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## Not Your Grandma's Bed & Breakfast . . .

At a recent Innkeeper conference bed and breakfast owners learned that many travelers don't choose a B&B because:

1. The thought never occurred to them, and

2. They were not sure what they would get

In regards to the latter reason, many people have a vision in their head of being forced to share a bathroom or that their guest room will be full of frilly furnishings and Victorian lace, etc. Times have changed since your grandparents or parents traveled to bed and breakfasts. Today guests will find amenities such as WiFi, flat screen televisions, flexible breakfast times and more. Some bed and breakfasts cater to the business traveler if they



are located in a major city or near and airport. Here in Amish Country you will find quite a variance in bed and breakfasts. You will find "true" bed and breakfasts where the owners live on site, are available for questions, and serve breakfast to you each morning. You will find some where you are given a voucher to a restaurant for breakfast. You will find some that are decorated Victorian and some that are recently remodeled.

One bed and breakfast owner made the comment, "We have been torn between keeping the quaint, country look with wallpaper that many people expect when they come to Amish Country or to modernize our guest rooms to fit today's traveler", said Carol Steffey, owner at

like you do for your own home. They don't have a restaurant on site to cook a special diet for you at the last minute. In addition to giving the innkeeper advance notice for food allergies or special diets, let them know if you have special needs. For instance, if you have trouble walking or use a walker let them know. Perhaps they will recommend a different room than the one that you originally chose that will better meet your needs of getting around your guest room. They can also make sure that you chose a room on the ground floor. Also, some bed and breakfasts have pets on the premises and if you have allergies to pets you will want to discuss this with your innkeeper.



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**Warm Citrus Fruit with Brown Sugar**  
2 medium red grapefruit, peeled & sectioned, or 1 1/2 c. refrigerated grapefruit sections, drained  
2 medium oranges, peeled & sectioned  
1 c. fresh pineapple chunks or 1 (8 oz) can pineapple chunks, drained  
1/4 c. packed brown sugar  
2 T. butter, softened

In a medium bowl combine grapefruit, oranges, & pineapple. Transfer to 4 individual broiler-safe au gratin dishes or 1-qt. broiler-safe au gratin dish or casserole. In a small bowl stir together brown sugar & butter until well mixed; sprinkle on fruit. Broil about 4-in. from the heat for 5–6 min. until sugar is bubbly. Makes 4 servings.

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Garden Gate Get-A-Way Bed & Breakfast. Steffey said that many of their regular guests love the old look and tell them not to change a thing. At the same time other travelers, especially those that are 25-35 years old, are telling them to update their rooms. Garden Gate Get-A-Way Bed & Breakfast recently retired the Grape Arbor Room at their B&B that had wallpaper with grape vines and other wallpaper on the ceiling along with indoor/outdoor carpet. The new name is Magnolia Garden Room and it has painted walls, hardwood floors, electric fireplace, flat screen TV, and updated bathroom. They still have some traditional rooms for guests preferring a more country décor, but the Magnolia Garden Room was designed for today's traveler with an updated décor.

One thing about staying in a bed and breakfast is that it is smaller and you get more personalized service than in a hotel. If you have never stayed at a B&B before you will want to think about what you like when you travel and ask those questions when you call to inquire about reservations. Some things to think about: Do you want to be on "Main Street" or in the country? Do they offer private bathrooms? Do they offer a full breakfast or Continental breakfast? Is breakfast served in courses or buffet style? Is there a curfew? What size bed do you want to sleep in? Before you make a reservation ask the innkeeper the questions that are important to you. This will insure that you have a pleasant experience.

Another thing to keep in mind is that a bed and breakfast is a small business. B&B owners can cater to a diabetic diet but don't wait until you check-in to ask for one. B&B owners will plan a menu for a week and go grocery shopping just



### Play Dough

1 c. flour  
2 T. cooking oil  
2 t. alum or cream of tartar  
1/2 c. salt  
food coloring in desired colors

Combine all on very low heat in saucepan. Cook over very low heat until it forms a ball. Remove from pan. Store in fridge.

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Something that bed and breakfast owners are famous for is helping guests find those hidden treasures in the area like the best restaurants and off-the-beaten path shops. All you have to do is ask!

For more information on the Magnolia Garden Room that we previously mentioned you can contact Garden Gate Get-A-Way Bed and Breakfast at 330-674-7608 or visit their website at [www.garden-gate.com](http://www.garden-gate.com). This multi award-winning Inn just received a new award from BnBfinder.com, "Guest Favorite Bed & Breakfast 2011".

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