

COVER STORY



Courtesy photos

Twin Farms in Barnard, Vt., is shown. The inn off the ski-crowd grid is hidden in a craggy nook of the Green Mountains.

PICTURE PERFECT

Skiing your own mountain at Twin Farms in Vt.

By PEGGY NEWLAND
Correspondent

Most of us will never own a mountain. We might get up before dawn and be at a ski resort before the lifts open so we can get “first tracks” and feel like king or queen of the hill. We might even hit the slopes when the crowds are late and the chair lift is empty.

But what would it be like to ski your own mountain with chairlifts running just for you, and trails groomed just for you, and even a lunch brought up to the top of the hill, just for you?

Is this some sort of New England-themed ski fantasy? Not if you find an inn off the ski-crowd grid, hidden in a craggy nook of the Green Mountains. Twin Farms is this Shangri-la.

“What time would you care to ski tomorrow?” the concierge asks me upon check-in. He hands me a glass of sparkling Prosecco as my Sorel boots melt rock salt onto the polished wood floors.

“What time do the lifts open?”

“Whenever you would like.”

“Seven?” I suggest.

“You are the only guest skiing here tomorrow.”

“Oh.” I feel like I’ve won the golden ski ticket.

I’m tucked into the Alpine Chalet cottage. With views to Mount Ascutney and distant packed Killington, and a floor to ceiling fieldstone fireplace, I could just lounge all day, drinking complimentary wine and eating Vermont cheeses. But there are cross-country skis and boots in the closet, sized just for me, and 300 acres of ponds, meadows and pine forests to glide through



One of the guest bedrooms is featured at Twin Farms in Barnard, Vt.

before the wine social at 5 p.m.

“Ski to the Furo,” the concierge tells me.

“What’s that?” I ask.

“Nirvana,” he smiles. “Just past the beaver ponds. Look for the steam.”

Now that sounds intriguing.

‘Purest of air and relaxation’

The trails are icy, but I careen over them anyway, on my mission to the mysterious Furo. Skeletal birch trees throw jagged

shadows across a glazed meadow of snow as I ski past the various cottages: Perch, Treehouse, Aviary, Barn. Modeled on traditional wood-framed ski lodges, the individual cottages feature large decks, plunge pools, hot tub grottos, feather beds, and claw foot bathtubs. I ski past the Aviary, a two-story wall of lit window and cedar timber. Soon, I see frozen ponds and the

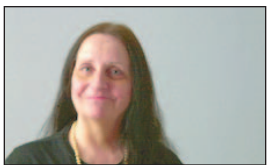
TWIN FARMS | PAGE D-2

Wheelchair for church would serve as mobility blessing

People for whom walking is difficult or impossible due to disability, illness or injury often rely on medical equipment to assist with independence and access to life in the community. In 1887, “rolling chairs” available at Atlantic City enabled invalid tourists to enjoy Boardwalk attractions and services. With Christmas on the calendar, an answer to a Mailbag request will answer the prayers of some parishioners to attend services in safety and with limited assistance.

Wheelchair for services

“I am hoping to find



CHRIS GRAHAM
Chris' Mailbag

an oversized wheel-chair, either regular or a transporter, that can be left at a local church for handicapped and disabled people,” writes Nancy M., of Nashua (LTR 713). **“If anyone has one, it would be greatly appreciated, as well as a tremendous help – especially during inclement weather, when**

even moving between a building and a vehicle may cause concern and anxiety. Thanks so much for your column. It is such a great service to this community.”

Since people, as well as wheelchairs, come in different sizes, an oversized chair would be fitting for all concerned! Nancy can be reached at 888-1520 or via email at nancmc1@myfairpoint.net.

Donation of organ

“We would like to give away an electric Kimball Temptation organ, Model M75, the ‘Entertainer’ model,” says Elaine B., of Hollis (LTR 3,172). “It is

in good, working condition and includes the bench. It would be great for a small church, school or as a family Christmas gift. Can be delivered locally, or you can pick it up.”

William Wallace Kimball founded W.W. Kimball and Co. in 1857. Even after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed his commercial business, Kimball, rebuilding his business from home, became the world’s largest piano and organ manufacturer at various times in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The “Entertainer” model features an outstanding rhythm unit with choices

from Boogie and Rock, to Latin, Swinging Bass to Swinging Fingers as “key attractions.”

In 2004, the company now known as Kimball International was listed in Fortune Magazine as among “America’s Most Admired Companies.” To have this organ admired in your home, school or place of worship, give Elaine a call at 465-7882 from 8 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Sounds like perfect entertainment for the holidays!

‘Screen’ entertainment

“I am giving away a digital tube, 25-inch RCA television that is in ex-

cellent condition,” says Peggy S., of Hudson (LTR 3,173). **“The set is RCA model number 24V414T, runs on SD antennae or cable, comes with user guide, and must be picked up in Hudson. I’m hoping someone can use this really nice TV.”**

Radio Corporation of America, or RCA, is associated with everything from vinyl records to manufacturing communications satellites, phonographs to radios – and following a 10-year, millions-of-dollars research effort, demonstrated the miracle of a

MAILBAG | PAGE D-2



Recovering addict must fight battle without family support

DEAR ABBY: I am a former drama queen and addict now enjoying long-term sobriety, or trying to. What's missing in my life is my family. Since returning from rehab, I have been "going it alone" – and I'm not sure why.

My kids are the only grandchildren in the family. I work and go to school. I am pleasant. There have been some rough spots I have had to deal with, and when I have needed to, I have called my mom or sister, but they don't call me or visit. They have expressed no love for me through all of this. When I call, I feel like I'm intruding.

Aren't I entitled to their



DEAR ABBY

love and caring? I feel abandoned. It's hard doing things on my own. My family lives close by, so distance isn't the issue. What am I missing?

I want my kids and me to have a family, but when I try to reach out, I end up hurt by their lack of interest. Should I just get on with my life? I have been going through this for years.

– Moving on in Florida

DEAR MOVING ON: It's possible that the "drama" and turmoil you put your family through while in the throes of your addiction is the reason your mother and sister avoid you. They may be reluctant to take a chance again.

Because they have made it plain that they aren't interested in a closer relationship with you and your children, you should absolutely get on with your life. Sobriety isn't easy to attain, and you have every right to enjoy yours to the fullest.

It would be healthier for you to stop courting rejection and "create" a caring family for yourself and your children.

Many people do this for a variety of reasons. It isn't unusual for people in recovery to socialize with others like themselves. Start there, because it would be better for all of you to spend your time with people who welcome and appreciate you.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé, "Bryan," is a mama's boy. There's nothing wrong with loving your parents and being close to them, but his family takes it to the extreme.

Bryan must see them multiple times a week, call and text them all the time, and they still don't get enough. Then they usually call wanting something or needing our help.

Bryan and I have worked hard to get where we are, and we can't always be at their beck and call. His sister says I have "changed him" because he doesn't come around as often anymore.

I'm 21 and Bryan is 24. I don't think he realizes that growing up means leaving the nest and detaching from the family a bit. I understand closeness, but if I'm going to be his wife, I'm scared I won't come first. What happens if we have a child who needs him, but Bryan has to bail his mama out of something?

– Getting worried in Georgia

DEAR GETTING WORRIED:

Don't wait until you have a child to find out that the two of you will never agree on this. Find out *now*.

Sometimes the most important conversations are the most difficult to engage in. You and Bryan need to have a serious talk about how you feel about his relationship with his parents and sister, because unless you come to a mutual understanding, it will become a source of constant irritation after you two are married, and you will both be unhappy.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Twin Farms | Upton Sinclair bought in '28

CONTINUED FROM | PAGE D-1

huge mound of a beaver den (even the beavers have fancy digs here) and in the distance, I spy steam coming through the pines.

In 1928, Nobel prize-winning author Sinclair Lewis bought Twin Farms for \$10,000, as "retreat for the purest of air and relaxation." As I take off my skis and leave my boots at the door, I discover what a Furo is: a two-roomed "clothes optional" chemical-free Japanese bath, warmed to 103 degrees by a wood-burning stove. A chilled bottle of wine and two glasses are on a granite table and a fire is lit in a fieldstone fireplace. Magical and romantic, it's a place for two and not for a sweaty skier who has to hoof it back to happy hour.

My ever-trusty traveling buddy, Martha, arrives just in time for razor clams and smoked bacon appetizers in the library. Wine manager Keven Ring pours glasses of Conundrum, a wine which seems appropriate for us – two brew pub-type ladies lost in vacation paradise. With more than 20,000 wines to pair with Chef Nathan Rich's customized creations, this man is busy. Soon, other guests arrive, fresh from snowshoeing or late day downhill trekking. Ice drips from sodden mittens and encrusted wool hats. Opting for a hot toddy and a Perrier-Jouet, a spritely, snowshoeing couple tells us of their adventures.

"We've traveled the world," the husband states, "but always dream of returning here." He holds his wife's hand.

"Every year," his wife smiles. "We've tried out all the cottages. Our favorite is the Moroccan-themed Meadow with its tented



Courtesy photo

Twin Farms in Barnard, Vt., is shown. The inn features a "Furo," a two-roomed, chemical-free Japanese bath, warmed to 103 degrees by a wood-burning stove.

IF YOU GO

Twin Farms, 452 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard, Vt. 1-802-234-9999. info@twinfarms.com.

ROMANTIC ESCAPE PACKAGE: 4 for 3. Stay mid-week for three nights and get a fourth night for free.

WINTER WELLNESS PACKAGE: Enjoy yoga, group hiking/snowshoeing, cook-

ing demos, juice bars, healthy room amenities and a free pair of Hunter boots (Winter Wellness Dates: Nov. 30-Dec. 16, Jan. 4-13, Feb. 1-10 and March 1-17).

ceiling and Moucharaby screens."

Martha and I decide to dine with them that evening. No reservations needed, as we all have window seats by the fireplaces.

Chef-inspired perfection

After a long soak in the Alpine Chalet's outdoor tub, Martha and I snowshoe down to the Barn, which is lit up by candle and crackling fire. Our friends wave us over, and we are treated to pairings of wine with

courses of chef-inspired perfection. Farm-to-table and with a seasonal slant, we dine on lamb confit with butternut squash gnocci, beef tenderloin with chantedelle and matsutake mushroom. Guests can personalize their menus or request certain foods, but Martha and I eat whatever they put in front of us. Tempted to take photos of each plate presented, we choose, instead, to behave and dine like adults. After enjoying a leisurely dessert of dark

chocolate cake with cocoa nibs and pistachio paint with our newfound friends, Martha and I head to the pub for a nightcap. Walking over an iron walking bridge, under a brilliant set of stars, we enter a whimsical room decorated with bottle cap chairs and pub benches and play billiards, not pool. An antique jukebox retrofitted with a CD menu of danceable blues and pop is ours for the taking, and soon, we are chalking up our cue sticks and dancing to Aretha Franklin.

Perhaps, tomorrow, we'll try out the Furo. That is, after we ski all of the groomed trails in our private winter wonderland. As Sinclair Lewis quoted, "Winter is not a season, it's an occupation." And if your occupation is to relax and unwind, as well as ski in solitude, Twin Farms is the seasonal splurge you'll dream about year after year.

Mailbag | Family is providing son's care

CONTINUED FROM | PAGE D-1

televised broadcast at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. To enjoy this RCA TV in your home, contact Peggy via email at brandon7994@hotmail.com.

Need for washer, dryer

"I am a case manager with Gateways Community Services working with a family in Manchester who has asked me to assist them in their search for a washer and dryer," writes Annakay T. (LTR 3,174). "My client is their son, who is disabled. He does not speak, and his family does his full care. He is incontinent and does not want to wear briefs. The family has been doing all of the laundry."

"This can be difficult to walk to the laundromat with no vehicle. It would be great if you could spread the word if anyone has a washer and dryer that they are giving away, to please let me know. I

was referred to you by Denise P. at the Bureau of Elder and Adult Services."

My heart goes out to these parents, whom I'll keep in my prayers. If you have a washer and dryer to help this family deal with the challenges of caregiving, Annakay can be reached at 459-2703 or atomlinson@gatewayscs.org. Let me know how things work out and if these folks have any other needs.

Contact Chris' Mailbag by sending mail to Chris' Mailbag c/o The Telegraph, 17 Executive Drive, Hudson, NH 03051, or email Christine. graham33@gmail.com. Include full name and complete address, along with telephone number or email address for publication, if applicable. Items eligible for publication are for donation, trade or barter only; requests of items for sale or purchase will not be included. Items obtained through the Mailbag are donated by readers for the exclusive use of Telegraph readers or others who may accept the donation. Any resale is expressly prohibited and closely monitored. Violators will be prosecuted for fraud and theft by deception.

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Law Office of Amy G. Wolfson, PLLC is pleased to announce that Xiorli C. Bernazzani, Esquire has become a Partner in the firm effective July 1, 2012.

The firm will henceforth be known as:

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Amy G. Wolfson, Esquire
Founder & Partner

Xiorli C. Bernazzani, Esquire
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