

Love is a fabulous feeling that is easy to achieve but often takes extra effort to sustain. An occasional getaway holiday to a romantic bed and breakfast helps keep the sentiment alive. In our state, fortunately, there are many such retreats, and a few even imply the tug of love in

their names. A Bed of Roses, Harmony House Inn, and The Forever Inn — it's easy to get a romantic sense for these destinations even before seeing them, but their names are just mere hints of the delightful experiences that await couples who are looking for love in all the right places.

A Bed of Roses

And I will make thee beds of roses,
And a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flower, and a kirtle
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle.”

These romantic sentiments written by Christopher Marlowe in 1599 are still alive and well at A Bed of Roses in Asheville.

In a sense, Chris and Janis Ortwein spent 24 years searching for their own bed of roses. They collected antiques together and dreamed of owning an antique shop or perhaps even a bed and breakfast in the right location. The

Colorado natives were drawn to Asheville and soon discovered A Bed of Roses, a delightful bed and breakfast that had been converted in 1996 from a two-story 1897 Queen Anne-style residence.

In what could be described as a whirlwind courtship, the Ortweins became owners of the inn just weeks after finding it in Asheville's historic Montford District. Their antique furnishings soon graced the rooms, and more renovations were made in 2002 with the addition of cozy fireplaces and double whirlpools to the rooms.

A Bed of Roses has a bevy of beautiful guest rooms — five in all, and each has its own individual character. This ranges from the warm tones of the Revell Room with its high-backed, German-made queen-size bed to the cozy Oliver Davis Room that has a private staircase to the Wilkenson Room, which is adorned with a canopied, white iron queen bed.

The Carolyn Gray Room on the ground floor is enhanced by the colorful combination of burgundy and gold-tone furnishings offset by rich green walls. Another elegant addition is a whirlpool for two that is enclosed under a mirrored archway.

And then there's the Turret Suite. Chris Ortwein rates this as his favorite guest room. “It is the largest room and has a tall, octagon ceiling,” he says. “It's really a suite with a balcony.”

The Turret Suite faces the quiet, tree-lined streets of the Montford Historic District.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN MORRIS

Indeed, this spacious retreat spans the entire front of the inn on the second floor. And the balcony offers privacy while enabling guests to enjoy the fresh, invigorating outdoor air of North Carolina's mountains.

Tasty temptations await guests in the morning as the Ortweins make sure that breakfast, the most important meal of the day, is also the most memorable one. “Our breakfasts begin with a fruit dish followed by the main entrée,” says Chris Ortwein, adding that a typical entrée may be a Southwestern omelette or honey-glazed pecan French toast.

A Bed of Roses is a setting made for love, but the Ortweins like to give Cupid a little more ammunition with their Special Occasion Package, which additionally treats guests with a floral bouquet, chocolate truffles, and a sparkling beverage. A step up from this package is their two-night Romantic Retreat Special that includes a floral bouquet, chocolate truffles, tea, and fresh-baked sweets daily along with two tickets to the Biltmore Estate and Winery, and dinner at a local restaurant.

Some say that life is not always a bed of roses; at this special bed and breakfast in Asheville, however, it is.

A Bed of Roses
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