

# Kentucky's Beaumont Inn

A family of innkeepers brings old-school Southern hospitality to a modern age. BY VALERIE FRASER LUESSE



Greystone House

**I** love an inn with a story to tell. Once a college for young ladies from all over the South, the Beaumont Inn now offers vacationers and business travelers an interesting mix of comfort and character.

Perched on a hilltop in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, the Beaumont includes three historic properties—the Main Inn, Goddard Hall, and Greystone House. Amenities include a pool, spa, tavern, and main dining room. Swings, rocking chairs, and garden benches beckon you to relax, breathe, and do absolutely nothing.

The Beaumont has been in his family for generations, explains Dixon Dedman, a dapper twentysomething who clearly loves the family business. “My grandfather used to say, ‘I went to college, but all I know how to do is fry chicken and rent rooms,’” says Dixon. “Well, I went away to college in South Carolina so my parents couldn’t call me on Friday to come and work here for the weekend. But all I really know how to do is fry chicken and rent rooms.”

So Dixon—which Beaumont room should we rent? That depends on what you’re looking for, he says. Each property has a different assortment of accommodations, ranging from swanky Platinum Suites to Diamond, Gold, Silver, and finally basic-but-comfortable Bronze Rooms (high season rates range \$95-\$205). All rooms have antique furnishings, private baths, and cable TV and include breakfast at the Main Inn Dining Room (go for the Corn Meal Batter Cakes with Brown Sugar Syrup). And all guests will enjoy the Dedmans’ trademark hospitality.

## The Main Inn (1845)

A classic blast from the Southern past, this three-story former girls’ college has a huge front porch, rich red carpets, family antiques everywhere (including an 1893 Steinway grand), wonderfully creaky wooden staircases, and what has to be the oldest, scariest elevator in the South. (Trust us. Take the stairs.) The front desk is in the original school library. Guests share wireless Internet with those from the other two properties, who park their laptops at comfy public spaces all over the Main Inn.



Goddard Hall

You can even log on from the front porch. Rooms here are comfortable and not overdone. (Translation: relatively doily free.) The Beaumont’s gift shop and main dining room are also here.

## Greystone House (1931)

You’ll find all three of Beaumont’s top-of-the-line Platinum Suites at Greystone, as well as one Gold Room. Book here for a quiet setting and extra privacy. You’ll get a key to the front door and to your room when you check in. It’s a short walk to the Main Inn to enjoy all of Beaumont’s amenities.

## Goddard Hall (1935)

All 10 rooms at Goddard Hall are in Beaumont’s least expensive Bronze category. But they’re still comfortably appointed and convenient to all amenities, because Goddard is directly across from the Main Inn. Not our choice for a romantic couple’s getaway but great for a family reunion or other group trip when you want to keep everybody together but have a little privacy. ●

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