

SAYING I DO...

then off to the spa

By Mary Hughes

Linda Gallant, owner of Auberge des Gallant, says her wedding business is taking off and that fifty percent of her wedding business is from out of town, even out of country! According to wedding planners, there's a new trend in 'saying I do'. Couples are planning their big event from far away. Sometimes they meet in the middle for the wedding day: For instance the groom may be from California and the bride from New Brunswick so they pull out a map and point somewhere in between for the location of their wedding.



Photos By Françoise LaTulippe

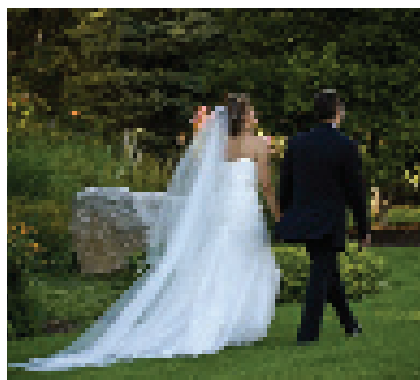
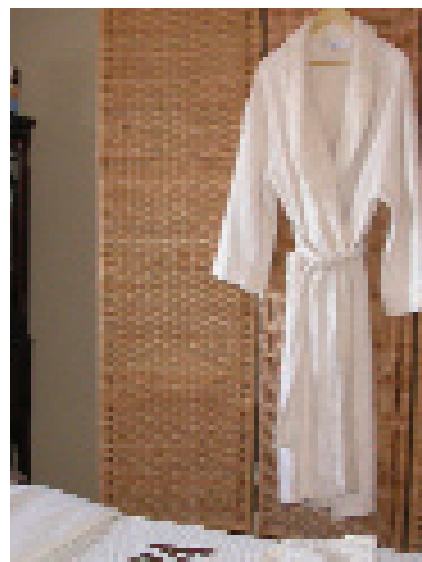
The Maple Pavilion is popular for wedding receptions and events, set amidst the forest, it is the perfect retreat for that special day.

As far-fetched as that sounds it is becoming the norm these days. Couples rely heavily on the services of wedding planners and organizers and can choose menus, flowers, music and place settings all by email. Brides and grooms from all over are looking for that special setting and service to make their day unforgettable. Going are the days of hectic planning, stressful decisions; couples are looking for easy, relaxing choices so they can enjoy their day too!

Planning a wedding and all the events of the 'big day' is a full-size deal. Weddings can be stressful; they can take over your life. They should come with a warning label: 'Can cause chaos, and tend to be nerve racking'. Shouldn't the biggest day of your life be a fun, joyous time? Modern day couples are discovering destinations that offer more than a wedding hall and fold up chairs. They also want a honeymoon destination that offers a spa, and a place to unwind and relax and even recover!

“The inn’s policy is quite simple ‘Enjoy yourself in our elegant dining room and end the evening sitting by the fire place with someone you love.’”

Auberge des Gallant has become just that – an all-encompassing oasis for brides and grooms. You will find Auberge des Gallant tucked away in the countryside just between Montreal and Ottawa, on 400 acres on the Rigaud Mountain. The Inn offers 26 rooms, a fine dining restaurant (their gourmet food is second to none), with a wine cellar boasting three hundred-labels. There are four unique banquet facilities, including their Maple Pavilion



–the wedding hall that seats 150, set amidst the woods. The newest addition - the piece de la resistance - is the spa!

This year Auberge des Gallant celebrates 35 years in business. While being known for gourmet food and a luxury inn, owner Linda Gallant wanted the finishing touch for her establishment. A spa was that jewel in her crown.

You will find an array of treatments created by Ishi cosmetics and their gourmet skincare and treatment line. Ishi Cosmetics are a well-respected Italian skincare line that have recently infused antioxidant foods with their products. How does a body treatment involving a massage with milk, grape and lavender-honey sound? Then they wrap you up all cozy and add a nourishing serum made of tiramisu, then a chocolate mousse/orange mask. After you are unwrapped, you're finished off with a light application of moisturizing chocolate/orange cream.

The inn is set amongst a maple forest. It is the only inn that has its own maple syrup pipeline with over 10,000 working taps every spring. The spa has recently exported some of the syrup to Italy to the Ishi head quarters, to have the syrup made into gourmet body treatments for the spa. The benefit of this natural and delicious sugar is being highly recognized and antioxidants are abundant in maple syrup.

Their famous Maple Sugar Gumming treatment uses their own maple sugar to stimulate both your senses and your skin. It is a sticky gum-like cream that is massaged all over your body; it removes dead skin cells and moisturizes your skin. They end this treatment with a massage, using a maple body lotion, which will leave your skin velvet soft. After one of these incredible treatments you will float back to your room guaranteed!

It is not surprising that Auberge des Gallant has received many awards and accolades over the years including a listing of '4 stars' by the Debeur Guide, which is one of the highest ratings for Quebec restaurants. The inn's policy is quite simple 'Enjoy yourself in our elegant dining room and end the evening sitting by the fire place with someone you love.'

Love definitely lives here, amidst the maple forest!

Auberge des Gallant

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