

## BREAKFAST IN BED



MIRANDA HODGE

## Over Easy

This secluded country getaway offers hearty, home-cooked breakfasts with a side of relaxation.

BY ABIGAIL SINGREY

**IT'S THE PERFECT** wake-up call during a romantic getaway in the countryside—a home-cooked breakfast.

At the **BarDew Valley Inn** in Bartlesville, it's the cherry on top of a unique bed-and-breakfast stay.

Every morning, in a well-lit dining room surrounded by blue and white dishes brought back from owner Perry Haynes' time in Russia, guests dine on breakfast at a long family-style table. Breakfast always starts with a fruit and yogurt cup, while Haynes plates the main course. He rotates between several mainstays, including French toast, Belgian

waffles, biscuits and gravy, oatmeal, and eggs Benedict.

This morning, it's eggs Benedict, featuring croissants on a bed of spinach topped with Black Forest ham, eggs, cheese, and the classic, buttery hollandaise sauce. Tomatoes, peppers, and asparagus elevate the plate with appealing contrast.

Despite a lack of formal training, Haynes enjoys the breakfast ritual.

"I consider myself a home cook, not a chef," he says.

Haynes first started cooking breakfast as a child for his family after he finished an early morning paper route. Cooking meant he was excused from cleanup, an appealing proposition. Now, he puts those skills to work feeding guests at his inn.

Despite the generous helpings, several guests clear their plates.

"The breakfast was phenomenal," says Jason Giebler, who traveled from Missouri with his wife Sarah to celebrate their thirty-first wedding anniversary.

✦ **Guests will wake up feeling like Sleeping Beauty after a night in the French room.**

Within easy driving distance of Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve and The Pioneer Woman Mercantile, the BarDew Valley Inn is a popular romantic getaway due to its secluded location and child-free weekend policy. Each room has its own private patio, with some rooms offering views of the pond and others overlooking the wooded acreage. Animal-loving visitors frequently spot deer, turtles, and other critters. Visitors can bring their own pets to enjoy the stay, where they will meet resident dogs Brownie and Sadie.

"I want it to be more fun to be outside than inside," Haynes says.

Despite its relative newness, the house already has a storied history. In January 2006, Danna White, the widow of the pastor of the Bluestem Baptist Church in Dewey, and five of her children were living on the property in a trailer with no kitchen and no heat.



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After a filling breakfast, BarDew guests can explore the property's bucolic 15 acres.

The TV show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* surprised them by building a 4,200-square-foot house for them in a week. Hundreds of volunteers from the community helped the show meet the tight deadline. That home later became the BarDew Valley Inn after Haynes purchased the property in 2015 and reimagined it with the help of his mother, Maryann Szafarczyk.

Haynes loves giving guests a grand tour, showcasing the changes he has made to the house. He has repurposed a chapel as a casual hangout space, donating the stained-glass window to Bluestem Baptist Church and replacing it with clear, wide windows overlooking the trees. A screen drops down to transform it into a movie room.

Each meticulously designed room expresses a different theme with items Haynes sourced from estate sales, his travels, and his family collection. The Cowboy Suite celebrates everything Western, while the New York City Suite has a more sleek, modern aesthetic. Perry designed the New Orleans Suite to appear as if visitors are standing in a courtyard, with each wall part of a different building. A painting of the Ussé castle in France hangs over the bed in the French Château Suite, and Haynes has plans to open a fifth room soon.

"A lot of people say, 'You really have a hidden gem here,'" he says. 🍷

**BARDEW VALLEY INN**

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