



Two Mansions: Two Fantasies Fulfilled

Two Pennsylvania Mansions Offer a Touch of Grace and History thanks to Jim and Donna Winner.

By Meghan Baker



Perched on a delicately landscaped hill as if transplanted directly from a fairytale, Buhl Mansion beckons the romantic in all of us with its stone façade, turreted towers and spectacular Victorian décor.

To think, just a few years ago the mansion was in a dilapidated state, on the cusp of demolition, until local farmer-turned-creator of the vehicle security phenomenon, the Club, rescued it. Innkeepers Jim and Donna Winner bought the property unseen to preserve the historical landmark in their home state.

The surrounding gardens, carriage house, regal parlor, fireplaces and timeless sense of luxury embrace you as soon as you pull up in the driveway.

"I think the true luxury and romance of the building is the pampering of the staff. We have staff available 24 hours a day from the minute a guest arrives and we give them a glass of champagne," General Manager Laura Ackley described. "The facility is spectacular, but it's the

service that really sets us apart." Their getaway packages and wedding specials also include their in-house full-service spa with over 100 different treatments.

The biggest seller for weddings and special events is the "Castle for a Day" package. For your special wedding wishes you can rent all ten rooms of the inn for seclusion and privacy. "This gives the couple complete exclusive use of the inn and staff. Not one soul is allowed on the property that isn't part of the celebration. It ends up being like a giant pajama party for the wedding party after the ceremony," Laura laughed.

The mansion is perfect for celebrating life's milestones. "Honeymoons, anniversaries, birthdays, the last chance you have to get away before having a baby! It's all about giving the couple an opportunity to really focus on each other and forget the cares of the world."

Sharon, PA
866-345-BUHL (2845)
www.BuhlMansion.com



A mere six miles down the road from the spectacular Buhl Mansion is Tara – A Country Inn. Not to be outdone by its sister property, Tara is a sprawling mansion built in 1854 and lovingly cared for. The once federal-style red brick farmhouse evolved into a whitewashed, pillared, plantation-looking home after a grandson of the original owner fell in love with southern hospitality.

Jim and Donna Winner purchased the landmark in 1984, built two additions and have transformed the mansion into a tribute to the civil war era.

The 27-room inn has incorporated 'Gone With The Wind' memorabilia in their packages and décor. "There are a number of memorabilia pieces from the movie. We have Vivian Leigh's bed jacket from a honeymoon scene and Clark Gable's dressing gown. We also have Vivian Leigh's personal collection of photos she took on set," Director of Marketing, Laura Ackley described. For the swooning belles in all of us, there are some hand written letters from Clark Gable on display and the inn boasts one of the largest Civil War gun collections in the country. Even the staff dress in hoop gowns as they greet and meet your needs. The inn's two dining choices range from Ashley's Gourmet dining room that includes a seven-course meal with white-gloved service, to the more casual Stonewall's Tavern.

Not to be missed are the acres of gardens undulating throughout the property overlooking Shenango Lake. The mansion is a spectacular setting for outdoor weddings and other pivotal events.

With acres of stunning property surrounding the impressive estate, a Gone With The Wind-themed package choice, an outdoor heated pool and complimentary bicycles to explore with, Tara is resolved to give you the complete getaway experience with a delightful touch of fantasy. "It is all about being there for our guests," Laura said.

Clark, PA
www.tara-inn.com
800-782-2803

