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Our Stay in Anderson ~ Gaia Shasta Hotel & Spa ... Woodside Grill

By Eileen Majors

When you get the opportunity to head down off the mountain in the springtime, it is a good time to stay and enjoy all the signs of spring that seem to come so much earlier just an hour and a half from the Lake Almanor area.

We decided to take a short ride up Highway 5 to Anderson. After all, spring is also a great time to visit the Jolly Giant Flea Market in Anderson as we have not yet seen the long-awaited warm weather rush of yard sales in the mountains.

Having heard about a lovely “green hotel” on highway 5, I was anxious to see the place. We drove in, past a rather crowded parking lot, which we soon realized was due to the fabulous **Woodside Grill**, a restaurant and lounge located on the property.

We stopped in at the lobby to get our keys and headed back around to our room. The building was circular in shape and ground floor rooms each had a balcony. Ours overlooked the pond where swimming swans welcomed us from our sliding glass door. Natural fibers and a well-appointed design defined the room.

The grounds were already blooming with signs of spring. Beautiful herb gardens included fabulous, fragrant rosemary bushes, one of my favorites! I lingered to absorb the fresh aroma. We walked across the whimsical red bridge for dinner to be seated at the Woodside Grill. The cuisine features grilled steaks, chicken and fish with a varied selection of ‘comfort foods’.

They proudly feature locally grown and produced ingredients from farmers and ranchers in the area. They offer a varied selection of wines from the indigenous and spectacular vineyards of Shasta, Butte and Trinity Counties.

Our dinners were fabulous and the service was outstanding. Our dessert choices included Creme Brule, Mile-High Chocolate Cake, Woodside Cheesecake of Leatherby’s local creamery ice cream. Oh, the choices! We could see our swans beckoning us back to the room, out the window, across the pond glimmering with the evening lights. We took our cheesecake to go, for a seat on our patio. We rested extremely well among comfortable bedding of natural fibers and lovely views outside our door.

I would highly recommend a meal at the **Woodside Grill** and a stay in the environmentally innovative **Gaia Shasta Hotel & Spa**. They are located at 4125 Riverside Place in Anderson, CA and can be reached at **(530) 365-7077**. You can also visit them at their website: **gaiashasta.com**