to find the Italian Charm booth where we promptly purchased three charms to add to the bracelet.

We spent more time shopping in the village, browsing and people watching downtown. One of the funniest moments of the day was visiting a shop that had a wall of the funniest greeting cards we'd ever laid eyes on. I was afraid we might get kicked out for making a scene (maybe we were punchy from having been up so early, or maybe the cards were just really funny.) We each purchased a few cards and left the store for the next group to enjoy.


By the time we checked into the Village Bed & Breakfast, we were ready to sit and relax and just put our feet up. We were greeted by our hostess and shown to our rooms. The B&B was quaint and tidy and one of the nicest surprises was meeting a couple, Albert and Elfie, from Germany.

They couldn't believe the size of Ontario and the lengthy drives between their destinations. We were greatly amused by this; we exchanged e-mails and they invited us to visit them some time. Who knows – maybe I'll be writing about a holiday in Germany next time?

After a couple hours of relaxing, sipping some lovely Shiraz and just catching up on all the news, we decided it was time to head out for dinner. We made reservations at Benjamin's and were anticipating a great meal. We were greeted by a wonderful server named Theresa who took our beverage order (yes, more Shiraz.) While waiting for our drinks, we decided to share the calamari as an appetizer and then we'd each get an entrée. We weren't disappointed with our choices and enjoyed our meals right down to the last bite. Chef Jess did a fine job with presentation and taste – five stars from me.

The next morning, we spent a few more hours shopping at the market; we visited the Italian charms booth and we started another bracelet so now we have two in circulation. With a few bucks left in our wallets, we decided to try the Crêperie Lady and discovered the crêpes were as good as Mom's – delicious!

During our weekend in St. Jacobs we learned that there are over 85 shops as well as galleries and museums – more than enough to keep the avid shopper busy. The farmers market is also a shopper's dream. It's only three kilometres from the village.

After all these years of travelling together, I'm still amazed that there are seldom any moments of silence, and we never run out of stories to tell each other. So until our next trip, we hug goodbye. 



BY ANNE-MARIE BACON