



Claudia Austin-Prevost serves coffee, quiche and scones to guests on a Wednesday morning. The Buena Vista House Cafe and Lodging is open five days a week for breakfast or early lunch. Food is made from local, fresh ingredients by Austin-Prevost.

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Itemizer-ObsERVER

FIND YOURSELF AT BUENA VISTA HOUSE

Claudia Austin-Prevost creates country hide-away with secluded gardens, delicious meals

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

BUENA VISTA — Tucked away in the small town of Buena Vista lays a haven away from the everyday hustle and bustle.

Inside Buena Vista House Café and Lodging, guests are welcome for the morning or the weekend by Claudia Austin-Prevost, who has truly created a home away from home.

The café was opened in 1997 by Claudia and her husband, Dave, after they restored the 120-year-old home. Lodging was added in 2000.

The first five years, the couple didn't do much in

the way of advertising or spreading the word about the café and lodging.

"Typically, they were just lost," Claudia said. "They were so damn glad to see anything at that point, they would eat whatever I gave them."

Claudia is a master in the kitchen, using whole grain flours and buttermilk to create delicate scones, or seasonal produce in a delicious quiche.

Guests may enjoy breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday through Wednesday, but dinners are all by reservation. Claudia wants people to RSVP so they know exactly what they will get.

Also, it helps her cater to

someone's specific dietary needs, like people who prefer not to eat gluten or who are vegetarians.

Overnight guests are treated to Airlie wine and appetizers upon arrival, and espresso and pastries in the morning.

Claudia loves to make all her guests feel at home, regardless of how long they choose to stay in her little piece of home.

Claudia and David created a unique space in Polk County, something she said she enjoys — and she loves watching other people enjoy.

For more on the café and lodging, see Explore Polk County in the May 25 *Itemizer-ObsERVER*.



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A resident cat relaxes near the wood stove, which is used to create wood-fired pizza and other goodies. Claudia Austin-Prevost often collaborates with the Bread Board.



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The garden at Buena Vista House Cafe and Lodging is carefully maintained to provide fresh ingredients for owner Claudia Austin-Prevost's culinary creations.



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Butterscotch scones are made with whole grain flours, and are delightfully light in texture. Paired with fresh fruit and coffee, these scones are a perfect second breakfast.

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