



HOTEL DU PONT

PRESS INFORMATION

CONTACT: Carolyn F. Grubb
(302) 594-3162
Carolyn.F.Grubb@usa.dupont.com

DINING AT THE HOTEL DU PONT ELEGANCE, TASTE AND TRADITION ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS

WILMINGTON, DE - - There are no electric blue neon lights in the restaurants of the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware. Or distracted pony-tailed waiters who would rather be on Broadway. There are no cavernous, cacophonous dining rooms that pass for trendy in cities where all too often restaurant cuisine plays second fiddle to the social scene. 96 years of tradition and exacting customer expectations have created quite a different sense of style and taste at this landmark property on the edge of the scenic Brandywine Valley.

Instead of glitz and the latest pop culture icons, the dining ambience here is defined by fumed oak paneling, crystal and gold chandeliers, and priceless original artworks, including many from the famous Wyeth family and other artists of the Brandywine. Service at the du Pont is exquisitely old-fashioned friendly, attentive, gracious and refined. Even the food, under the direction of Hospitality Food and Beverage Director, Dan Bradway resists the temptation to go mindlessly modern, instead, the substance – the crème de la crème – of the newest trends in cuisine is blended with the classics.

One of the most elegant hotel dining rooms in America, the Green Room has won the prestigious Four-Diamond Award for 24 consecutive years. With a timeless charm and beauty reflected in the recent renovations, today's colorful combination of new and old includes rich, carved oak paneling accented with gold leaf wall covering, a coffered ceiling, shimmering draperies, comfortable wingback dining chairs and ornate wall sconces and chandeliers. Music is played nightly from a delicate gallery perched about the diners. Three large paintings – “Sunflowers” by Frank E. Schoonover, “Elfreth’s Alley” by Ed Loper, and “Garden at Wilmington, Vermont” by John Koch are ornately framed on dark paneled walls. Keeping pace with the restaurant itself, the Green Room’s seasonal French cuisine for lunch and dinner has also undergone refurbishment. The menu focuses on today’s balanced and lighter meals, changing often to offer fruit, vegetables, and fish when they are their prime. The Green Room also features a chef’s tasting menu each evening to enable the dining patron to have a broader culinary experience.

A more casual dining option at the Hotel du Pont includes the Lobby Lounge, decorated with Queen Anne-style chairs and small tables clustered around a baby grand piano, original art and brass sconces. The Lobby Lounge serves afternoon tea as well as cocktails and hors d’oeuvres while enjoying a live jazz ensemble.

- more -

Highly regarded as a venue for both corporate meetings and private corporate and social functions, the Hotel du Pont also has numerous other dining facilities for these occasions. Eleven private dining rooms are ideally suited for small meetings and corporate dinners. The du Barry Room, accommodating 125 people, is one of the most romantic dining settings in any hotel. Twelve-foot walnut doors are adorned with carved peacocks and urns. The Federal-style room is decorated with pillars, parquet floors and European crystal chandeliers and offers the perfect setting for a very special occasion.

On a larger, even grander scale is the du Pont's Gold Ballroom. Built in 1918 and accommodating up to 500 people, it is the hotel's largest function space. French Neoclassic and Louis XVI styles are highlighted by gilded scrolls, columns and ornate ceiling designs. Medallions of twenty famous women in history circle the ceiling and the walls decorated with classic scenes are done in the sgraffito technique (layers of colored paper which are then hand etched). During the ballroom's construction, thirty Italian artisans and their families lived in the Hotel for one year completing the design of Duncan Smith and Violet Terwilliger.

Winner of the American Automobile Association Four-Diamond Award for 17 consecutive years, the 217-room Hotel duPont is located in the heart of Wilmington, less than 25 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport and only minutes from Amtrak and Interstate 95. Known for its excellent meeting facilities and fine restaurants, the historic Hotel du Pont also is conveniently close to the treasures of the Brandywine Valley, including Winterthur, Longwood Gardens and the Brandywine River Museum. The hotel is a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts and Historic Hotels of America.

For information and reservations, call 800-441-9019 or 302-594-3100 or contact your nearest travel agent. Visit our website at www.hoteldupont.com.

#