



CAPTAIN WOHLT INN

HERMANN, MISSOURI

The Captain Wohlt Inn sits in the heart of the historic district of Hermann, Missouri, in the center of Missouri's wine country. Just over an hour west of St. Louis and three hours east of Kansas City, it is minutes off the KT Trail, the nation's longest rails-to-trails bike path. There are seven wineries within 15 minutes and many historic sites nearby. With four lovingly restored buildings on the National Historic Registry, The Captain Wohlt Inn is the perfect place to gather with friends and family or to be alone with that someone special. Surrounded by colorful gardens, its eight rooms and four suites offer a haven for those who want to retreat from the busy world to a quieter time but still enjoy modern amenities.

Hermann was founded in 1836 by German immigrants in Philadelphia who

were alarmed at the growing impact of English society on their lives and children. It was to be "the German homeland in the New World." The fast growing German Resettlement Society, with members recruited both in Germany and among German settlers throughout the United States, purchased land along the Missouri River. They sought to establish a city modeled on the layout of Philadelphia, though it was expected to become much larger and more important. In fact, Market Street in Hermann is actually 10 feet wider than the one in Philadelphia! In December of 1837, the first group of settlers arrived in the Midwest wilderness and only survived their first winter with the help of a few hardy and generous settlers already living there. In the spring of 1838, the less foolhardy members of the society joined them, and Hermann was

by Kent Wilkins

Photography by Carol Damhorst





▲ A delightful breakfast awaits you at the Captain Wohlt Inn

begun in earnest.

After a rough start, Hermann began to grow and thrive becoming a bustling center of wine making and riverboat traffic. By the early 1900s it was a leader in both of these activities as well as being a truly German town. The German Schoolhouse educated the town's children in German, teaching English as a second language. This success lasted until Prohibition when the town's leading industry was destroyed on "the day the river ran red." As well as pouring out all the wine, government officials destroyed equipment for making wine, casks and barrels for storing it, and even the very grape vines from which it came. Quickly following this disaster, the two world wars brought other hardships to a place which had lived on pride in its German culture.

Heinrich Wohlt emigrated to America's "Rhine Country" from Germany in 1843 at age of 10. He fell in love with the river and became a highly successful steamboat captain and entrepreneur in

Hermann. He built the two story frame house, which is now The Captain Wohlt Inn, as his retirement home in 1886. At the same time, he purchased the German vernacular home in front of it (built by Michael Poeschel in 1840) to be rental property.

One hundred years later, Harry and Lee Sammons purchased these two properties along with the adjacent brick home (built by Henry Peters in 1840) and restored them to operate as a bed and breakfast. They opened The Captain Wohlt Inn in 1987 and ran it with help from their daughter and her family. They later sold the property in 2001 to Kent and Mat Wilkins who began their lives (and Mat's dream) as innkeepers. In 2003, Kent and Mat purchased the 1892 brick cottage across the street, remodeled it, and added it to the Inn as The Captain's Neighbor.

The Captain Wohlt Inn now offers eight rooms and four suites with beautiful antique furnishings and the latest technology to add to guests' comfort.

Each unique room has its own full bath, and any stay includes a full hot breakfast (some say the best in Hermann) served in the Inn dining room.

The Inn, which served as Captain Wohlt's home, has five adult-only bedrooms decorated in lovely Victorian style. Two of the bedrooms are quaint "attic rooms" with small bathrooms. The rooms are peaceful with no televisions. Outside, guests can sit alone or with company on the brick patios and watch birds, rabbits, and the occasional deer cavorting in the lovely gardens. On cool nights, an outdoor stove adds warmth to the experience.

The Wohlt Suites offer beautifully appointed rooms, each with a separate entrance and private outdoor area. Inside, guests have the choice of a claw foot tub, jetted modern bath, or two-person jacuzzi as well as shower in each. Both the Peters Suite and the Poeschel Suite welcome children and have a VCR added to the cable TV so guests can enjoy a romantic



▲ The Sweetheart Room in Captain Wohlt's home



▲ The English Suite features a king-size bed with a cozy sitting area

movie or entertain the kids with a Disney film. The Poeschel Suite has a separate nursery, so the youngest guests may rest in privacy! Each suite also has a lovely sitting room plus microwave and refrigerator. The Sammons Suite offers total privacy for an adult couple with a king-size bed and romantic double jacuzzi en suite in addition to separate bath and small kitchen. This suite features a stunning

original limestone wall in the main room and kitchen.

Directly across Third Street from the Suites is The Captain's Neighbor with rooms themed to honor later nationalities of Hermann. Decorated in authentic historic colors, the rooms offer adults both tasteful surroundings for a romantic getaway as well as technology and space for a small business meeting. In keeping with

the theme of each room, the CD player alarm clocks have appropriate music for the theme.

The English Suite has a garden feel and huge king bedroom with fireplace, romantic sitting area, large bath with two-person jetted tub and shower, and a microwave and refrigerator. The French Room is a rose and green joy with another claw

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▼ The Irish Room invites you to rest in a luxurious Waverly-clad bed





▲ Captain Wohlt's home was built in 1886 and is located in the heart of the Historic National Register District



