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### Vermont inns garner 'Yankee' recognition

By [Bruce Edwards](#)

STAFF WRITER

Four Vermont inns have made Yankee Magazine's list of top historic New England inns.

The Dorset Inn in Dorset, The Inn at Weathersfield in Perkinsville, Three Mountain Inn in Jamaica and the Henry Farm Inn in Chester are among the top 10 historic inns in New England listed in the magazine's December/January issue.

All the inns, which were built before 1799, were rated based on comfort, historic ambience, food, setting, things to do nearby, value, hearths, history and library.

Built in 1796, The Dorset Inn took third place behind The Old Inn on the Green in New Marlborough, Mass., and The Francis Malbone House, in Newport, R.I.

Christina Tree, who researched and wrote the Yankee article, said The Dorset Inn impressed her with its ambience, comfort and rich history as the oldest continuously running inn in the state.

Innkeeper Steven Bryant said the 25-room inn benefits from its location on the green in Dorset, surrounded by historic homes.

Bryant, who along with his wife, Lauren, purchased the inn 10 years ago, said the building has its own innate charm with "very worn wooden floors and the warm Oriental rugs."

"The rooms are in keeping with classic New England experience, but they're updated (with) nice amenities," he said.

Bryant said the restaurant has a long-standing reputation for its no-frills menu: nothing fancy, just good food done well, in a dining room that doesn't lack for ambience.

He said the experience is enhanced by a 35-person staff that includes Nuni, the inn's longtime waitress, and Patrick, the bartender.

Bryant also said there are activities close by, including the Dorset Playhouse, the Manchester outlet stores, golf and skiing.

Although the least populous of the New England states, Vermont has more than its share of historic inns, Tree said during a phone interview.

"The explanation (is) ... there were a lot of buildings that date from that particular era in Vermont and then a lot of them are inns and they're open this time of year," said Tree, who has written several travel books, including "Best Places to Stay in New England."

Built as a private home in 1792, The Inn at Weathersfield received a top score of five from

Tree for dining. She also gave the inn high marks for comfort and activities. Overall, the inn placed fourth.

Innkeeper Jane Sandelman said the 12-room property has become a dining destination for the public thanks to chef Jason Tostrup, whose credentials include restaurants in Aspen, Colo., and Napa Valley, Calif.

Sandelman said the menu places an emphasis on local food. "He really takes a partnership approach with our farmer partners," she said.

Making the Yankee Magazine best inns list is one of several honors the inn has received over the years but one that's a little more special, Sandelman said.

"It helps us get to people who might not know where Weathersfield, Vermont, is," she said. "Everybody knows about Woodstock, and everybody knows about Ludlow, and everybody knows about Chester, but we're kind of off the beaten path here in Weathersfield."

The Three Mountain Inn in Jamaica (ninth) impressed Tree with its food and activities.

"There's a large continuously lit hearth, deeply hued 22-inch wide-pine paneling ... and rustic furniture, all made by craftspeople working within steps of the inn," she wrote.

And Tree had this to say in her article about the Henry Farm Inn (10th), which received high marks for ambience and value: "Now a B&B, it was built in the late 1700s as a stagecoach stop on the Green Mountain Turnpike, today a quiet road on the edge of town. Inside there's a warm welcome from hosts Patricia and Paul Dexter and a fire in the guest parlor."

The following historic inns made Yankee Magazine's "Top 10 Historic Inns" list:

The Old Inn on the Green, New Marlborough, Mass.

The Francis Malbone House, Newport, R.I.

→ The Dorset Inn, Dorset, VT

→ The Inn at Weathersfield, Perkinsville, VT

The Hancock Inn, Hancock, N.H.

The Inn at Lower Farm, Stonington, Conn.

The Candleberry Inn on Cape Cod, Brewster, Mass.

The Inn at Valley Farms, Walpole, N.H.

→ Three Mountain Inn, Jamaica, VT

→ Henry Farm Inn, Chester, VT

Several inns in Maine and Massachusetts made the runners-up list.