



Songbird Prairie Bed & Breakfast loved by guests, acclaimed by experts

The worries of everyday life start to fade the moment you head up the long, winding driveway toward Songbird Prairie Bed & Breakfast in Valparaiso.

The stately red inn, nestled on six acres of woods and prairie, is even more relaxing inside, with fireplaces and whirlpool tubs in each guest suite.

But perhaps the guests' favorite room is the dining room, and that's not just because the inn's famous three-course breakfasts are served there. The room's nearly full-length windows offer great views of the red headed woodpeckers, blue jays, cardinals and other birds that visit the feeders hung just outside the windows.

Barbara Rivera, who owns Songbird Prairie with her husband, Efrain, said the plentitude of birds and the beauty of the prairie made it easy to choose the name for the establishment they opened in 2000.

The inn's five suites—The Robin, Bluebird, Cardinal, Warbler and Purplefinch suites—are all named after the inn's feathered friends.

Three course breakfasts, available dinners and massages, fine linens and a focus on hospitality are among the many reasons why Songbird Prairie consistently gets high marks from its guests and from industry experts, Rivera said.

Songbird Prairie has been named as one of Midwest Living magazine's favorite bed & breakfast establishments, has won best in the midwest from BedAndBreakfast.com, and is a multi-year winner of Indiana Dunes Country's lodging establishment of the year.

"My husband and I have good hospitality and we love having people here, and it shows," Rivera said.

She said her favorite part of being an innkeeper is serving breakfast to the guests and seeing them after they've spent a relaxing night at Songbird Prairie, which bills itself as a romantic getaway.



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Operating a bed and breakfast was a natural progression for Rivera, who has long been interested in decorating, and her husband, who has a restaurant background. They're glad they did it.

Rivera likes to think bed & breakfast establishments like hers offer guest something they can't get at chain hotels.

"It's more of a home feeling and the rooms are all unique," she said.

"You can come downstairs in your robe for breakfast. Our inn has whirlpools and fireplaces, which you'd have to pay penthouse prices for in a hotel."

And, she said, she can be people's personal concierge, guiding them to restaurants and attractions she knows they'll love.

Songbird Prairie features a nice gift shop and will be adding a spa room. Songbird Prairie is located at 174 N. 600 West in Valparaiso. Call 219-759-4274 or 877-SONGBRD, or visit songbirdprairie.com for more information.

