



New Hope's 1870 Wedgwood Inn

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THINKING ABOUT OWNING REAL ESTATE IN NEW HOPE?

Carl Glassman, your Innkeeper-Proprietor at 1870 Wedgwood Collection of Inns has been a licensed Realtor in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania since 1979. Since opening the Wedgwood Inns in 1982, he has assisted scores of houseguests in becoming full-time as well as part-time residents of the greater New Hope, Bucks County area.

Of course, many more guests prefer the pampering they receive as a guest at our Inns. Several spacious suites and especially our separate Carriage House have luxury amenities, as well as kitchenettes which make them ideal for extended vacation or executive relocation.

For those still considering purchasing or renting, consider this recent New York Times piece, titled; "The Tyranny of a 2nd Home" by Tracie Rozhon.

In his book "Acres and Pains," the noted playwright S.J. Perelman recalled his notion of becoming a county squire in Bucks County "with nothing but a high heart, a flask of citronella and a fork for toasting marshmallows." But after 15 years of part-time rustication, he ended up with "a superb library of mortgages, mostly first editions, and the finest case of sacroiliac known to medicine."

Had Perelman actually had some probing conversations with people who already owned weekend houses, he might have been forewarned....

Many other members of the famed "Algonquin Roundtable" drove their Pierce-Arrows into New Hope, rolling into town from Lambertville under the green iron arches of the New Hope-Lambertville Free Bridge. The cream-colored cars, their silver trim glaring in the sun, bring Oscar Hammerstein, Dorothy Parker, George Kaufman, the Marx Brothers and others. They motor down from Manhattan, less than ninety minutes away, for a week of composing, cracking wise, and tearing up historic inns.

This is New Hope in the 1930s and 40s. Artists found its streams and rolling hills and native fieldstone farmhouses a bucolic refuge from the city. And what they started continues today. New Artists, new writers and new performers come here to work. And live.

One such person who liked it here so much was Moss Hart and his wife, Kitty Carlisle. They owned a magnificent estate with stone manor house at New Hope's edge. When temperamental theatre critic Alexander Woollcott came to dinner in New Hope, even the china in the cupboards trembled.

"He wanted dinner at 10, at 6 at 8," recalls Kitty Carlisle Hart, describing a weekend Woollcott spent at the New Hope home of her late husband, world renowned playwright Moss Hart. "If someone wanted the windows closed, Woollcott wanted them opened. He was a dreadful guest. When he left, he wrote us a note: 'This is the worst weekend I ever spent.'"

But the exasperating weekend became an enduring comedy. After Woollcott left, Carlisle Hart says, her husband commiserated with collaborator George S. Kaufman. What would happen, Hart wondered, if someone like Woollcott broke a leg and had to prolong his visit to your country home?

"The two men looked at each other," Carlisle Hart says, "and 'The Man Who Came For Dinner' was born." Woollcott became Sheridan Whiteside, an acerbic wit who, confined to a wheelchair after a fall, tyrannizes his hosts.

After a successful Broadway run, "The Man Who Came For Dinner" played two sell-out engagements at the then new Bucks County Playhouse starring Kaufman, both Harts, and Harpo Marx (BTW: Harpo's first speaking role onstage in 14 years!)

So.... whether you'd like to book a stay at our Wedgwood Inn, reserve a seat at the Bucks County Playhouse or look for a home to purchase or rent in Bucks County, contact us now at stay@wedgwoodinn.com!

From New Hope to Broadway and back, we are here to serve you all year 'round.

Carl & Nadine, Hosts