

The Romance of Houmas House, Darrow, Louisiana

by Linda Holloway Photography by Larry Holloway Photography

Along a bend in the Mississippi River, you will find one of the most romantic destinations in the world, Houmas House Estate and Gardens. If you crave a private honeymoon haven from the entanglements of pre-wedding stress, The Inn at Houmas House is the ideal on-property lodging for the first days of forever. Imagine a place that has been waiting nearly three centuries to welcome you.

There is a certain mystique about a destination where romance and history intertwine. The architectural masterpiece, Houmas House, has 14 massive Doric columns, surrounded by centuries-old live oak trees. From the original structure of the 1770s to the present mansion, the owners have had the spirit of Southern hospitality in common. The sixteen-room mansion is restored with fine chandeliers and prized antiques. One of the favorite pieces on display is the Vampire

Slaying Kit once owned by author, Anne Rice. Our informative tour guide walked us through over 250 years of history. Houmas House is so stunning that film crews abandoned their Hollywood stage lots to film on location—including the classic film, *Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte*. Located between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Houmas House is the crown jewel of Louisiana's Great River Road.

The Inn at Houmas House

The Inn at Houmas House is a group of cottages nestled along an alley of ancient oak trees. Here, you will have full access to the famous grounds to watch the sunset, roam the famous gardens, and enjoy the gentle breeze from the Mississippi River. I recommend cottage #D2. The magnificent bed is designed and crafted by 19th century New Orleans cabinet maker, Prudent Mallard. The four-poster tester mahogany bed soars to the ceiling and

The Houmas House





The Tea House

is dressed in posh linens and comfortable bedding. These beds are usually in museums with a Do Not Touch sign attached. The bath is modern with a soaking tub and separate tiled shower.

For romantic dining, experience The Carriage House and Latil's Landing. At dusk, street lanterns stirred memories of New Orleans on our walk to the estate's Carriage House restaurant. Take notes of intimate spots, surrounded by majestic statues, that you can explore later. Chef Jeremy Langlois's diverse regional dishes are culinary celebrations. Make sure you try the bread pudding. After dinner, take a stroll around the well-lit mansion and grounds.

Ask about Latil's Landing in the original 1773 structure of Houmas House—fine dining at its best. Breakfast at the Dixie Café is complimentary with your stay. The extensive buffet comes complete with homemade biscuits. Here, you may see Kevin Kelly with his dynamic duo labs, Maggie and Dixie. Kevin is one of America's foremost visionaries who transformed Houmas House into the world-famous estate it is today. For lunch, grab a to-go sandwich from Dixie Café and visit the Tea House to view the waterfall below and the Eden-like gardens.

The Great River Road Museum is on-property and tickets can be bought at the door. Enjoy the area's interesting history along the Mighty Mississippi. Highlights include

items from the Battle of New Orleans, and Napoleon's Death Mask. Museum stories are enhanced by the wax figures that were originally on display in Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in New Orleans.

If searching for a honeymoon and a destination wedding location, Houmas House offers outdoor ceremonies beneath the oak alley with the Houmas mansion as a backdrop, under the famous Burnside Oak with Spanish moss swaying in the breeze, and in front of the elaborate Hampton Fountain Court.

After you have rejuvenated, drive to New Orleans for the bustling nightlife, take a ghost tour, and roam around Jackson Square listening to the sounds of jazz drifting from every corner, knowing Houmas House is awaiting your return. Here, connectivity, romance, and memories of a lifetime are just beyond the gates.

For more information, visit
www.HoumasHouse.com



*Prudent Mallard bed
in the Deluxe Suite*