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Best Kept Secret In Memphis

By **JOEL McNEECE**
Editor

The River Inn of Harbor Town may just be Memphis' best kept secret.

The small, luxury, boutique hotel sits aside the Mississippi River just five minutes north of Downtown Memphis.

My wife Lisa and I enjoyed its many amenities last weekend while celebrating our ninth wedding anniversary with a quick weekend get-away.

Harbor Town itself is a unique "neighborhood," which more resembles a small town with a view of the Downtown Memphis skyline. Harbor Town has its own grocery, cleaners, pizza parlor, fine dining, a retail shop or two and more. But the addition of The River Inn, which opened last October and its accompanying restaurant Currents, may be its biggest coup yet.

The design of the three story hotel, with rooms on both sides of the street, more resembles a European village or the small luxury hotels of New Orleans such as the St.

Marie and Royal Sonesta.

A unique feature is a small library nestled in the corner just as you exit the elevator on each floor. Two large comfortable chairs are quite inviting with a hot pot of coffee awaiting guests as well.

As soon as we opened the door to our room, we quickly noticed the beautiful view of the Mississippi River. A fresh bouquet of flowers for Lisa and a plate of chocolate covered strawberries made us feel quite at home.

The service throughout the hotel was impeccable, which continued into the fine dining restaurant Currents. Lisa and I both had grilled salmon, which I remarked was the best cooked piece of fish I believe I've ever eaten.

If The River Inn needed anymore selling points, it would be that it is a mere five minute drive to Downtown Memphis and the Orpheum, FedEx Forum, Beale Street, The Rendezvous, Auto Zone Park and Peabody Place.

After a delicious meal and a walk down Harbor Town's Main Street, we retreated to our room where we watched the final few minutes of the historic Memphis-Tennessee basketball game.

We found ourselves pulling for the home team since we



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called Memphis home for the night and felt the disappointment as the Volunteers pulled out the late victory.

But that couldn't dampen our spirits on this occasion. Lisa and I spent our honeymoon at The Peabody and have always maintained a love for the City of Memphis.

We've returned for past anniversaries to The Peabody and the superb Madison Hotel in Downtown.

The River Inn offers many of the same desired qualities, but with added peace and privacy, although still within the glow of the downtown lights.

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