



Hack-Ma-Tack Inn & Restaurant

8131 Beebe Road
Cheboygan, Mich. 49721
(231) 625-2919

www.hackmatackinn.com

Dinner: Daily starting at 5 p.m.
Open for the season through Oct. 13. Expensive. The restaurant is located on the banks of the Cheboygan River near the junction of M-27 and M-33.

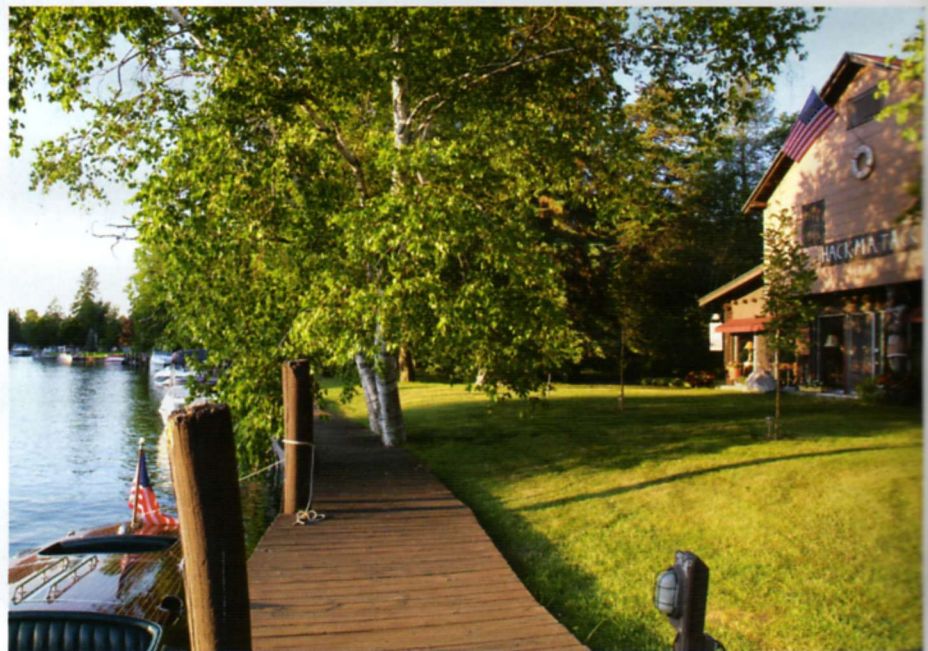
Pining for perfection

Float or drive to iconic Hack-Ma-Tack Inn, and take in the massive trees, rolling river and first-class cuisine. **BY PATTY LANOUE STEARNS**

AS WE DROVE THE pine-scented, sun-dappled country roads from Indian River to Cheboygan, heading to the fabled Hack-Ma-Tack Inn, I salivated. It's a pilgrimage I try to make every year, and just thinking of the last meal I devoured there had me geeked.

We strolled the manicured grounds when we arrived, admiring the long concrete dock spanning the Cheboygan River, then walked through the wooden, screened door of this charming, 113-year-old former hunting and fishing lodge. The cedar-and-tamarack log compound is rustic and cozy inside, replete with beamed ceilings, a couple of rowing sculls from Harvard and Old Town canoes mounted above, wood carvings from famed artist Morten Fadum (www.fadum.com), and even a larger-than-life, carved Indian near the Pow-Wow bar.

The Hack-Ma-Tack's long history began in 1894 with Detroit businessman Watson Beebe, who used a Native American hunting and fishing guide to design the spot on the 38-mile Inland Waterway near the mouth of Mullett Lake, right



where the daddy of all Michigan sturgeons — 193 pounds — was caught. Mike and Susan Redding bought the Hack-Ma-Tack in 1979, and son, Rob, a Ferris State restaurant and hotel management graduate, is poised to take over some day.

Every year he brings his friend, Danny Sanchez, up from Texas to be the bartender, while another pal, Scott Vieskie, does sommelier duty, putting together a list of about 100 wines from Michigan and around the world.

