

GREAT ESTATES

HOTELS

PAST MEETS PRESENT

The buzzwords at **The Baker House 1650**—East Hampton's 17th century inn that's hotter than ever—are comfort, calm and sensory delights.

By JAMES SERVIN

"Anybody who's been out in East Hampton has driven by The Baker House 1650," says Antonella Bertello, the bed and breakfast's proprietor. A real estate broker and fan of Formula One racing, Bertello has created an idyllic life in the slow lane at The Baker House 1650 for those accustomed to living it to the fullest in the fast lane. "When I saw this place for the first time, I was awed by the fact that just 10 feet from Main Street is this very European-looking property and its amazing gardens," she says.

With 17th century Cotswolds-inspired architecture, five guest rooms decorated in the Arts and Crafts style, manicured grounds, outdoor terraces and a breakfast room overlooking an English garden, the enchanting inn resonates with many guests as being a vision straight out of Downton Abbey. Shares Bertello, "Someone said that if the Crawley family had a summer home, this would be it."

Built in 1648, the storybook bed and

breakfast, which includes two deluxe guest suites in a carriage house situated on its own private acre in the back, has played many roles during its lifetime: It's been a house of worship, a pub and a town hall.

What it does best today is convey elegant serenity, derived authentically from the past through property landmarks like a 200-year-old wisteria tree (occasionally, says Bertello, guests will ask permission to snip a sprig, "for a little memory")—with, of course, a little Italian-Peruvian spice added, reflecting Bertello's heritage. "On the breakfast menu, which changes every day, we serve huevos rancheros, avocado, chorizo and breakfast burritos," she says. "And I have tons of coffee-table books scattered throughout the house—books about the Hamptons, about flowers," and plenty on Peru and the Inca Empire.

Throughout the summer, the Baker House 1650 hosts Champagne and wine-tasting parties, offers complimentary Pilates classes from fitness diva Erika Bloom—and continues delivering its unique blend of luxury and calm. "People come to us to disconnect," says Bertello. "We're going through a very complicated historical period right now. Coming out to the Hamptons and to the Baker House removes you from that. We try to keep it a nice,

happy, peaceful space here."

Guests can also be assured the place is stocked with modern comforts like Frette sheets, L'Occitane bath products and must-haves like Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and full cable service. "Some hotels, particularly in Europe, will offer only a limited number of cable channels," says Bertello. "This is very frustrating to me—I've got to see my Formula One races." Rooms from \$835 per night, 181 Main St., East Hampton, bakerhouse1650.com



SWEET SERENITY
Clockwise from top: The backyard at The Baker House 1650; owner Antonella Bertello with her dogs Sophie and Phoebe; the hotel's spa.

