

Healing

lifestyles & spas

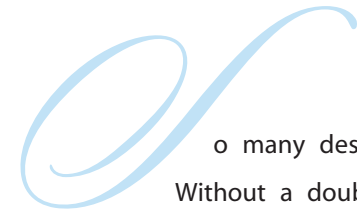
magazine

Featuring: Topnotch Resort & Spa, Stowe, Vermont

Honeymoon

Harmony

By Debra Bokur



So many destinations, so little time. Without a doubt, planning the perfect honeymoon can be an overwhelming experience. But it doesn't have to be—that's why we're offering our help, guiding you toward a handful of exceptional destinations that offer amazing settings for extraordinary memories.

Adventure

Topnotch Resort & Spa, Stowe, Vermont

(800) 451-8686, www.topnotchresort.com

It's easy to think of Stowe's Topnotch Resort & Spa as a great destination for skiing, snow sports, and romantic sleigh rides, but this gorgeous hotel deep in Vermont's Green Mountains excels as a year-round address for a host of adventure options. Enjoy mountain biking, hiking, fly fishing, canoeing, golf, and dog sledding, or schedule a game at the Tennis Center, recently ranked as one of the top ten in the northeast. The Equestrian Center offers private rides and lessons, and local outfitters can arrange glider excursions or trips down the 2,300-foot Alpine Slide in Stowe. The resort's Nordic Barn Recreational Center has rental equipment available for most activities. During winter months, you can refine your Triple Camel at the new skating rink, then enjoy a cuddle by the bonfire or a mug of hot cider in the chalet. Take a



day off to wander around charming Stowe, where you can stroll along the walking paths over rustic bridges, or take an organized tour that reveals the secrets of how apple cider is made and maple sugar is gathered. The resort's spa offers regionally themed treatments including the Vermont Woodspice Herbal Wrap and Maple Sugar Body Scrub. You can experience an indulgent Couples Swedish or Aroma Mountain Massage beside a crackling fireplace, complete with chilled champagne. Rooms at Topnotch are fashioned in the style of a European manor house, and include junior and garden suites. A member of Preferred Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Topnotch offers exceptional dining at Maxwell's, where menu choices include Misty Knoll Coq Au Vin, Vermont Apple Wine Braisaige, and Orzo Risotto and Wilted Spinach. At the more casual Buttertub Bistro & Lounge, specialties include Macaroni and Vermont Cheese with Bacon and Parsley. Topnotch is a scant two miles from Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest mountain, and located on a 120-acre wooded estate less than an hour from Burlington.

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