

Barking Mad Farm

In Wallowa Valley, Oregon, a Charmed Country Bed & Breakfast Beckons

Terri and Bob “Hurricane” Hannah, with their rambunctious family of three Golden Retrievers, are flying adventurers for whom the usual just won’t do. “We like to throw caution to the wind and make up our vacations as we go,” says Terri, 40. “We like little places we call ‘hidden treasures’.

Whether it’s a small community or backcountry lodge, as long as there’s an airstrip, the great outdoors and good weather – perfect!” So when Terri and Bob, 39 (the “Hurricane” comes from his stellar career as an American Motorcycle Association Hall of Fame motocross/Supercross champion) happened upon Barking Mad Farm in the gorgeous Wallowa Valley of Oregon, there was no question.

“It had us at *bark!*” laughs Terri. This country B&B on 42 spectacular acres outside the artists’ community of Joseph, snapped-up the Hannahs faster than they could pack “the kids” into their 2005 American Champion Scout and lift-off from their private air ranch on the Boise River in Caldwell, Idaho.

Normally, “we’d never dream of torturing our hosts with three Golden Retrievers, but Diana and James – he goes by ‘Hunter’ – clearly love animals and invite you to bring your pets – even your horses! – with you,” says Terri. She is referring to Barking Mad Farm proprietors Diana and James Hunter – she, a former professional chef and fundraiser; he, a once-upon-a-time Hollywood screenwriter. “They made us feel like we were old friends who had come to town,” says Terri. “They opened not only the door to their home, but also to their barns, their friends, their way of life...”

The way of life the Hunters offer at their Wallowa Valley retreat is indeed a treasure. The farm is the very panorama of paradise: Jagged peaks of the Eagle Cap Wilderness rise above verdant farms and fields; the vast Zumwalt prairie unfurls toward the snow-capped awe of Idaho’s



Terri and Bob "Hurricane" Hannah

Seven Devils mountains. Here, buffalo lazily graze. Private streams, gardens and a huge antique barn exalt “picturesque.” What’s more, “we serve really adventurous gourmet breakfasts and have trouble extricating our guests!” laughs Diana.

The Hannahs certainly second *that*. “We had a million things we intended to do while were there – ha!” says Terri, who with her husband runs Bob Hannah Aviation (bobhannah.com), the aircraft brokering business he founded after retiring from motocross competition and a four-year speed streak racing Unlimited Class aircraft. “When we did peel ourselves away (from the inn), we took the Wallowa Lake Tramway up the mountain for lunch – SO COOL. Hunter took us on a Wallowa Lake boat ride – AWESOME. One evening we traveled to old (Nez Perce) Chief Joseph’s gravesite, then drove around taking pictures of all the mamma deer, moose, and elk in the fields with their babies – wow.”

Wallowa Valley is wow, all right, with its backcountry lakes for great fishing, its acres of wilderness the siren song for hiking and

horseback riding. There is also Joseph, a premier U.S. “art town” that offers loads of amusement – summer’s Blues & Brews Fest and winter’s sled dog races included.

Still, once it is wheels-down at Joseph State (453) or Enterprise Muni (854) and the Barking Mad Farm shuttle shuttles you to Diana and Hunter’s place to be treated like family, it may be hard to budge. Says Terri: “A getaway is just that – TO GET AWAY. Here, you are allowed to totally escape. To hug the Hunter’s animals as if they’re your own...to have the porch filled with neighbors-now-friends – you know, pillows and swing chairs; lanterns; wine; hot tea and robust laughter that cuts through the field of buffalo, horses...Oh, and those crazy, loveable donkeys out back...”

“The shopping downtown is supposed to be great, if I’d done it – ha!” she laughs. “I filed it under ‘next time’ because I *know* we’ll be back. Soon!”

To hear the Hannahs tell it, a flyer would have to be barking mad to miss one minute of the magic that is this unique retreat. barkingmadfarm.com 541) 426-0360. ✕