

LATEST HEADLINES

'This place is magic:' Discover the charm of Florence's Red Rosebud Bed and Breakfast



By **OLIVIA JOHNSON** | ojohnson@canoncitydailyrecord.com

PUBLISHED: January 30, 2024 at 2:10 p.m. | UPDATED: January 30, 2024 at 4:17 p.m.

The Red Rosebud Bed and Breakfast has seen a multitude of Fremont County fads, and through the years, has served the community in a variety of ways.

The current owners, Jeff and Nicole Coutts, have worked hard to bring the historic home into the 21st century.

"I couldn't be happier...this place is magic," Nicole said. "It doesn't matter who owns it — it's just magical."

Located at 1305 W. Third St. in Florence, the Red Rosebud was formerly The Florence Rose Guesthouse and was built in 1886 at the height of the American Gilded Age. The Coutts bought the historical home in June 2022 and, ever since, have strived to not only restore the Victorian charm of



The couple met in 2014 during a leadership seminar in San Francisco and were married in 2016. Nicole always has dreamed of owning a bed and breakfast and the couple scanned the country for opportunities. They found the location of their dreams in little Florence.

“When we bought this property, it wasn’t for sale,” Jeff said with a smile. “It had been for sale various times in the previous four or five years by the previous owners.”

The Coutts worked closely with Florence residents Roger and Kat Duncan to renovate the home — a monumental task.

As a jack-of-all-trades, Jeff updated the antiquated knob and tube electrical, installed ceiling fans, fixed the three stunning water fountains on the property and planted new gardens.

Nicole used her prolific travel experience and interior design knowledge from years as a realtor to redesign the five rentable rooms into a fusion of 1880s Victorian charm and 21st-century modernism. Having also worked extensively in cuisine, she enjoys cooking breakfast every morning for the property’s guests.

“We put our own spin on the rooms, as well,” Jeff said. “We bought new beds and made it a lot nicer — a lot more ‘homey’ when people come. They can hang out, watch TV, play games, people use the patio and spa a lot.”

The five guest rooms have been renamed in honor of a variety of semi-precious stones, including the Ruby Room, Emerald Room, and Rose Quartz Room. Each has a unique feel and aesthetic and emulates Nicole’s hope that the Rosebud can be a place of relaxation and healing for guests.

“There’s passion here, there’s love here, there’s an experience here that can be had,” Nicole added.

Jeff hopes to someday begin a BBQ lunch for guests, and already, they have begun to implement unique and exciting events. They have already been in deep discussion with a company in Colorado Springs to host a Murder Mystery at the Rosebud in February and hope that residents will consider the home as a prime ‘staycation’ opportunity.

“We wanted to try and figure out what we could create and what would be fun and [what] people would like to do,” Nicole said.

True to the property’s name, Jeff curated a new rose garden at the entrance and, as a master gardener, designed and implemented sprawling flower beds across the grounds.

But it’s the combined charm of many eras that has drawn people to the property for ages.

Full of historical and eclectic items from the past 138 years, the house’s interior is like stepping into the reaches of time and is home to original woodwork furniture, black-and-white photos, and other Colorado antiques.

The home still retains significant pieces of the original build, such as the Tera Cotta tile in the Ruby Room. In the 1920s, the house was sold to J.B. Colvard who kept it as a rest home for veterans of the first World War. At that time, the Ruby Room was kept as a minor surgery room, and, in 2018, a great-grandson of one of the original operating doctors stayed in the room.

A 117-year-old carriage house sits at the back of the property in sight of the patio and hot tub area and offers clients another window into the past, along with the reassembled 1860 cabin from Westcliffe.

As the 20th century proceeded, the home underwent several changes- some of which were quite notable. In 1946, a gas grill was installed in the pre-Civil War cabin, providing Florence its first hamburger stand and car hop. The cherry orchard, which is now the parking lot, provided produce for cherry pie and cobbler, and classic cars lined the streets to get a piece of the delectable eats.

After changing hands many times throughout the 20th century, previous owners Bob and Barb Ricigliano bought the home in 2011.

Limelight was shown on the property again when Hollywood stars Robert Redford and Jane Fonda organized a last-minute stay at the home while they filmed the 2017 romance, “Our Souls At Night.”

Although the home is nearing 150 years old, the future is bright for the Red Rosebud. To inquire about renting a single or multiple rooms, visit the website at <https://redrosebudbnb.com/>, email Office@RedrosebudBnB.com, or call or text 720-588-6549. The sign at the front of the property also sports an easy-to-use QR code.

2024 > January > 30