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# BALLY SPRING INN

## *A Unique and Special Venue for Weddings, Corporate Retreats, and Events*



**Albert Zvarick**

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Of all the wedding and event venues in the region, there are very few that rival Bally Spring Inn in terms of combining elegance, rustic charm, excellent food and superb service. Add-in accommodations in the form of 18 uniquely appointed rooms, and Bally Spring Inn is in a class by itself.

“Most places have one or the other,” explains co-owner Albert Zvarick, who purchased the property with his brother and business partner John in 2010 as an investment. The brothers’ main enterprise is Trident E&P, a successful international engineering and procurement firm based in Pottstown.

“Some other venues have the charm, but not the overnight stay possibility, or they have the overnight ability at the hotel, but not the charm,” Albert said. “There are not many places like this that have 18 guest rooms right on site, so most of the wedding party can stay overnight for the weekend, including the rehearsal dinner and wedding night. Additional guests we shuttle down to a hotel in Pottstown with a shuttle bus,” he said.

The brothers fondly recall growing up on a farm in the Collegeville area with their 10 siblings, raised by hard-working, loving, salt-of-the-earth parents who encouraged their children to earn academic scholarships in order to attend The Hill School and become college graduates. Enjoying the fruits of their success in the business world, the Zvarick brothers saw this investment as a means of reconnecting with their rural roots.

“We both have that sentimental feeling for the way that we grew up on a farm and love of the farm,” Albert said. “We like the sense of history. My dad imbued that respect and caring about history. When the opportunity to buy this place happened, it just seemed like a perfect investment.





PHOTOS ABOVE BY STYLISH IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

We saw the potential to make it a first-class facility, and we spent quite a bit in improving it. Everything has been renovated. Our facility can accommodate up to 150 guests indoors, and up to 250 guests outdoors in our tent during the spring and summer.”

The Bally Spring Inn is set on 29 beautiful acres at the headwaters of the Perkiomen Creek in eastern Berks County. The grounds boast a historic 18th century farmhouse and barn, a limekiln perfect for stunning wedding pictures, original limestone quarries dating back to the 1700s, a private airport runway, historic stone fences and cellars, along with the perfect country side gazebo, and spacious, rolling fields surrounded with stunning hillside views of the Berks County countryside. The Inn is just around the corner from Allentown, Reading, Pottstown, Philadelphia and greater Lehigh and Delaware Valley.

The Bally Spring Inn offers superb food and services for weddings, social events, corporate meetings and retreats. Restored by Amish craftsmen from Lancaster County, the unique barn and banquet hall with handcrafted stone and woodwork boasts modern bathrooms, a large dining and dancing area with fireplace, vintage bar, modern commercial kitchen, and an expansive outdoor deck that overlooks the grounds below. Nine well-appointed guest suites, each featuring a Jacuzzi tub and historic stone work and beams, are arranged through the multi-storied building, with the honeymoon suite taking up the entire upper level.

The restored carriage house and the main house, or Farmhouse, date back to the mid 18th century, and each offers four additional finely appointment rooms. All of the buildings are constructed from native stone quarried from the property.

The unique rural ambiance and exceptional level of service at Bally Spring Inn reflect the personal emotional and financial investment of the Zvarick brothers, and the tenacious dedication to excellence of general manager Hasmik Yereghyan and her superb staff.

*(Continued on page 6)*



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**COVER STORY**

*(Continued from page 6)*

"It's really a perfect situation for having a personalized experience," Albert explains. "We go to great lengths to make it feel personal here. One thing we do is encourage people to bring their pets here. Some people bring their dog to their wedding, and that means a lot to them," he said. "When we do our tables, our waiters and waitresses know everybody's name at that table and interaction with our staff is on very personal level. Our bartender will make an effort to remember what drink each person is having."

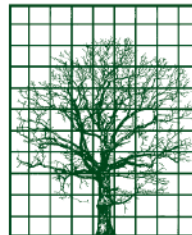
Albert is also quick to credit general manager Hasmik Yereghyan for her organizational skills and her staff's attention to detail, and he has high praise for his chef, Matt. "Matt does some really neat stuff," he said. "The weekend before last, for example, he made his own home-made pasta. It was great! He shops locally to get locally grown produce when it's in season. He grows his own herbs on site, and he really makes a nice presentation of everything. . . The staff we have, including the chef, they just love working here because it's not like a restaurant where there's pressure. We have no trouble finding staff. We keep them year 'round.

When it's slow, we have them do other things because we don't want to lose them to anyone else."

The Zvarick brothers are not yet finished making improvements to the property, while remaining committed to retaining its rustic charm and character. "If we are going to make any big improvements, we'll add more guest rooms and go vertical to maintain the architecture," Albert said.

A current project is underway to enlarge the deck overlooking the creek and expand the banquet hall to accommodate up to 200 guests. "We also want to put a bridge across the creek, and a walking path to walk around," Albert said. "We're not going to do anything dramatic. We are trying not to make it too modern. It's about atmosphere. We want this facility to be as authentic as it can to the period of time when it was built, and to maintain the historical feel to the place. But little things, like adding a pond with a fountain, with the fire pit, that would add great ambience for your wedding. We added some carriages, and an old Model T for photos, to give it the old-time feel. People like to ride around. Sometimes we have a carriage out here with horses. We're going to add a couple of wagons back there."

*(Continued on page 8)*



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## COVER STORY

(Continued from page 8)

Since the Zvarick brothers acquired and renovated the Bally Spring Inn, the wedding business has grown to the point where they host one or more weddings nearly every weekend, particularly during the popular fall and spring wedding seasons. The next phase is to build up the non-wedding business. "What we're trying to do is fill in the gaps in the week," Albert explains. "We don't want to be a bed and breakfast. Typically, people would only come on the weekends when we are booked with weddings. So, we plan to book more events during the week, whether it is a retirement party, or sweet 16, or have 20 people come here and spend two days doing corporate planning. That's really our next target for growth of the business," he said, adding, "We are trying to distinguish ourselves as being a very personable kind of experience. I think most of our reviews are five stars because of that experience."

Following is just a small sample of some of those reviews:

"I wish there were more than 5 stars to select from, because the Bally Spring Inn is definitely a 10 out of 5! Most amazing venue, most amazing team, and most amazing food!"

"A month later, I am still getting compliments about how fabulous my wedding was. I chose to have a buffet at my wedding, and I'm pretty sure that everyone went up for seconds because the food was that divine."

"My wedding day at the Bally Spring Inn was truly a dream... Our closest family and friends were able to join us for an intimate bonfire, spend the night in the many beautiful rooms the Inn has to offer. The staff at Bally Spring Inn truly made us feel like we were members of their family, and for that I am forever grateful. I would recommend the Inn 1,000 times over to anyone looking for a unique and beautiful wedding venue."

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"They were phenomenal at working with our tight budget and still giving us the wedding of our dreams... Trust them when they say, 'Don't worry, we'll handle it!' because they certainly took a load and a half off when I started worrying."

"The staff was equally wonderful. The night of our rehearsal my flower girl was in tears that someone had eaten a cheese stick she brought with for a snack. Without hesitation and unbeknownst to us, Chef Matt proceeded to whip up a batch of mozzarella sticks in the kitchen and specially delivered them... Little things like that really show the true character of a person and business and the Bally blew us away."

Whether you are looking for an inspiring, comfortable setting for a corporate planning or employee retreat, or for a bucolic yet elegant wedding venue, a gem awaits you in Berks County. For more information about events at Bally Spring Inn, please contact Stephanie Raab, Director of Sales, at 610.505.6997. Bally Spring Inn is located at 90 Airport Road, Barto, PA 19504; 610.845.3500; [info@ballyspringinn.com](mailto:info@ballyspringinn.com).

For additional information,  
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