



# Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report®

A connoisseur's worldwide guide  
to peaceful and unspoiled places

Our 26th Year

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## 2005 Grand Award Winners

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Dear Subscriber:

## Hideaways of the Year

Each year at this time, we single out some of the world's most captivating hideaway hotels and resorts for special recognition. To be initially considered for our annual awards competition, the properties must be relatively intimate in size and be located in peaceful and scenically pleasing surroundings. Moreover, previous recipients are ineligible to repeat as award winners for a three-year period. Distinctive country house hotels and resorts compatible with these basic qualifications are then judged for their all-round comfort, non-commercial character and passionate commitment to personal service. Also taken into consideration: the recent firsthand guest experiences of *Hideaway Report* readers.

Properties are not evaluated solely by means of a quantified checklist. During incognito inspections, of course, we note the general decor, design, cleanliness and upkeep of lodgings and public lounges; staffs are judged on esprit de corps, attentiveness, friendliness, thoroughness and efficiency; food on ingredients, inspiration and presentation; grounds on overall appearance and maintenance, and so on.

Ultimately, however, we rely on the 'Q factor' — the intangible summary impression that instinctively separates the good from the truly enchanting. Some of our award winners are grander than others, but each exudes an inviting sense of warmth and charm conducive to a relaxing stay.

On behalf of all of us at Harper Associates, we wish you and your family a very joyous Christmas season and the promise of a whole new year of wonderful hideaway discoveries.

Richard Harper  
Associate Publisher

Andrew Harper  
Editor & Publisher

# UNITED STATES



## The Inn of the Five Graces Santa Fe, New Mexico

Asia meets the American Southwest at this exotic and luxurious bed-and-breakfast incorporating several adobe dwellings along a quiet downtown side street,



a 5-minute walk from Santa Fe's historic main plaza. Most of the 22 lavishly decorated and supremely comfortable suites feature feather beds, woodburning fireplaces, well-equipped baths, separate living rooms, kitchenettes and an abundance of fascinating Asiatic artifacts. A kindly staff provides excellent historical walking tours. Deluxe Suite, from \$380, breakfast included; Premium Suite, from \$395. Smoking in courtyard only. Tel. (505) 992-0957 or Fax (505) 955-0549. Email: [info@fivegraces.com](mailto:info@fivegraces.com)

## Blackberry Farm Near Walland, Tennessee

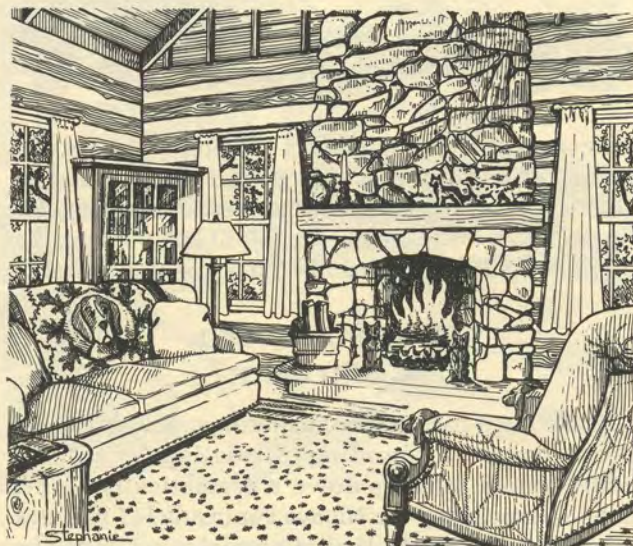
There is much to be said for admiring the mist-shrouded Smokies from the rocking chairs lining the sweeping stone verandah of this sophisticated 2,500-acre estate sanctuary bordering Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Done up in a distinctive English country house motif, the 46 guest quarters include 16 cottage suites augmented by fireplaces, stocked pantries, whirlpool tubs and restful porches. Inviting living room-lounges and an award-winning restaurant occupy the rambling main house. Sporting enticements range from an outdoor pool, Aveda spa and fitness center to tennis courts, a riding stable, trout fishing streams and hiking trails. King Estate Double/Single, \$745-\$895, all meals included. Cottage Suite, \$945-\$1,045. Tel. (865) 380-2260 or Fax (865) 681-7753. Email: [info@blackberryfarm.com](mailto:info@blackberryfarm.com)

## The Ballastone Inn Savannah, Georgia

An impressive antebellum mansion cossets this romantic and hospitable B&B set right in the heart of Savannah's beautifully preserved historic district. Gleaming wood floors and designer wallcoverings grace the public areas that take in an exceptionally charming bar-lounge and Queen Anne/Victorian parlor looking out on a leafy garden courtyard. The 16 stylish, amenity-filled accommodations are enhanced by striking decorative themes, most featuring king beds, fireplaces, generous sitting areas and well-appointed baths. Superior Double/Single, \$315-\$355, breakfast and late afternoon hors d'oeuvres included. Suite, \$395. Smoking in courtyard only. Tel. (912) 236-1484 or Fax (912) 236-4626. Email: [inn@ballastone.com](mailto:inn@ballastone.com)

## Twin Farms Barnard, Vermont

For pure casual luxury nothing quite compares to Twin Farms, secluded amid 300 pastoral acres in an unspoiled valley near Woodstock. A wealth of American folk art and custom furniture enlivens the



engaging lounges, dining hall, creekside pub and raftered library-den hewn from an old barn. Most of the 15 imaginative and sumptuous lodgings are forest cottages with rock fireplaces and screened porches. Expect a superb spa and fitness center, tennis and lake swimming/fishing/canoeing; ice skating and downhill/X-C skiing during the winter. Cottage, \$1,500, all meals and drinks included. Smoking on porches only. Tel. (802) 234-9999 or Fax (802) 234-9990.