

AN OASIS in the MOUNTAINS

Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center offers serenity, charm and romance in The Green Mountain foothills



When newlyweds Joe and Sandy were looking for a weekend getaway, they needed to keep it simple. With busy lives and full work schedules, travel couldn't be too taxing, nor could the destination be too far from their Connecticut home. So, they decided on a whim to hop aboard Amtrak's *Vermont* to spend just one romantic evening in Montpelier, Vt., at The Capitol Plaza Hotel. They already knew and adored the tiny, elegant town nestled in the shadow of the Green Mountains; their choice in hotel, however, was random: Capitol Plaza just happened to be close to the train station.

So imagine their surprise and delight when a moment of pure chance led them to discover a serendipitous gem, one to which they would return to relish again and again. From the moment they stepped off the train and were met and then whisked away by an amiable hotel staff member for the five-minute ride to the hotel, Joe and Sandy felt like they were being treated like long-lost friends.

While this kind of personalized service sounds like a thing of the past, at Capitol Plaza, an independent, family-owned hotel, it's par for the course. And once ensconced in this lovingly restored historical establishment, you will wonder how you could ever stay in a chain hotel again.

With more than 60 gracefully furnished rooms, each one a slice of Early American charm that, while retaining the splendor of bygone days, comes with every modern convenience: Free Wi-Fi; Keurig coffee makers; sumptuous linens; duvets and pillows make your stay restful and sweet. Gazing out windows overlooking idyllic church steeples or in view of The State House's majestic Golden Dome, it's like finding yourself in the midst of a dream.

Exercise aficionados may enjoy Capitol Plaza's free fitness facility with state-of-the-art equipment. Hungry? Dine in at Capitol Plaza's award-winning J. Morgan's Steakhouse, with its famous running trains, visible from any seat in the house. Or take a leisurely stroll down historic State Street to check out some of the local haunts, like the craft-beer mecca, Three Penny Taproom, for local microbrews to savor solo or to pair with cheeses, fish and chips, or classic burgers and fries. Maybe grab a latte and fresh-baked bagel at Capitol Grounds to enjoy while perusing sidewalk sales; independently owned shops; free concerts and art shows—everything is within walking distance.

Joe and Sandy's sojourn was quick that first magical weekend (there would be two more within a few months), but it was long enough to realize that they had stumbled onto something special. No doubt, so will you.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Vermont State House; Capitol Plaza hotel's facade; aerial view of the Montpelier Farmers Market.

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