

# Where are All the Customers At, Yo? Embracing Digital Referrals Without Forgetting the Proven Old-School Methods

Please be respectful of your colleagues by silencing your phone. If you need to answer a call, please go to the hallway.

In 1993, the question was...
Why do I need a website?
I have an 800-number!



### Google was an infinitesimal number

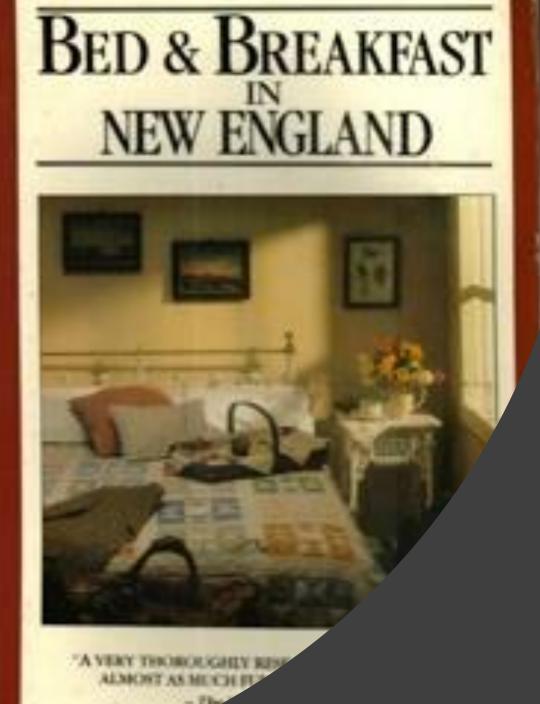
A googol is 10 to the 100th power (which is 1 followed by 100 zeros). A googol is larger than the number of elementary particles in the universe, which amount to only 10 to the 80th power.

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Source: LiveScience.com



The focus was on telephone manners and brochures



The only reviews that mattered came from guidebook writers, like Sandy Soule and Bernice Chesler

Then we moved into the Internet generation and innkeepers asked "why do I need online reservations?"

All my rooms are different! I need to talk to every guest to help them find the right room".

### Remember MySpace.com?



hello world

Male 31 years old San Pedro, California United States

Mood: (none) © View My: Pics | Playlists



ducky Online advertising industry: Ready for a REVVolution? Let's break free from the oppressor.( http://lnk.ms/0xzhG) #REVV

2:06 30 Sep 2009

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#### ducky's Blurbs

#### About me:

rubiconproject.com flukiest.com groundcontrolmag.com ikeo.com

#### Who I'd like to meet:

It would be nifty to get in contact with folks I went to school with back in the day.

- Emerson (kindergarden 5th grade) -> ( < 1989 )
- Valinda (6th grade) -> ( 1990 )

Today the focus is on impressions and OTAs - reaching guests through third parties and someone else's website like Booking.com, Google, Expedia or Tripadvisor.com.

## We've moved from My Space to their space in a matter of a few short years!









## What's missing today? The personal touch



# Time to shift the focus back to basics

Let's look at some of the hands-on direct approaches to reach out and touch your guests.

And to gain new ones.

- Packaging
- Partnerships
- PR
- Photos
- Perks
- Personalized service

High touch, not high tech

## Why Packaging?

Extend stays to multiple nights

Increase midweek occupancy

Increase offseason occupancy Value-added packages increase revenue

Creates good story angles

Create an easy & memorable experience for guests



## Package around your passions

### Package ideas:

Romance/honeymoon/anniversary **Cooking Schools** Family weekends Girlfriends getaways Guys getaways **Gourmet Getaway** Holiday decorations Quilting & other craftwork themes Scrapbooking weekends Shopping weekends Spa weekends Sports weekends **Murder Mysteries** Winery/distillery tours Microbrew buses Local events Celebration vacations

### Guests are drawn to packages Do the planning work for them





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Welcome

Inns

Specials

Passport

Travel Planner

Cookbook

About Us

Map



## The more creative, the better! Packages don't have to mean discounts

### Couple's Serene Selection Massage



#### \$335/couple

The Serene Selection package gives couples the best of both worlds! Guests will receive two 75-minute massages of their choice and two 15-minute relaxing foot massage.

75-minute choices:

Elemental Nature, Stress Fix, Missouri Riverstone, Katy Trail Biker, BabyMoon, Deep Tissue (\$50 upgrade/couple)

- Two 75-minute massages of your choice
- Two 15-minute foot massages

## Package with events, concerts, sporting events, holiday programs



#### Winter/Holiday

- Holiday Cookie Tour The second weekend in December, the Inn to Inn Cookie Tour is a great way to
  kick off the holiday season. The self-guided tour runs 11am-4pm on both Saturday and Sunday and
  includes 13 participating inns. See the holiday decoration, sample sweets, and take home recipe cards
  from each inn and a brass snowflake ornament as a memento. Stay at least two nights and the two tickets
  for the self-guided tour and a map are included.
- XC Ski Chocolate Festival The last Sunday in February (stay at least two nights and the tickets are on
  us). Cross country ski, snowshoe or drive from inn-to-inn to enjoy the sweetest day on the trails. Visit
  eight trailside lodging properties and businesses for chocolate treats then on to three other area
  businesses for more chocolate. This is annual fundraiser presented by the Mt. Washington Valley Ski
  Touring & Snowshoe Center. For complete details on the event, visit <a href="http://mwvskitouring.org/Chocolate-Festival.html">http://mwvskitouring.org/Chocolate-Festival.html</a>

### Work with Partners

## Partners come in all sizes

Local restaurants

Local attractions

Local theaters

Local breweries, wineries, distilleries

Regional lodging associations - New England Inns & Resort

Regional CVBs and chambers

State B&B Associations

**State Tourism Offices** 

National events - B&Bs for Vets, National B&B Day

National Associations - American Cancer Society or Habitat for Humanity

### Inn to Inn Consortiums

- Unique Venues
- Inns Along the Coast
- Inns Along the Trail
- Bike the Whites
- Country Inns in the White Mountains

#### INN TO INN

#### Country Inns Along the Trail

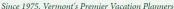
WALK / HIKE BIKE SKI OUR VERMONT INNS WHY US? THE FINE PRINT CONTACT US

#### Vermont Inn to Inn: Self-guided Walking, Hiking, Biking & Skiing

There is no better way to experience Vermont than inn to inn. Inn to Inn (Country Inns Along the Trail) has been offering a variety of customized individual, family, and group Vermont vacations, both self-guided / independent and guided, since 1975: hiking, bicycling walking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, and just plain old vacationing in Vermont, all the while enjoying the finest of her splendid country

Relish days spent on Green Mountain trails or Champlain Valley backroads, and then turn off the trai and enjoy your evenings dining and relaxing in Vermont's antique inns.

















#### Bike The Whites - A Unique New England Adventure

Bike the Whites is New Hampshire's premier inn-to-inn bicycling tour combining the grandeur of the White Mountains with the pampered luxury and exquisite cuisine of three of New Hampshire's finest Country Inns.

Enjoy three days of cycling along scenic back roads on gently rolling terrain. Stop for a break by a covered bridge or scenic waterfall. Take a dip in a cool mountain lake.

#### VALLEY AREA ATTRACTIONS

Diana's Baths

Barnstormers Theatre

Schartner's Strawberry Farm

Eastern Slope Playhouse

Comfortable accommodations are offered at three of the Mount Washington Valley's finest inns: \*\* The 1785 Inn at the edge of the Intervale Scenic Vista in the midst of all North Conway has to offer \*\* The award-winning hospitality of The Darby Field Inn, with its expansive view of the Presidential

Inn at Crystal Lake, off the beaten path in the tiny village of Eaton complete with a Little White

Church and old-fashioned general store

Each morning begins with a hearty breakfast. Highlighted maps are provided along with tips about the best places to stop along the way. Dinner is included on your second two nights at The Darby Field Inn and Inn at Crystal Lake.

Self guided tours of 20 to 50 miles per day may be arranged and include:

- · -- Detailed Maps and Directions
- · -- Luggage Transfer
  - · Emergency Roadside Assistance
  - · Secure/Covered Bike Storage
  - · -- Complimentary Water Bottle

· -- Bike Rental (additional charge of \$75)

### Great examples



The Historic Inns of Rockland created a **PR Partners** program with restaurants, spas, retailers, attractions to help support their PR Program.

#### The New York Times

#### On a Roll, for Lobster

At the waterfront off Park Street, you can catch a Captain Jack's boat ride. Don't let the hokey name fool you, Captain Jack Lobster Boat Cruises is as close as you'll get to lobstering, short of buying a boat and license yourself. Captain Jack is actually the strawberry-blond 7-year-old grandson of Steve Hale, a lobsterman and the father of Kylie and Amanda.

Mr. Hale fished full-time for 35 years before a fall onto a wharf forced him to scale back. Now he and Jack take up to six visitors at a time around the bay where, as he described it, "I'm going fishing and you're paying me to do

The strapping Mr. Hale, who has a silver Fu Manchu mustache and a lobster tattoo on his left triceps, owns 300 traps and hauls them up on a three-to-four-day rotating schedule. Using a long, flat wood stick with a hook on the end, he grabbed the rope leading to the trap one day in mid-June and hoisted it on board. A hefty lobster was inside. "That's a keeper," said the industrious Jack, "How much I make on that one?"

An hour of work yielded about a dozen lobsters for Mr. Hale and his grandson, and plenty of amusement for their guests. Lounging on the boat in the late-morning sun, with lobster boats bobbing in the inky water and seagulls squawking overhead, was the perfect close to a culinary journey





own the street. There's homemade granola,

Each morning at the Granite Inn, owners Ed and loan Hantz offer variety such as this. Ed knows his way around the kitchen. He spent most of his rking life as a music professor at the University Rochester in New York State. But after pulling up stakes for Maine a decade ago, he took on a stint as assistant to the pastry chef of Reckland's Atlantic Saking, horing his self-taught skills. "Some days!" The state's largest carriage service, the Victorian mansion was home to three succeeding mansion was home to three succeeding family before Cheryl Michaels

ist isn't the only attraction of the eight-room inn, of course. The eclectic decor is free of flounce and frill, thanks to Joan, a graphic designer. On a living room table, for instance, a coal oil lamp abuts twing from table, for instance, a coat of tango and as a abstract bronze of tango dancers. One two-room suite has modern Asian influences; another bedroom, with a 1950s feel, faces Rockland's bustling harbor. "The decor is what I grew up with,"

But it's that groaning-board breakfast my wife and will remember – and the lively conversation that

went with it. "Part of the B&B experience is meeting other people," Ed says, "I like to think Red Staters and Blue Staters can sit down over good food, have a conversation, and discover

commonalities." Rockland is a town worth visiting. Situated along Nocumend is a town worth visiting, situated along Maine's rugged seacoast, it's a hub of culture, anchored by the Farnsworth Art Museum and dozens of gallieries. Foodies flock to restaurants like Primp, helmed by two-time James Beard Chef of the Year Melissa Kelly. The B&Bs have upped



and a wwere guest and pie: rappberry, cherry, will bluebery. There's a microwers to warm up a site state on top. The ice cream was named tops by the World Daily tops of tree years in a row, but the pie has made it to the Food Network's Throwdown with Bobby Flava and ABCS. The Cherw. It's bladed mediant of the piece of the piece

feel welcome, comfortable and at home. When guests raid the pantry in the middle of the night, they are at grandma's, in their bathrobe, having

they are at grandma', in their beharbole, having "". And, the once combrised the mone of the properties of the mone of the properties of the mone of the properties of the properties of classification of the focuses on group developed classification of the properties of the pr the Manhattan rat-race to buy the property in 2004, they added a few family heirlooms of their own, making a period place with modern comfort Their welcoming attitude helped them become Maine's top BfrB in 2013 and 2014, as named by a

overlooking a gazebo-graced garden, guests might enjoy a savoury dish like wild mushroom frittata one day and a sweeter entree (lemon blueberry pancakes, anyone?) the next. That final cup of Frank does kitchen duty. "Es painfully apparent like to eat," he quips, blaming an Italian momand Lithuanian dad for "eating our way through the calendar." But he focuses on "good, wholesome comfort foods," adding: "We want people to feel like user'en printer."



### By selling the destination, Rockland innkeepers know they put heads in beds

## Specialty food pervayors feature their oils and vinegars while offering guests a gift



In Maine, Fiore Artisan Olive Oil & Vinegars offer samples for guests with a coupon and invitation to come to the store for a tasting.

A win:win for innkeepers and retailers.







And Pies on Parade has raised \$200,000 to feed the hungry by partnering with businesses in the community

#### Wine Tasting Pass 2017-2018

Dates Valid:

Referred By:

Wineries offer either 2 Complimentary Tasting or 2 Tastings for Price of 1. This pass covers two guests age 21 years and older. No more than two passports, covering a total of no more than 4 guests, will be accepted when arriving as a group. One time use per winery. Not valid during winery special events as determined by each winery. No cash value. Winery participation and operating hours may change without prior notice.



#### WINE COUNTRY INN MEMBERS:

Cloverdale

Auberge on the Vineyard • 707-894-5956 Kelley & Young Wine Garden Inn • 707-894-4535

Geyserville

Hope-Merrill House • 707-857-3356

Guerneville

Applewood Inn, Restaurant, Spa · 707-869-9093

Fern Grove Cottages • 707-869-8105

Santa Nella House • 707-869-9488

Sonoma Orchid Inn • 707-869-4466

Healdsburg

Camellia Inn • 707-433-8182

The Raford Inn • 707-887-9573

Occidental

Inn at Occidental • 707-874-1047

anta Rosa

The Gables Wine Country Inn · 707-585-7777

Sebastopol

Avalon, a Luxury Bed & Breakfast • 707-824-0880

Sonoma

Hidden Oak Inn • 707-996-9863

winecountryinns.com

800-946-3268

## Sonoma inns work with 125 wineries to offer discounts or free tastings for their guests

- Sonoma Wine Tasting Passport
- Your stay at one of our Wine Country Inns includes a Free Wine Tasting Passport for Two. Pick up your Passport at check-in and enjoy complimentary tastings and discounts at these participating wineries full list below.
- **Alexander Valley**
- **Alexander Valley Vineyards**
- Hanna Winery
- Locals Tasting Room featuring these participating wineries:

Arbois/Praxis

Bedarra

Denier-Handal

Eric Ross

Kitfox

- **►**Munselle
- **▶** Parmeson
- **▶** Pendleton
- ▶ Peterson

William Gordon

+ about 100 more....

26

http://www.winecountryinns.com/wine-tasting-passport.html

# Distinctive Inns of New England partnered with Lord Hobo Brewing, introducing inns to a whole new audience





## Create your own Festival to draw people during slower seasons

During the Ojai Valley Lavender Festival, the Lavender Inn offers COOKING WITH LAVENDER class, daily lavender lemonade & lavender scones, lavender mojito, tours of the Inn, and a booth at the festival.



Along with the 100 vendors in the park, the Lavender Festival promotes local lavender meals and cocktails in the restaurants, lavender spa treatments, and merchants' lavender products in town.

Source: Lavender Inn provided photos & ideas.





Captain Lord Mansion created Dime For Time for Breast Cancer Awareness

## Maine Innkeepers partner with Habitat for Humanity

#### 50% Savings April 29 – May 23, 2019

Newcastle Inn is pleased once again to participate in the Maine Innkeepers Association Annual Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. All money raised will stay in Maine and go to local Habitat for Humanity Chapters.



To receive the 50% discount the reservation for your Maine vacation needs
to take place between April 29 – May 23, 2019 for a minimum two night stay
in a room that is priced at \$260.00 or higher. In exchange for such a great room rate you make a
minimum donation of \$35.00 per night to Habitat for Humanity. The donation must be a check
made payable directly to Habitat for Humanity.

Qualifying rooms are: West Quoddy Suite, Pemaquid Point Suite, Monhegan Island Room and Heron Neck Room.

Enter code: HABITAT when reserving the room for the special discounted rate.

Accepted payment for this special offer is cash, credit card or Newcastle Inn gift certificate .No other payment methods accepted.

### Public Relations: Let others do the promoting for you



This family is all inn (and they didn't buy it to run it like a Hyatt)

Behind the scenes at a B&B: The joys — and challenges — of being an innkeeper





#### Quintessential Vermont

The Rabbit Hill Inn





our things really stand out at the romantic, quintessential New England Rabbit Hill Inn: the superlative service, the location, comfortable beds and plush featherbedding, and unforgettable cuisine.

When we arrived on a sunny winter day, hosts Leslie and Brian Mulcahy were waiting for us as if expecting houseguests. "There is nothing better than the warm and friendly guests we meet," says innkeeper extraordinaire Leslie Mulcahy. "This is what fills our cup every day."

With nary a television nor mobile phone in sight (wi-fi and private telephones are available), we spent the afternoon chatting with guests over tea and pastries. Others were busy with the Stave puzzles (the Rolls Royce of wooden jigsaw puzzles), while still others went for walks along the wooded trails. Year-round activities include skiing, snowmobilling, summertime zip-lining, golfing, and my personal bucket-list favorite: fly-fishing,

Executive Chef Slayton Altenburg and his team are creative with their use of ingredients in designing dishes, featuring both classical and modern flavors. One of the dishes I had was a delicious soft-cooked egg on a grilled brioche with crispy shallots, black trumpet mushrooms and a spicy emulsion. Most clever.

Early weekend mornings can be difficult, but an early breakfast is quite enjoyable in the inn's sunlit dining room, with its hearty gourner selections. Make your stay even better with in-room massage services for the ultimate relaxation. You can also opt for some tax-free shopping in neighboring New Hampshire. How can you not love that!

Although it's all about fine dining and a romantic stay, the owners have created a friendly atmosphere throughout the inn, making you feel like you're at a friend's country house instead of a top-rated 5-stat inn – a testament to their personalized brand of hospitality. It's no wonder ForbesTraveler. com has singled them out as one of the ten most romantic inns in the United States, while Travel+Leisure magazine calls it a top choice for an affordable, romantic and luxury getaway. And to think, it's only a three-hour drive from Montreal.

— ANNY KAZANJIAN



Belfry Inne & Bistro -- Sandwich, Mass.: "Converted from a 19th-century church and parsonage buildings, this Cape Cod in has won awards for historic preservation," Karen says. The inn has spacious rooms with stylights, fireplaces, flat-screen TVs, stained-glass windows and a whimsical bistro for nightlime hanging out. "The amount 4550 to be believen com

#### Related









JailHouse Inn B&B- Preston, Minn.: If you've got a hankering to "slumber in the slammer," head for this inn that served as the Fillmore Courty (all, courthouse and sheriff's home from 1899 to 1971. Restored and opened as a bed and breakfast in 1991, the building now sports guestrooms with names like Drunk Tank, Detention Room and the Cell Block Suite. "Don't let the names scare you," says Karen. "The rooms are

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\$497 Disney Package \$497 5-Night Disney Packag Including Hotel, Tickets, and Gift Card

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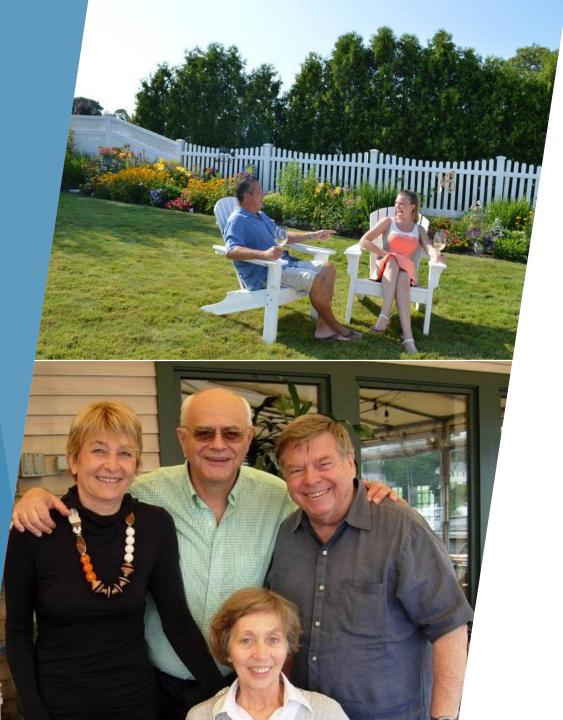
Inn by the Mill – St. Johnsville, N.Y.: This converted 1835 gristmil and adjacent buildings were once a stop on the Underground Railroad. "Escaped slaves traveled to and from the mill through underground tunnets," Karen says. "The buildings were carefully preserved in creating this romantic B&B." The Ini, in the Adirondack foothils near Cooperstown, has beautiful gardens, and sports an ice cream and billiards parlor, where guests are offered complimentary desserts.

866-568-2388 () ; innbythemill.com

1 2 3 NEXT >

xuruReportMagaxine.com

@Anny\_kaz



How do I get their attention?

Invite them!

## How do I know if the media is legit?

Ask for audience demographics or media kit. Review audience demographics - do they match yours?

Review the journalist's blog, social media - do they cover travel?

Request a dedicated article about the B&B, or insure there will be significant coverage and photos.

If you have a room available, offer it. If they ask for more than one room, the second can be at a media rate.

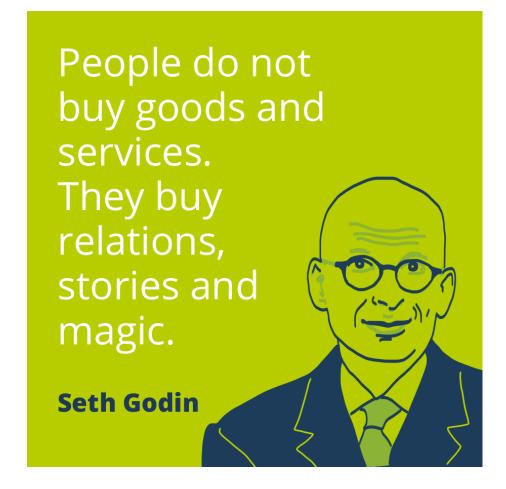
Media rate should be 50% of rack rate (or so).



### Five great story ideas from innkeepers

- When you donate prizes to help community organizations raise money, tell the media.
- You have a bottomless cookie jar for your customers? Make a batch of your best cookies and deliver them to the food editor with the recipe and a photo of your cookies in the cookie jar, and an invitation to the editor to join guests at the inn for the bottomless cookie supply.
- In poor weather, after a storm or weather disaster, share photos of you helping neighbors, shoveling guests cars out or the one flower that remains. Send your weather-photos to meteorologists with your story. Meteorologists
- are often forgotten.
- Will you participate in B&Bs for Vets? Let the media know! Invite the local media to your B&B for breakfast with the vets. Your unsung hero story will result.
- Follow up customer service disasters-gone-viral with your own story about great customer service, assuring media that vacations are still healthy, safe and enjoyable.

Next to doing the right thing, the most important thing is to Let people know you are doing the right thing. John D. Rockefeller



PR is all about story telling. From photos to recipes, autumn offers the chance to capture public attention and put your B&B on the map.

What's your story?
Tell it to the world

Through your social media outlets
Through blogs

Through your website

Through your media outreach

Through your photos





One good photo can sell your story... or send it viral



The Red Chair is another great example of story telling through photos



The news media loved telling the story of the Red Chair

#### Remember your photos sell rooms

Which rooms do you think will book faster & more often?



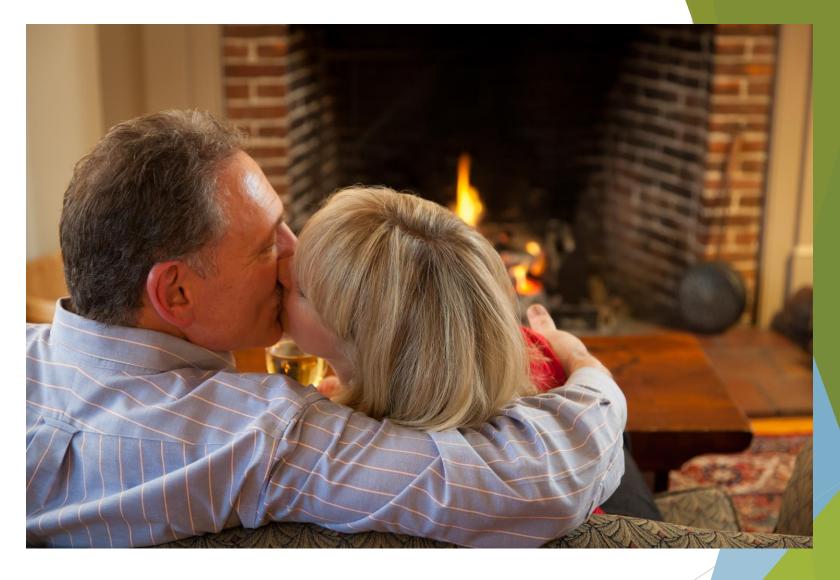












And your photos sell experiences at your inns and B&Bs



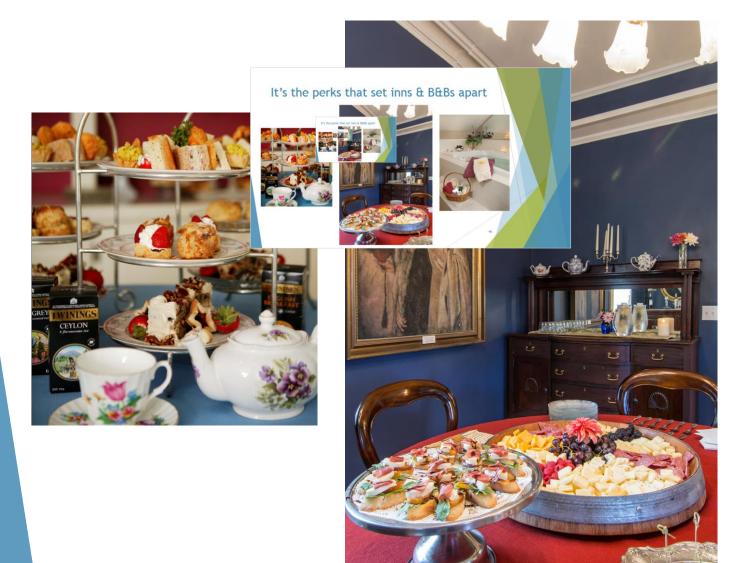
Need photos you don't have?

>pexels.com



pixabay.com

### It's the perks that set inns & B&Bs apart





## The little things & attention to detail that count











#### And personalized services & experiences







# Amazing service sets B&Bs apart from all other travel segments











#### Where else does the innkeeper....



... greet you by name?

... offer a hug when you leave?

...brush snow off your car?

... give you complimentary rides to the airport?

...make a special frog ladder?

...deliver ice cream and warm cookies to your room every night?



# 12 customer service acts you take for granted but guests notice

- Personally addressed welcome letters
- Substitutions at breakfast for special diets
- Ideas for activities
- Advice and "insiders secrets" on the area
- Beverages or snacks available
- Fresh flowers in the rooms
- Jump start dead batteries on cars
- Provide charging stations for electric cars
- Carry luggage
- Park cars
- Provide a breakfast to go
- Print boarding passes



#### Your inside knowledge sells rooms

"Just this week I got two reservations from quests who mentioned they came for my inside knowledge and local expertise".....

- Cheryl Michaelsen, Berry Manor Inn, Rockland, Maine



Don't underestimate the value of your local expertise.

Shout out your great service so the world knows



### Here's what Hotel Propeller blog tells hoteliers about B&Bs



#### Going the Extra Mile

B&B's are known for going above and beyond standard hotel accommodations. The owners take personal pride in their business. They feel a responsibility to make their guests comfortable. If someone has a question or special need, the owner is usually directly available. If you're planning a romantic surprise on a honeymoon trip, the owner will be there to help you out. Guests like it when B&B staff do their best to cater to everyone's needs.

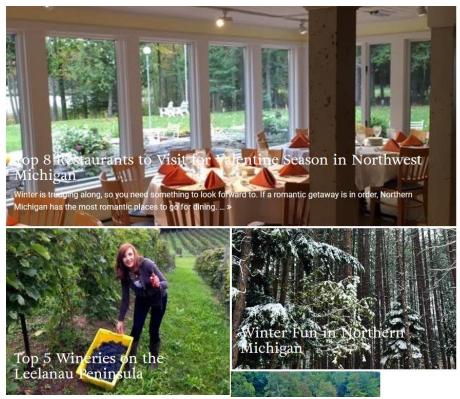
Travelers also expect B&B's to have little extra perks. These might be as simple as free WiFi or an in-house entertainment library. Details like a collection of board games or bookshelf also add to the experience.

Most hotel chains will charge add-on's anywhere they can, so it's refreshing when B&B's are more lenient with the extras. If there's coffee or tea left out on the dresser, it's usually complimentary at B&B's. These things make guests feel more welcome and appreciated in an unfamiliar place.

#### A few more key points: Communicate often



#### Blog







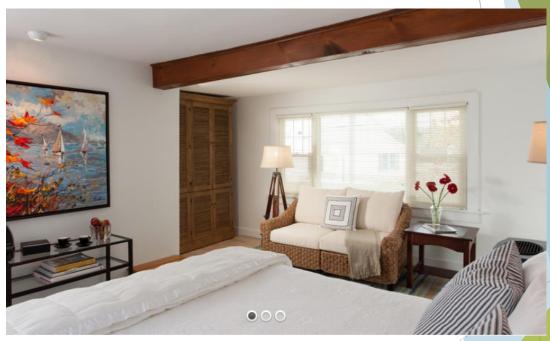




- ▶ Newsletters
- ► Social media
- ► Blogs
- ► Follow up letters
- Birthday/anniversary greetings

### Provide beautiful & uncluttered settings Ditch the doilies





Would you want to stay here

or

here?



# Give them the amenities they want

- Strong wi-fi signal
- Plenty of plugs for devices
- **TV**
- Uncluttered spaces



Questions??

Marti Mayne Maynely Marketing 392A Cousins Street Yarmouth, ME 04096

207-846-6331 info@maynelymarketing.com

Thank you for learning with us! Please complete your evaluation and hand it to the room host before leaving the room!