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California B&B Innkeepers Help Create Memorable Engagements

SACRAMENTO, CA—[January 25, 2010] Lovers looking for an unforgettable way to pop the question can rely on experts in the field of romance: California bed and breakfast innkeepers. For years, innkeepers throughout the state have been helping couples dream up unique ways to get engaged.

“Innkeepers pride themselves on the highly-personalized service they provide their guests,” said Katherine Davis, program manager for the California Association of Bed & Breakfast Inns (CABBI). “And with their eye for the romantic, they make great partners for pulling off memorable engagements.”

Three years ago, innkeeper Paul Bullock of **The Eagle Inn** in Santa Barbara emerged from the ocean at sunset in full scuba gear—like a creature from the deep—and shuffled along the sand to an incredulous couple standing on the beach. He handed them a large sea shell. “I told them I’d found this unusual shell and that they should have it as a souvenir,” said Bullock. “The man made a big deal of it, shook it, passed it to his girlfriend, and said, ‘there’s something inside.’ The girlfriend opened the shell and found her engagement ring.”

Last spring, a U.S. Marine stationed in Afghanistan contacted the **Casa Laguna Inn & Spa** in Laguna Beach to help with his engagement plans during a surprise visit home. He asked his girlfriend’s best friend to bring her to the inn for a girls’ getaway. Casa Laguna’s staff suggested the property’s bell tower for his marriage proposal and decorated tower room with flowers and candles. After the women arrived, the best friend told the girlfriend to meet her in the bell tower. Mounting the stairs, the girlfriend nearly stopped short because she was afraid the flowers and candles were for someone else, but according to General Manager Kathryn Mace, “When her Marine stepped out into view, we could hear the girl’s screams echo across the Casa Laguna grounds.”

The **Napa Inn** has assisted with dozens of engagements over the years, ranging from convincing a local restaurant to bake the ring into a raspberry soufflé to arranging an early morning hot-air balloon ride. Innkeeper Brooke Boyer said, “It makes us feel so special to be part of such a big event.”

CABBI-certified member bed and breakfast inns adhere to a 68-point standard ensuring high levels of customer service and quality amenities. For more information and to search among the 300 member inns located throughout California, please visit www.cabbi.com.

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