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## **Ammonoosuc Inn**

**The Old Inn is Back in all its Glory!**

Article by Daron H. Libby

New Hampshire is sprinkled with living heritage often dating back to the 1800's. Many of the grand inns and hotels from the early 1900's were tragically lost to fire or eventually torn down. On occasion our hearts are warmed when we hear stories of an old theater or inn fully restored to earlier days of glory by new owners. Such was the story of the Balsams - once nearly lost to the past and now a New Hampshire gem. And such is the story of the Ammonoosuc Inn in Lisbon.



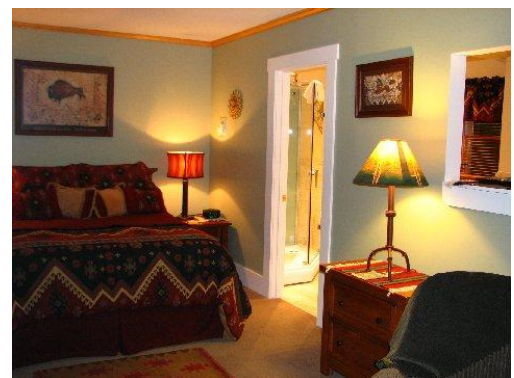
The Ammonoosuc Inn, located six miles south of Littleton and six miles west of Franconia, sits high on a wooded hillside overlooking the Ammonoosuc River valley and the Lisbon Valley Country Club. The current house was originally built in 1888 and was expanded in the 1920's to include the dining room and pub. A beautiful spot that had been turned over through several owners in quick succession and was in great need of some loving care and new energy.

Last fall the Ammonoosuc Inn was rescued by a chef from Long Island, New York who fell in love with the area and the Inn. Karen LaRocco had been searching from Maine to South Carolina for their perfect restaurant & inn to call home and finally found it, nestled in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. She became the new owner in December of 2004.

Karen intimates, "I wanted to create the kind of place I was always looking for." Her sleeves are rolled up and she is doing it.

### **The Rooms**

The nine guestrooms and suite have all been completely renovated, are distinctly decorated, yet the simple charm of yesteryear remains intact. Karen has been careful to keep the character of the place yet has found a way to integrate the latest in modern convenience. All rooms have their own television, private bath and most have spectacular panoramic views of the Ammonoosuc River valley. Downstairs, new carpeting throughout along with the addition of two fireplaces, completely new kitchen, lighting and furniture gives the Inn a new look, with a contemporary attitude and modern elegance.



What is most unusual about this Inn is that it is located within the grounds of the Lisbon Village Country Club providing the vista for a perfect weekend for golf lovers and corporate professionals. The concierge can make all arrangements so that as soon as you have finished your full gourmet breakfast, you step off the porch to find your golf cart waiting for you. The course is ideal in that it offers nine challenging holes and is almost 2900 yards, par 36. For those that are looking for a full 18-hole course, the Inn offers golf packages with inclusive access to both the close by Bethlehem and Maplewood courses.

## The Food

An unhurried gourmet breakfast and Sunday Brunch is part of the Ammonoosuc Inn tradition that all guests look forward to. A memorable stay is not complete without a five-star culinary experience and here you are in for a treat. Owner and Chef Karen LaRocco, who studied at the French Culinary Institute, relocated her New York Bistro to the White Mountains and has a unique talent for fine dining preparation. The appetizers are wonderful - try the Portobello Napoleon - a delightful combination of mushrooms, fresh mozzarella and tomatoes marinated in pesto, grilled and drizzled with balsamic vinaigrette. A popular entree is the Brodetto consisting of clams, mussels, shrimp, scallops, white fish, leeks and tomato in a Saffron Broth. Other selections include Walnut Crusted Chicken Breast, Boneless Rib-Eye Steak and Baby New Zealand Lamb Chops. The wine list is thoughtfully chosen and features Italian and French selections.



Not only is Karen a classical French chef but she also is a trained pastry chef. Her sweet and scrumptious homemade desserts include a lush Tiramisu and an out-of-this-world country-style Tart of Apples topped with Sun-Dried Fruits and Walnuts as well as a Lemon Tart with Kiwi. A cook and wait staff of eight will attend to your every need to provide the ultimate in fine dining.



If you just returned from a hike or a round of golf and are looking for something more casual, the Ammonoosuc Pub is just off the main dining room. Here you can relax, enjoy a cocktail, beer or a burger and catch up on all the day's news and sports.

## The Conference Center

Karen recognized the need to offer a retreat package for New Hampshire and Vermont small businesses. The Inn provides a special area for an off-site corporate meeting of 12 to 15 people. The executive conference room features a 12 foot cherry wood table and a 60-inch plasma display screen for PowerPoint presentations. The entire Inn and Conference area are completely Wireless (WiFi) for secure Internet access and corporate VPN access. An adjoining sitting room with access to the porch and golf course makes the Inn the perfect place for a company planning retreat or weekend conference. The Bistro can cater breakfast and have lunch and dinner brought right in or, of course, the restaurant and pub are just down the hall.

## The 'Inn'tertainment Series

Karen and her staff are having some fun by bringing in top-of-the-line live entertainment on the weekends. Call ahead to find out what talent is lined up as you will find Jazz, Swing and Comedy from the New England circuit appearing at the Inn throughout the summer.

Whether it is romance, a corporate meeting or just getting away from it all, the Ammonoosuc Inn offers fine accommodations and fine dining in a very hip, elegant atmosphere. It is far off the beaten path and you will happily find yourself feeling relaxed, unwound and content in this newly restored beauty in the western White Mountains.

Ammonoosuc Inn  
[www.ammonoosucinn.com](http://www.ammonoosucinn.com)