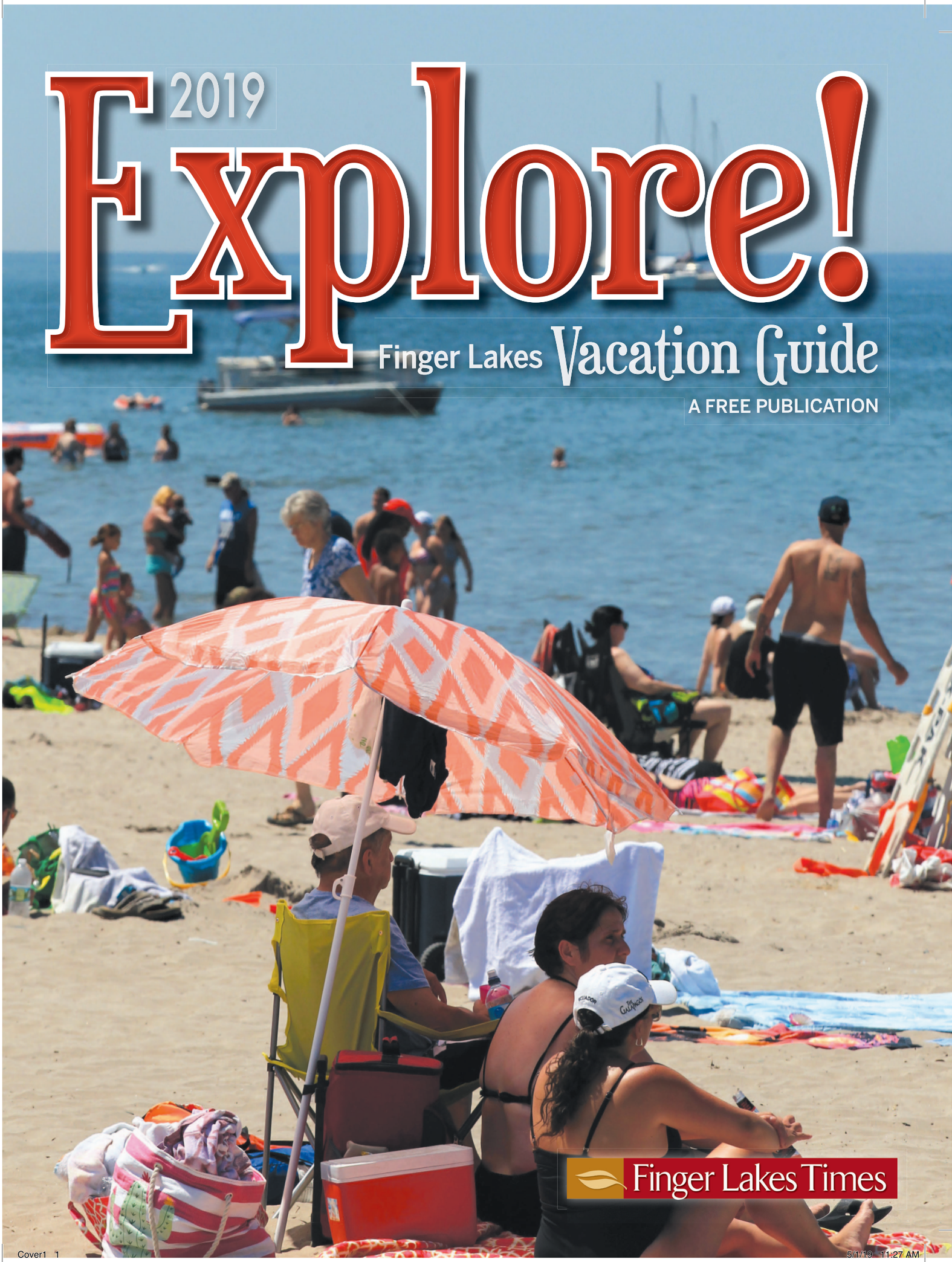

2019 Explore!

Finger Lakes Vacation Guide

A FREE PUBLICATION

Finger Lakes Times

Naples B&B, Another World, is to its owners *and* its guests HEAVEN

Photos BY SPENCER TULIS
Finger Lakes Times

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NAPLES — Martina Wismer is from Germany. Her husband, David, is from Canada. Carol Mather and her husband, John, are from England.

Today, they are at home in the Finger Lakes.

The two couples are the new owners of Another World Bed and Breakfast on French Hill Road. They purchased it from the original owner March 17, 2018, moved in June 13, and welcomed their first guests just one week later.

The Wismers and Mathers met in Atlanta, where they lived for 25 and 13 years, respectively, before moving to Naples. Carol and Martina became friends in a local knitting group.

It was Carol's dream to own a bed-and-breakfast. When she and John decided to sell their house, he suggested they look for a B&B in New York, because he frequently travels to the state capital for work.

Searching the real estate listings, Carol found several inns for sale — one outside Albany, and others in Cooperstown, Penn Yan and Canandaigua. The Naples listing stood out from the rest because it had a video.

"I must have watched that video 600 times," Carol said. "As soon as the music came on, John would say to me, 'Are you looking at that bed

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HEAVEN

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and breakfast again?'"

When Carol showed the pictures of the house to David — who is skilled in construction and electrical work — he jokingly asked if she wanted a handyman. Carol said sure, and David then spoke with Martina about joining the venture. She said yes.

"I never thought in a million years that Martina would do it because she's got her daughter and granddaughter in Atlanta, and she's lived there for so long," Carol recalled.

But Martina was tired of the three-hour daily commute to her job in the city, and was ready for a change of pace.

"Our dream was to retire, buy a camper and travel the U.S.," said Martina. "But here we are."

A welcoming home away from home

Ultimately, the house's excellent condition, and the beauty and bounty of the Finger Lakes, sold the four friends on the purchase.

"A big reason we picked this area is for our health," said David. "Down in Georgia, we weren't eating right, we weren't exercising right. And here, we can hike in 20 acres of woods. And we like going to the local produce stores."

"The air is healthier and the food is healthier because you have better access to fresh food," added Martina. "And no traffic."

Another World Bed and Breakfast is nestled snuggly in the hilltops surrounding the Bristol Hills. It sits among some of the most stunning scenery in the Finger Lakes — sprawling vineyards, pastoral farmland, mighty shale cliffs and breathtaking lake views.

One guest referred to it as "heaven on the hill."

Its owners like to say it's in the middle of nowhere, but close to everything: Finger Lakes wineries, Bristol Mountain and Hunt Hollow ski resorts, Cumming Nature Center, Grimes Glen, Canandaigua Lake and events such as the annual Naples Grape Festival.

Another World is open year-round, including Thanksgiving and Christmas, a departure from the previous owner who operated it only part of the year.

It has four rooms, each with a private ensuite bathroom. The Pembrook, Serendipity and Lighthouse rooms are on the second floor, and the newly-renovated Garden View is located on the main level, with a separate entrance.

Rates range from $189 to $235 a night in the peak season, and $160 a night for all rooms in winter. Each one has a personal touch. The bedspreads and blankets were knitted by Martina and Carol, and the Lighthouse room is decorated with lighthouses collected by John's late father.

Personalized, friendly service

Guests are treated to everything they might expect at a B&B, including spa-quality robes and towels, complimentary Wi-Fi and of course, a hearty, homemade breakfast. Fresh eggs are delivered by a neighbor who raises chickens.

"Our breakfast is big and includes several courses," said Martina.

There's a spacious front porch for guests who want to sit and enjoy the view, and four kayaks and a two-person canoe for those who want to explore. There are plans to prepare snowshoe trails in the woods.

A cozy sunroom overlooks the back of the property — doused in snow during winter and brilliant colors in fall.

And then, there are the unexpected amenities.

The Wismers and Mathers are known to go above and beyond to make guests happy.

When one couple wanted to take a hot-air balloon ride, the B&B became a designated launch site for a local hot air balloon company, Liberty Balloon.

When some guests were upset that their new car got covered in mud after a day of driving mucky back roads, David surprised them by washing it.

It's that personalized approach to service that makes for a memorable stay, and encourages repeat visitors.

"I want people to feel comfortable and at home," said Carol. "At the end of the tour, I always say, 'We'd love you to come and have a glass of wine with us tonight by the fireplace. We'd like to get to know you, and we want you to get to know us.' And they all come."

Many of the B&B's five-star reviews on TripAdvisor mention that friendly hospitality.

A woman from New Jersey wrote, "We enjoyed sharing stories while drinking Finger Lakes wines and eating local cheeses with our hosts. [They] made us feel like their most important guests. Our three-night stay became the best part of our trip as we grew to become lifelong friends with these wonderful innkeepers."

Another guest commented, "We talked with

Another World Bed and Breakfast owners are (from right) Martina and David Wismer and Carol and John Mather.

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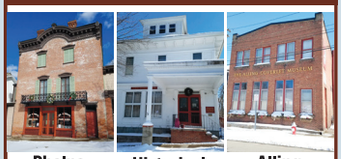

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our hosts for hours and swapped stories as we sipped wine and laughed the night away! I will be recommending this place to all of my friends and family… We arrived as strangers, but left with four new wonderful friendships!"

A place to stay

The average visitors to Another World are couples 40 and older. They've come from as far away as California, Texas and Tennessee. Most are from Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York — within a six-hour drive of Naples. Locals, who want to get away but not travel far, stay too.

As new owners of the B&B — and new residents of the region — the Wismers and Mathers have been busy raising awareness of their countryside retreat, and building relationships in the community.

Living in a big city was isolating, David said. They didn't know their neighbors in Atlanta, yet in Naples, they know every one of them.

"We've been up here less than a year now, and we know everybody on this street, and Martina and Carol know everybody in town," he said.

Carol said the first two years are typically the hardest for a B&B. But approaching their first anniversary at Another World in June, they are pleased with what they have done.

They are also happy to be residents of the Finger Lakes, and say there is no place they'd rather be.

Even compared to the sunny Bahamas and Tampa, Fla., where the Mathers once lived.

"Everywhere I've lived, it's always been in the back of my mind that we would go somewhere else," said Carol. "Then we got to Georgia, and we were there for 13 years. But I don't think I've ever felt as comfortable and happy as I do here. And I love the fact that it snows a lot."

Added David, "We're all well-traveled. And of every place we've seen, this place is the best."

"I still have to pinch myself that we live here," said Martina. "It's so breathtakingly beautiful."

Like living in another world.

Another World Bed & Breakfast

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Email: anotherworldbnb@frontier.com
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