

Memorable Weddings at The Three Stallion Inn

by Charles Sutton

The perfect place for a wedding in Vermont may just be a country inn that can give privacy to the bride and groom yet offers lots of vacation activities for the bridal party and guests.

Such a place is the The Three Stallion Inn located in central Vermont with its own 18-hole golf course, miles of hiking, biking or horse-back riding trails, river-run activities, and unusually delicious food.

Delicious food prepared on premises

This Inn is also fortunate in having its own in-house caterer, Willy Walker of Travelin' Willy B's, known in the area for his delightful combinations of foods from traditional to ethnic. He and his partner Beth Umba have been catering hundreds of weddings ever since they met at The Three Stallion Inn in the early 1990s. They were on their own for a number of years, returning to the Inn this past winter to manage the restaurant and tavern.

One wedding they won't be catering will be their own this August as a friend will prepare the banquet with a Caribbean theme.

Willy said most of the wedding parties today stay with traditional meals of chicken, seafood, beef and vegetarian. These are prepared in a variety of gourmet ways: mango marinated salmon, lemon basil swordfish; sirloin tournedos or steak Diane; and chicken Marsala, Picatta, Dijonese among others. The banquet menu also could be a BBQ, clambake, Mexican fiesta, or Hawaiian Luau.

Willy likes baking wedding cakes and offers the bride and groom the "cake of their dreams." Among special cakes he has made for this momentous occasion were a tower of donuts with frosting in between, and one cake with a tire kicking up mud!

Help with all the arrangements

The Inn will make arrangements for all the incidentals including housing, flowers, transport, music, and a minister or pastor, and helping with any unforeseen problems.

The wedding party usually visits the Inn ahead of time to check out the facilities and to pick a site if they are to be married there. Many want to be married between two large maple trees bordering a horse paddock on the north side of the Inn.

Vermont is one of the most popular states in the country for weddings. More than a third of the marriages here are with out-of-staters who come back to Vermont to get married, having fallen in love with the state on skiing or vacation trips or having gone to school or college here.

Inn manager Charri Robinson recalls one such couple who were staying at the Inn for the Fourth of July weekend, whose car broke down with no garage open to fix it. The innkeeper shopped around and found someone to repair their car. The couple returned in the fall and got married at the Inn.

Three Stallion Inn owners Sam and Jinny Sammis's daughter Suzanne was married at the Inn to Jim Cabot in the late 1990s. Sammis recalls the bride, groom and entire wedding party came from "Stoneleigh", their home nearby to the Inn, in a large horse-drawn wagon.

Being in rural Vermont it is not uncommon for the bride and groom to arrive or leave in a horse and carriage. The Inn uses Karen J. Munson of Westford, VT, who provides a Victorian wedding carriage drawn either by a Morgan horse or a team of beautiful Percheron draft horses.

Accommodations for large or small weddings

For accommodations the Inn has seven private rooms with views that include the golf course, horse paddock, side or backyard gardens. Rates run from \$125-\$160 a night plus tax. The nearby Morgan House offers seven luxurious rooms, one of them pet friendly, ranging from \$98 to \$150 a night plus tax. All rooms have 32-inch flat screen TV's, wireless internet and air conditioning. There are steam showers, a hot tub, fitness center and outdoor swimming pool. The Inn also has stalls and facilities for boarding one's own horses.



Brendan Driscoll and Christa (White) Driscoll exchange vows in their wedding at the Three Stallion Inn.

Jody Miller Photography

Bluewater Floral in Randolph Center run by Sandy Malanchuk does the wedding flower arrangements.

If the wedding party is large enough to require additional housing, Inn manager Robinson said the Inn can find up to 300 places to stay in nearby inns, hotels, and bed & breakfast accommodations.

Families who gather for the wedding sometimes enjoy staying on for a few more days, or longer, to relax and enjoy all the state has to offer.

A time to relax and renew

The Three Stallion Inn is centrally located for exploring any part of Vermont. Nearby is Woodstock with Billings Farm & Museum and the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller

National Historic Park. Less than a 30-minute drive is Dartmouth College with the Hood Museum of Art and world-class entertainment at the Hopkins Center. The State capitol is just to the north and the Appalachian/Long Trail transverses Vermont nearby. The Inn itself is situated on 1300 acres with trails for hiking and mountain biking. And in addition to their own golf course, there are a number of excellent courses in the area.

The Inn Manager can help you with all the great things there are to see and do, making your stay one to remember.

The Three Stallion Inn is located at 655 Stock Farm Rd, in Randolph, VT. For information about a wedding or vacation lodging call (802) 728-5575. Visit threestallioninn.com.



The Three Stallion Inn, Randolph, VT.



Jody Miller Photography
Celebrating under the tent.