



The living room provides a welcoming atmosphere at Tatanka Bluffs Bed and Breakfast in Redwood Falls, MN.

## Just the two of us

The only bed and breakfast in Redwood Falls proved to be grand common ground for a couple with different agendas.

By Lisa M. Bolt Simons

Photos submitted by Clint and Diane Knorr

**I**n 17 years of marriage, my husband, Dave, and I have tried to get away, minus our twins, at least once a year. It was my husband's suggestion to visit Redwood Falls, about an hour and a half northwest of Mankato. He wanted to hunt, but promised to find me a bed and breakfast. That he did.

He brought me to Tatanka Bluffs, a bed and breakfast that sits on the corner of Hwy. 71/ Mill St. and E. Second St., an

original main thoroughfare that is now quieter than the highway. Tatanka Bluffs, owned by Clint and Diane Knorr, first opened in 2007. Guests who have stayed here have come from as far away as England, Sweden and Israel... and as near as Faribault – my husband and I.

Fortunately for us, when we went, we were the only guests for the weekend. When we entered, I was impressed with the long, inviting room – sofas with blankets, a large-family dining room table and a kitchen in back. The décor felt modern farmhouse with its sage walls, wainscoting and wood-framed artwork.

Tatanka Bluffs features three rooms, all with private baths and their own unique setting. There's the Prairie Room, which is located on the main floor and decorated with three dimensional copper stars and sage and burgundy colors. The Cottage Room, on the second floor, boasts a sea theme, which includes a mosquito net over the bed and a four-season porch. We stayed in the Honeymoon Room. Its setting includes built-in bookcases and large windows. French doors lead to the bathroom and a whirlpool tub.

While my husband hunted, I lounged. I watched movies I didn't have time to see at home (I even had time to watch some special features). I logged on to my computer and deleted old emails. I read my book. I took a bath. I read my book in the bath.



The elegant bathroom in the Honeymoon Suite.



The inviting and festive dining room sets the mood during mealtime.

When my husband returned late afternoon, we went to dinner. For our first night, we chose to dine at the Valley Supper Club in North Redwood, a mere five-minute drive away. Though the atmosphere was, well, supper-clubbish – banquet tables and metal chairs, white walls, dim light – the food was delicious.

The second night, after Dave enjoyed another full day of hunting and I enjoyed a day of relaxation, we decided to head toward Morton, Minn. We drove by Jackpot Junction Casino to the Wabasha Creek Restaurant at the Dacotah Ridge Golf Course. The ambience was inviting – a massive stone fireplace, a large square skylight and a bright dining area. The service, however, begged for improvement. Several tables were being served, but only two wait staff were on the floor. One couple, when they weren't greeted for several minutes or offered a menu, left. After Dave and I got our lunch menus replaced with the dinner ones, we ordered our meals. Except for the tooth-cracking something in my husband's potatoes that went down with his bite, we savored our dinner.

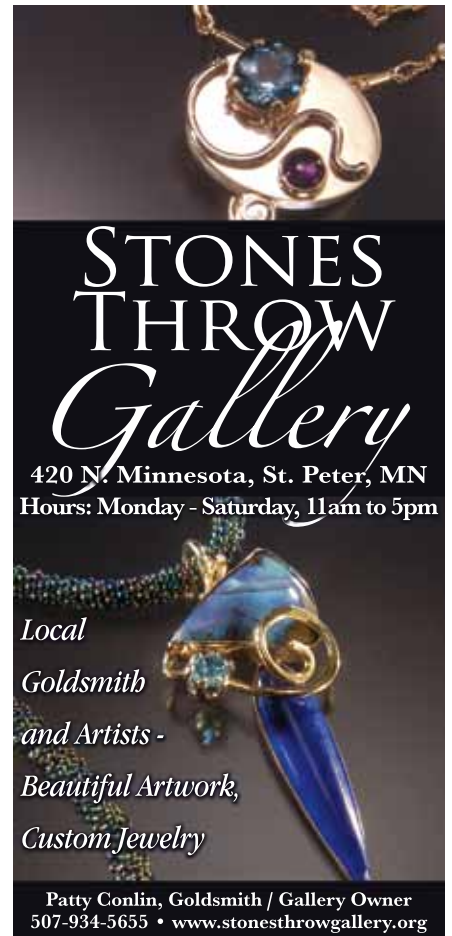
Although we managed to get in a few stops during our visit, there were other places we wanted to visit, such as Fieldstone Vineyards near Morgan, Minn. Meanwhile, Redwood Falls is adding a park with a stage, more bike trails and other hometown improvements, so upon our next return there should be more places to add to the list.

If my husband's hunting trips include stays like this, I'll go with him anytime.

Tatanka Bluffs Bed & Breakfast  
 103 East Second St.  
 Redwood Falls, Minn. 56283  
 507.627.1875  
[www.tankabluffsbandb.com](http://www.tankabluffsbandb.com) 

## A historical fast fact

Did you know that North Redwood is the birthplace of Sears? In 1886 Richard Sears, a railroad station agent, took advantage of a jeweler turning down a supply of watches and sold them to fellow agents to help support his family. Within six months, he resigned from the railroad, moved to Minneapolis and committed himself full-time to his growing business. He was 22. The next year, he partnered with watch repairman Alvah C. Roebuck. The Sears, Roebuck and Co. headquarters was established in Chicago in 1893. The Sears Holding Company now boasts 3,900 stores in the United States and Canada.



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