

THE ANNUAL ENTERTAINING ISSUE

SOUTHERN *Lady*

THE SOUTH'S BEST

Party Recipes & Ideas

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Southern Lady ♦ MARCH-APRIL 2013

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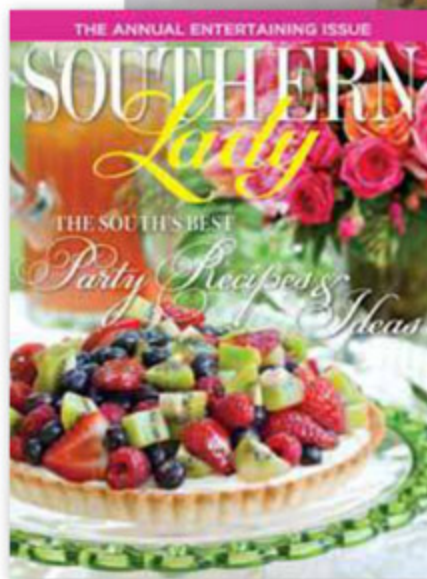
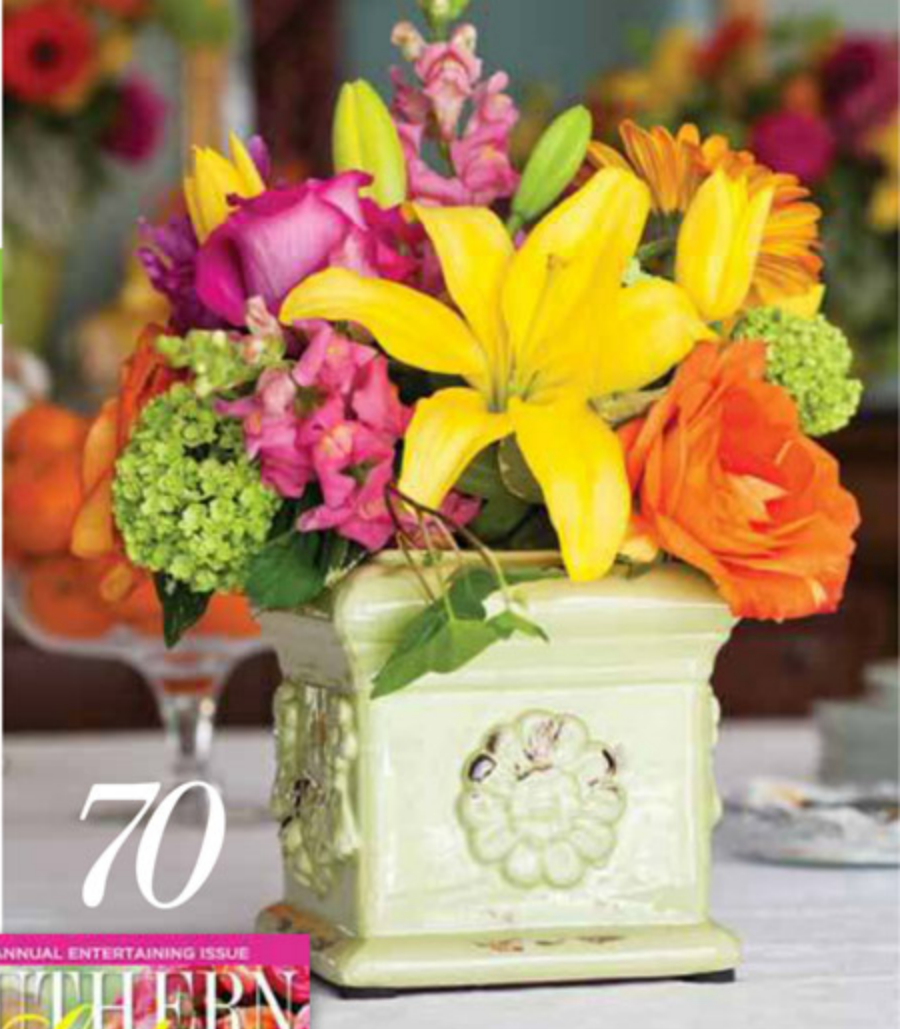
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Photography by Mac Jamieson



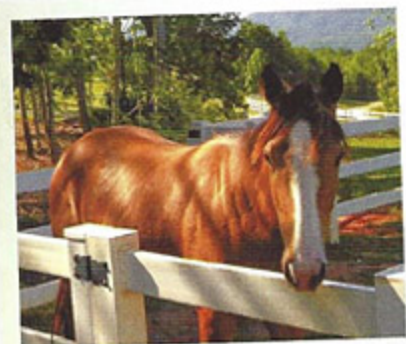
A proper gift for any occasion, these Silver Spreaders are made from vintage hand-stamped butter knives. Vintage Butter Knives, \$14.95; Bella Jackson Studios, bellajacksonstudios.com.



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PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE RED HORSE INN

The High Horse

A South Carolina hilltop retreat offers peace and pastures.

by Lauren Eberle

It's easy to fall to grand superlatives when describing The Red Horse Inn. The stars seem to shine brighter here; the Blue Ridge Mountains look more majestic; the hush seems even quieter. And there are certainly more rolling hills than you'd ever expect, even in horse country.

Cradled in a rural pocket of upstate South Carolina just 30 minutes from Greenville, this AAA Four Diamond bed-and-breakfast features six spacious suites in the main house, as well as six cozy cottages dotting the nearly 200-acre property.

A true labor of love, The Red Horse Inn was designed and built by Mary and Roger Wolters and their family during the mid-1990s. For their 21st anniversary, Roger gifted his wife with a simple string of pearls—and a bulldozer. Mary, who quickly became known around town as “Our Lady of the Bulldozer,” set to work clearing the land, and in 1996, the couple opened their doors.

Since then, the inn has become a pastoral destination for romantic getaways,

girls' weekends, corporate retreats, and countless weddings. Rooms feature inviting fireplaces, striking views, and small kitchens, while many of the cottages also have hot tubs and rocking-chair porches.

“The property has always had a magical quality to it,” Mary says. “Maybe it's because it's so beautiful. Maybe it's because it's so peaceful. Or maybe it's a combination of it all. Whatever it is, many people describe this place as spiritual.”

It makes sense, as the couple says innkeeping has always felt like a ministry. “My father was an Episcopal priest, and for many years, he told me I should have gone into the field,” Mary recalls. “I remember fondly when Dad visited us here. Finally, he got it. This was our ministry.”

Mary makes it her mission to give guests their privacy. In fact, breakfast is enjoyed in your room at your leisure—warm weather demands dining alfresco on your deck—and can include muffins, quiche or egg casserole, fruit and granola, oatmeal, coffee, and juice.

When you decide to venture out, the inn offers a number of itineraries to indulge in the area's scenic byways, or you can choose to pass the day at the inn, listening to the tinkling of the wind chimes and admiring spring's enchanting display in the fruit trees, weeping cherries, and redbuds. Indulge in a Walk in the Woods, an easy stroll to a grassy knoll where a pair of Adirondack chairs and a picnic can greet your arrival. Or spend a morning watching Mary in the ring with Secret, the lovely great-granddaughter to famed racehorse Secretariat.

The nearby town of Landrum is a decadent mealtime host. Zenzera Coffee & Wine Bar, set in the middle of historic downtown, boasts a diverse, casual menu—as well as an impressive wine list. Just a bit farther east, Stone Soup is a farm-to-table sensation, where colorful dinnerware and odes to the area's equestrian heritage play out in the décor. You can't go wrong ordering a special, as the oft-changing menu is an incredible nod to local farms and a right-out-the-back-door garden.

When you return to the inn, be sure to look up—you'll want to thank heaven for such a dreamy escape. ❖

For information, contact The Red Horse Inn at 864-895-4968, or visit theredhorseinn.com.