

Berry Manor Inn

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Your hosts: Cheryl Michaelsen, Mike LaPosta and family

General Description: Once the stately home for one of Rockland’s most prominent merchants, today, Berry Manor Inn is among Maine’s most romantic B&B inns and was recently named one of the top ten best B&Bs and inns in the US by TripAdvisor.com and bedandbreakfast.com. Down East Magazine calls it “The Wow House.” Renowned for its room amenities, grand hospitality with a Victorian flair, real Maine comfort (only salt air here!) and a very unusual collection of toy hamsters, the Berry Manor Inn offers the ideal mid-coast location for exploring Maine’s arts, heritage and sights. The Berry Manor Inn offers a host of amenities for everyone from those seeking a romantic getaway to travelers in search of business amenities including complimentary high-speed internet access, flat screen televisions with DVD players, iPod docking stations, guest computer and printer work station, in-room phones and flexible breakfast schedules. The Berry Manor Inn has been certified by the state of Maine as an environmental leader in the hospitality industry.

Guest Rooms, Amenities and rates: There are twelve spacious and uncluttered guest rooms – eight in the main inn (four each on 2nd and 3rd floors), and four in the Carriage House (all 2nd floor rooms). Two of the Carriage House rooms can be converted to a two room/two bath suite. All twelve guest rooms have private en-suite luxury baths, air conditioning, working fireplaces and individual heat controls. Eight rooms offer whirlpool baths (four are oversized two-person baths) and four rooms offer custom two-person walk-in, multi-jet showers for the vertical whirlpool experience.

Each of the twelve guest rooms is uniquely decorated in the warm, rich colors of the Victorian palette and furnished with a blend of antique and period reproductions. Great care has been taken to preserve the features of this grand mansion, including the display of the original wallpaper in some rooms. Each guest room offers a telephone, wireless or cabled high-speed internet access, flat screen television with DVD player, working fireplace, in-room individual controls for air-conditioning and heat, irons/ironing boards, clock radio, hair dryer and warm, plush robes. A lovely collection of signature soaps and shampoos is offered in each room. Each night, staff turn down beds, leave chocolates on the pillows, and set the radio to soft classical music to welcome you home to your room.

In the quiet season, (mid-October through May) room rates range from \$125 (double occupancy) for some 3rd floor rooms with queen beds and private baths featuring claw tubs to \$205 for luxury rooms featuring king beds, sitting areas, double whirlpools and multi-jetted showers. During the summer season, (June through mid-October) the same rooms range from \$160 to \$310 per night. Online booking is available.

Common Rooms: Guests are welcome to enjoy the inn's many common rooms including the drawing room, the formal parlor, a quiet and fully stocked second-floor library with books and DVDs, the front porch, and the 24 hour complimentary guest pantry complete with refrigerator, microwave, complimentary juice, soda, teas, coffee and freshly baked homemade pies and ice cream. The pies are a signature item at the inn made famous by the Berry Manor Inn Pie Moms featured on the Food Network, Discovery Channel and Travel Channel! Guests of the Carriage House also have use of their own living room, complete with a fully-stocked refrigerator, pantry and pies.

Breakfast and other goodies: Guests should arrive to breakfast hungry, as the wonderful fare begins at 7:00am with fresh coffee in the 2nd floor library and Carriage House pantry. Breakfast is served at individual tables between 8:00 and 9:30am in the elegantly appointed dining room, and features a multi-course meal including a choice of juice, fruit, pastries and an entrée. Entrées alternate between sweet and savory dishes, including lemon blueberry pancakes, raspberry stuffed French toast, baked eggs with spinach and artichoke, and even the famous lobster egg casserole, served during the world-famous Lobster Festival.

History: Built in 1898 with all the grandeur of the Victorian age as a wedding gift for his new bride, this shingle-styled mansion was originally the residence of Charles H. Berry, a prominent local merchant and nephew of Civil War General, Hiram Berry. It was a center of grand and gracious hospitality for more than a century, first as the primary residence of four generations of the Berry family, then in the hands of another local family for fifty years. Present owners, Cheryl Michaelsen and her husband Michael LaPosta bought the inn 100 years after it was built, attracted by its bold, symmetrical design and potential. In 90 contractor days, they converted the inn from a private residence to an elegant bed and breakfast inn. All renovation work met the standards imposed by the Department of the Interior to ensure the original architectural features of the property were both maintained and preserved. The property is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. A complete history of the inn may be requested.

Accessibility, pets, smoking: While all ages are welcome, the inn caters to adults. There is a cat in the innkeepers' residence. Guests traveling with pets are encouraged to board cats and dogs at nearby facilities. All guest rooms must be accessed by stairways. Emergency horns and strobes for hearing or seeing impaired are found in every room.

The inn is completely non-smoking and has a full sprinkler system in place. The inn is also licensed and inspected annually by the City of Rockland and inspected by AAA and Select Registry.

Unique Features: Berry Manor Inn is renowned for the following unique features:

- **The only AAA four-diamond rated Historic Bed and Breakfast inn** in Maine and one of eighteen properties in all of the state to achieve this rating based on superior facilities, guest amenities and concierge services.
- **A family affair plus**– While Cheryl and Mike are the primary innkeepers, both Moms bake pies for guests when they are in residence. The “family” has been extended to add assistant innkeepers and housekeepers to make sure all guests' needs are met.
- **Frivolity within elegance** – There is no doubt that the Berry Manor Inn is among Rockland's most elegant inns. What makes it special is light-hearted frivolity which highlights every guest's stay. The inn pride's itself on providing comfortable and elegant surroundings to pamper their guests without any pretentious airs! A fabulous collection of dancing hamster toys is on display and

offered for just about any special occasion a guest could be celebrating. If you're lucky, you may even be treated to Cheryl's mother's bird calls, which defy words and must be seen (and heard) to be appreciated. During Lobster Festival, both innkeepers and guests alike don lobster hats, and guests dine on red lobster-shaped pancakes and lobster eggs.

- **Business traveler amenities** – Berry Manor Inn offers everything that any corporate traveler might need, and it's all complimentary – in-room phones with free local calls, free high speed internet access – both cabled and wireless, flexible breakfast hours for early travel, use of the fax machine and copier, a computer for guest use, concierge services and assistance with transportation needs.

Directions: From Portland, ME: Take I-95 to Rt. 295 North (Exit 44). Follow to Exit 28, Bath/Brunswick Coastal Rt. 1 and follow approximately 55 miles into Rockland. Take a left at the first traffic light onto Broadway (Route 1A). Go straight through the next traffic light, and continue for 4 more streets. Turn right on Talbot Ave, and Berry Manor Inn is the second building on the left.