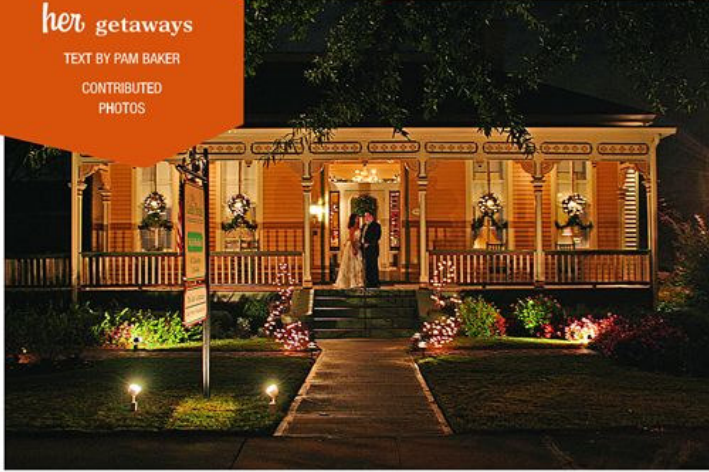


her getaways

TEXT BY PAM BAKER
CONTRIBUTED
PHOTOS



The Gates House Bed & Breakfast is located in Columbus' Historic District in Uptown on Broadway. Photo contributed. Photographer: Teresa Little.



Custom silk bedspreads, designer window treatments, oriental carpets and incredible antiques are in every room at The Gates House Bed & Breakfast. Photo contributed. Photographer: Tom Smith of Chattanooga, TN.



Entrepreneurs Tom and Carolyn Gates deck the halls of their B&B each holiday season. Photo contributed. Photographer: Tom Smith of Chattanooga, TN.

SEND YOUR GUESTS TO THE GATES HOUSE

The good news is: family and friends are coming to town for the holidays; the bad news is: there isn't always room for them. Or, there is room for them but you'd really like to take a break from them now and again, over the course of their stay...without being obvious, of course. The solution to both dilemmas lies on Broadway in Uptown Columbus at the Gates House Bed & Breakfast.

This beautiful home, built in 1880, was ranked one of the top 15 in the country in interior design and décor in 2005, and the best breakfast in the Southeast in 2006 in *Arrington's Inn Traveler Book of Lists*. It is filled with antiques, classic accents and plenty of Christmas cheer. It is truly a home away from home.

The owners, Tom and Carolyn Gates, found themselves in business by the sudden appearance of unexpected guests in 1995. "We didn't even know we wanted to be in this business," says Tom. The owner of a bed and breakfast down the street called to say she was overbooked and asked Carolyn if she and Tom would mind giving the extra couple a place to stay in their newly-remodeled home. Carolyn replied she didn't think so since she had just moved her husband's office and the now-grown kids out such a short time ago. "The overbooked bed and breakfast owner said 'too late, they're on their way!'" laughs Tom. "We let them stay and really enjoyed the experience."

As the guests departed, they handed Carolyn a check. "She said, 'hmmm, wallpaper!'" laughs Tom. "She really wanted to finish redecorating that house."

That home is actually across the street from the current Gates House B&B, which was opened in 2001 after a massive remodeling. "We gutted the place to rid the beautiful historic house of fluorescent lighting, fiberglass cubicle showers and dropped ceilings," Tom explains. The results are nothing short of fabulous.

The first home had only three bedrooms and the inn proved too popular for such a confined space. The historic building that now houses the B&B offers seven luxurious

bedrooms, each with a private bath with comforting Jacuzzis or Jacuzzi tubs, double pillow-topped beds swathed in Egyptian cotton linens and the ever-wafting aroma of freshly baked breads.

The cook, Georgia Greene, Ms. Georgia to those who stay at the inn, lost her own restaurant after a bout with cancer and the ravaging effects of chemo. Now she turns her culinary talents towards pleasing a handful of special guests. Her famous three-cheese eggs are a morning delight not to be missed, as are her raisin-cinnamon-pecan, sweet sourdough, and brown sugar-cinnamon-pecan breads. Snacks are served throughout the day along with five to seven freshly cut fruits.

For those seeking a touch of modern in this dash of historic bliss, there is free wired and wireless Internet and a big screen television in the TV room. Each bedroom also has its own television complete with all the premium cable channels.

Rates are \$125 to \$165 a night, with no minimum stay requirement. The quiet retreat is only two blocks from the entertainment district, the historic Springer Opera House and the Chattahoochee RiverWalk, and only one block from the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. "Most guests never move their car once they get here," says Tom.

That just might be due to the B&B's complimentary bicycles and the discount tickets to the theaters a short walk away.

The best news of all is that December is the slowest month of the year for the Gates House, since the B&B caters to the business crowd throughout the rest of the year. This means the odds are very good that you can book a room for your guests right away!

For More Information:

The Gates House Bed & Breakfast • 802 Broadway • Columbus, GA
(706) 324-6464 • www.gateshouse.com