

BLISSFUL B&B's

By Donna Dvorak

Looking for a romantic getaway to heat things up as the weather cools down? These luxurious bed and breakfasts can make you feel a world away, even though they are all within an hour's drive.



One doesn't have to travel the world to escape the grind of daily life. The Delaware Valley is filled with an abundance of Bed and Breakfast Inns that offer elegant rooms, lush grounds, and bountiful breakfasts. Take a weekend or overnight trip to unwind and return refreshed, right in your own backyard.

The Glasbern Inn, 2141 Pack House, Fogelsville, PA, (one hour from Philadelphia) fuses countryside elegance with rustic charm. The bucolic ambiance of seven buildings atop 200 Lehigh Valley acres, lush with gardens, includes private cottages and suites fit for a king. Guests have their choice of 35 rooms with romantic lace and floral appointments, or rustic accommodations boasting ceiling beams, brick fireplaces, stonewalls and whirlpool baths. Glasbern's restaurant (open to the public) uses fresh ingredients from its own organic farm to create Contemporary American cuisine. A potpourri of pastures, home to sheep, cattle, chickens and turkeys ensures the inn's commitment to the environment. "Having an organic farm supplying an on-site restaurant is rare. Here, you can not only taste the arugula the very day it is picked but also follow your meal by relaxing in upscale accommodations," explains owner Al Granger. Eggs, gathered fresh each day from free-range chickens, Belgian waffles with sweet maple syrup and fruit, and country potatoes, make this a culinary sensation. The inn retains its historic early 1800's character but has added modern conveniences. High speed Internet access is available in their business center with boardroom conference tables, as well as a modern fitness facility, spa and outdoor heated pool. If you're searching for a dream wedding facility, the picturesque scenery will provide a memorable affair. For more information, call (610) 285-4723 or visit www.glasbern.com.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE HAMANASSETT BED AND BREAKFAST AND CARRIAGE HOUSE

Trees flank the Hamanassett's cozy English cottage, the perfect respite for guests with children and dogs.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RARE BRICK

Glasbern's acclaimed restaurant uses fresh ingredients from its own organic farm to create its Contemporary American cuisine served by candlelight in a stunning barn nearly two centuries old.

The Hamanassett Bed and Breakfast and Carriage House, 115 Indian Springs Drive, Chester Heights, PA, a 19th Century Federal-style mansion nestled in the Brandywine Valley, was voted the most romantic inn in North America by *Arrington's Inn Traveler* magazine.

"We offer romantic packages, sprinkle the bed with silk rose petals, showcase roses, chocolate truffles, and offer sparkling cider," says Ashley Mon, innkeeper, whose Southern charm is captivating. "I love to open the doors to the dining room and have guests stroll in. Our candlelight breakfast is served on linens, antique Limoge china, elegant crystal and silver. I refer to my inn as an English country home and guests sit on our front porch in rocking chairs."

Mon's hospitality is not just for lovers. Her penchant for England inspired her to label rooms after destinations from across the pond; the Windsor Room, Devon, Cotswold, Brighton, Cambridge, and the Inverness (Scottish).

"We cater to our guests and offer a concierge service," she says. "We make dinner reservations and offer all amenities including make-up mirrors, elegant triple sheet beds, ironed linens, and coffee pots in each room. We also have a carriage house decorated in English Cottage style that's great for our guests with children and dogs." For more information, call (610) 459-3000 or visit www.hamanassett.com.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE INN AT BOWMAN'S HILL

The Breakfast Room at The Inn at Bowman's Hill offers rustic ambiance for their guests.

The Inn at Bowman's Hill, 518 Lurgan Road, New Hope, PA, is the perfect respite. Extreme care and remarkable attention to detail is apparent at every turn. Six luxuriously appointed rooms and suites, all with fireplaces and king size featherbeds, are just the beginning. Add heated towel racks, heated whirlpool baths, flat screen TV's, fine linens, fresh flowers, verandas, views and more, and you begin to get the picture! Step outside and the canvas is complete—beautiful grounds, a vine terrace, swimming pool, orchid conservatory, koi pond and fountains! The breakfast menu, compiled with the help of chef consultant Andrew Little (www.chefandrewlittle.com) changes daily. Choices include a variety of gourmet dishes like a soufflé-style omelet or creamy scrambled egg on rosti potato with smoked salmon. A staple menu item is the 'Signature' breakfast - a full English breakfast that reflects the Innkeepers' British heritage with eggs any style, sausage, bacon, tomato, mushrooms, sautéed potatoes, fried bread and the ubiquitous baked beans. New owners/innkeepers Lynne and Mike Amery have been happily overwhelmed and somewhat humbled by the response. "Our guests remind us on a daily basis that we are offering something very special," says Lynne. Mike agrees. "The contrast between the frenetic pace of New Hope and the tranquil ambience of the Inn—so near and yet so far—never ceases to amaze!" For more information, call (215) 862-8090 or visit www.theinnatbowmanshill.com.

The Joseph Ambler Inn, 1005 Horsham Rd., North Wales, PA, contains five historic buildings that wrap the original inn with warmth and charm. Joseph Ambler, a wheelwright, built the original fieldstone house in 1734. Now fifty-two beguiling guest rooms boast irresistible character. "A hot country breakfast is included in overnight stays," says Keli Coleman, hotel manager. "It could be the chef's special for the day or our guests requests. Although breakfasts are only for guests, we offer public lunches from Monday through Friday, and dinner seven days a week. We suggest that people make reservations."

The inn is also the perfect spot for your wedding and offers a warm fireplace ceremony in the coolness of winter, or outside ceremony during the spring, summer or fall. Every detail is expertly handled with a consultant, and accommodations are perfect for your guests.

"Many people don't realize that we're right in their own backyard," says Coleman. "They can get away and enjoy the lovely room, exquisite breakfast, fabulous dinner and then have a massage in their room. We offer any spa service."

Their excellent cuisine and wine menu has made them a recipient of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence 2005 as well as recipient of the Culinary Conservation Award at the 2005 Philadelphia Zoo "Zoobilee" event. For more information, call (215) 362-7500 or visit www.josephamblerinn.com.