

## Cover Story . . .

# America's Romantic Castle

## Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa

BY MARY HUGHES

The small town of Sharon, Pennsylvania has one of America's best-kept secrets - a historic castle turned into one of the most beautiful inns you will ever see. If Cinderella was real, I could imagine her getting married to her Prince Charming at Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa. This modern day princess, however, is without a glass coach and has traded in her footman for a Subaru and a GPS.

Never mind, I easily ventured to the far west corner of Pennsylvania to find this incredible property. To this traveler, Buhl Mansion is like an English castle that awaits brides, grooms and those of us who are in need of a little romance. Romance mixed with luxury is what sets the Inn apart from the rest.

The mansion took eight years to build and was completed in 1898, for Julia, the bride of Frank H. Buhl who was a successful steel magnate. Years later, after the deaths of Frank and Julia, the property fell into numerous different hands and was unfortunately stripped of many of its spectacular architectural features including all the staircases, chandeliers, many door and window casings and all but four fireplace mantles.

Thankfully, just a few years ago, Jim and Donna Winner purchased the Buhl Mansion at a public auction and saved it from destruction. The Winner's have lovingly returned the castle to its original grandeur.

Today the mansion offers ten luxury suites, formal dining and living rooms for private events and a breakfast sunroom that surpass royal expectations.

Upon arrival you will ascend the stairs of the Grand Oak staircase to one of the elaborate suites found on the second and third floors. This trip I stayed in the Artist's Loft, a bright, opulent room with French furnishings. The king bed made of copper and iron was as comfortable as it looked! Even more luxurious was the round Jacuzzi tub in the turret of the ensuite bath. Yes, Cinderella would be very happy here! **The Buhl mansion staff are at your beck and call to treat you like royalty 24 hours a day!**

Outside, the grounds are breathtaking with acres of lavish gardens, which offer a perfect backdrop for wedding ceremonies. The gardens, the parlour and carriage house are all available for weddings. Buhl Mansion can accommodate groups with 12 to 120 guests. General Manager Laura Ackley explains that the 'Castle for a Day Package' lets you rent the entire property, which includes the castle, gardens and carriage house. This package is perfect for a castle wedding, corporate event or even for the ultimate birthday party!

For even more extravagance there is an on-site spa with superb pampering packages available. Choose from massage, facial



### Inns Magazine Travel Tips:

#### Shopping

There is no tax on most clothing and shoes in Pennsylvania!

Shop the world's largest off-price fashion store and save 50%-80% off designer merchandise everyday!

#### The Winner

[www.thewinneroutlet.com](http://www.thewinneroutlet.com)

Visit the largest shoe store in the world!

#### Reyer's Shoe Store

[www.reyers.com](http://www.reyers.com)

The world's largest candy store and Chocolate

#### Kingdom

#### Daffin's Candy

[www.daffins.com](http://www.daffins.com)

Kraynak's Christmasland & Easterland

[www.kraynaks.com](http://www.kraynaks.com)

#### Golf

Mercer County was named one of America's top golf destinations with more than 20 courses within a short drive of Buhl Mansion and Tara - A Country Inn.

[www.buhlmansion.com/local-attractions.htm](http://www.buhlmansion.com/local-attractions.htm)

World's only free golf course Buhl Farm Park Golf Course, a legacy of Frank Buhl founder of Buhl Mansion Sharon, PA (724) 962-9648.

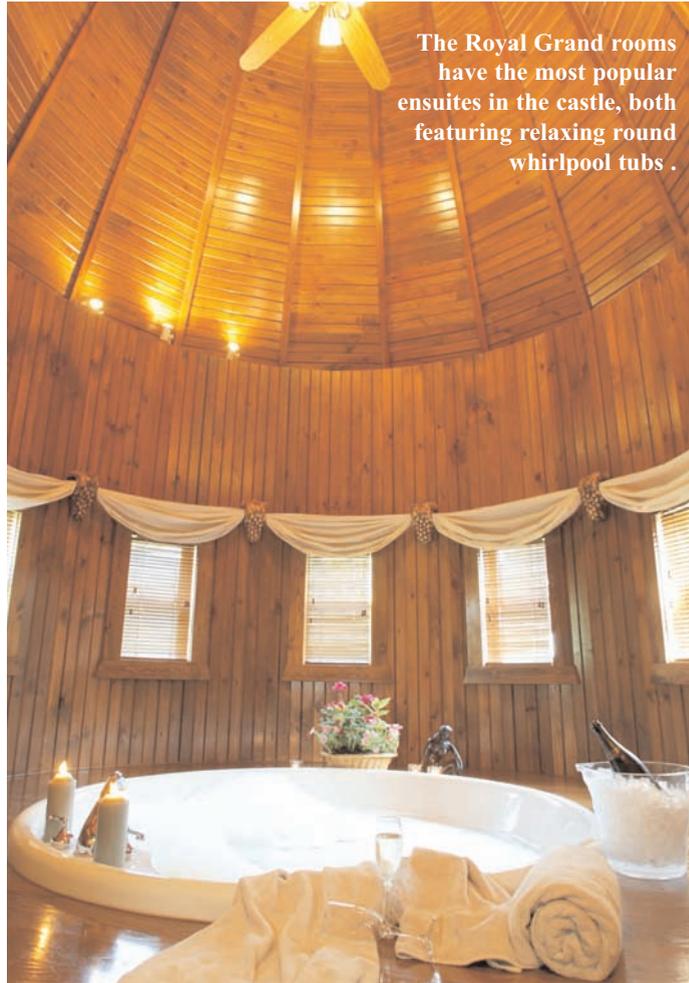
## Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa



Buhl Mansion's Artist's Loft is a bright, opulent room with French furnishings.



The Spa Romance Package is the most requested and offers treatments for two in the well appointed couples room.



The Royal Grand rooms have the most popular ensuites in the castle, both featuring relaxing round whirlpool tubs.

treatments and an array of body treatments including Hydrotherapy. The Spa Romance Package is the most requested and offers treatments for two, including couples massages, facials, manicures, lunch and a bottle of champagne! It doesn't get any better!

Guests of Buhl Mansion can choose to dine by candlelight in Ashley's Gourmet Restaurant or casually at Stonewall's Tavern both located at the Inn's sister property, Tara - A Country Inn, located just ten minutes away. The Buhl Mansion includes limousine shuttles for those wishing to enjoy an incredible meal at either of Tara's award winning restaurants.

Tara is a 27-room inn inspired by the film *Gone with the Wind*. The Winner's, who are avid historians of the epic film, have scoured the country for movie memorabilia and Civil War antiques and have them on display for guests to see. They have even acquired the bed jacket worn by actress Vivien Leigh in the film's honeymoon scene.

Tara has a similar history to that of the Buhl Mansion. Originally it was the private home of Senator Charles Koonce who made his fortune in coal and real estate. After being acquired by different owners the Winner's saved this glorious building which was in a state of disrepair.

As a guest at either inn, you can walk through the hallways and look at all the other lavish guestrooms. If a room is not occupied the door is left open, with a rope across the entrance, so guests can see some of the other elegant rooms.



Above: Belles Boudoir, one of the theme rooms at Tara. Below: You can arrive by limosine to Ashley's fine dining restaurant famous for their seven course dinner,



All 27 rooms at Tara are decorated with the *Gone with the Wind* and Civil War themes.



## Tara-A Country Inn

During warmer weather you can walk the beautiful gardens that overlook Shenango Lake or take a dip in the heated pool. Complimentary bicycles are also available for all the guests.

Indoors partake in exquisite afternoon tea, where a hostess in a *Gone with the Wind*-style gown serves you.

It is not surprising to learn Jim and Donna Winner won the 2007 Innkeepers of the Year award from the Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Association. They ensure you are treated like a guest in either of their homes with all the amenities to make your stay a luxurious one. Both inns are also members of Select Registry, Distinguished Inns of North America [www.selectregistry.com](http://www.selectregistry.com).

Both properties are perfect for a fairytale style wedding or a romantic getaway. You can count on me to be booking a much-needed getaway with my Prince Charming very soon! Hopefully then I'll get to stay out past midnight and keep both my glass slippers!

### Castle Escape Romance Package

Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa  
Includes a luxurious guest room, welcome tray of fruit and champagne, afternoon tea, limousine bus service to Tara, full breakfast and in house treats. Plus two massages, two facials, two manicures, lunch for two and a bottle of champagne. Available for \$750-\$850 depending on the room. (packages without spa start at \$350)

### Buhl Mansion Guesthouse and Spa

422 East State Street  
Sharon, PA 16146  
Phone: 724-346-3046  
Tollfree: 866-345-BUHL  
Website: [www.buhlmanion.com](http://www.buhlmanion.com)  
Email: [info@buhlmanion.com](mailto:info@buhlmanion.com)

### Gone With The Wind Getaway Package

Tara - A Country Inn  
Stay in one of the exquisite guest room and receive a welcome tray of fruit and champagne, afternoon tea, hospitality hour with the other guests, dinner at Ashley's or Stonewall's, continental breakfast, a tour of Tara and in house treats including pool sauna and massage.  
Priced at \$295-\$425 depending on the room and season.

### Tara - A Country Inn

2844 Lake Road  
Clark, PA 16113  
Phone: 724-962-3535  
Tollfree: 800-782-2803  
Website: [www.tara-inn.com](http://www.tara-inn.com)  
Email: [info@tara-inn.com](mailto:info@tara-inn.com)

Win a two night dreamy stay at this property. Enter to win at: [www.innsmagazine.com/contest](http://www.innsmagazine.com/contest)