

THE WEDDING FARMER



STEP BACK IN TIME WITH *the Wedding Farmer* | Rum River Barn & Vineyard



Author: Casey Vanek
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Casey Vanek is an accomplished runway and print model with a passion for writing, her inspiring blog titled, "Go Eat a Cheeseburger", is a personal blog site dedicated to freeing naturally thin women from the stereotype judgement obtained in today's society. Casey is a Minneapolis based model, freelance writer and soon to be mother. Casey enjoys warm weather, painting, knitting and spending time with her three puppies.

Visit Rum River Barn and Vineyard for more information and photos.
www.rumriverbarn.com

Weddings, in essence, are a traditional ceremony of love. Throughout time, many wedding traditions have come and passed. Some die out as fast as they're born while others get passed down from generation-to-generation. At the Rum River Barn and Vineyard, one can be instantly transported back to a simpler time and a place where traditions and customs are preserved in the form of a family farm outfitted to provide the perfect venue for a wedding that embraces the celebration of love with potent nostalgia.

The property on which the Rum River Barn and Vineyard sits has records dating back to the late 1800's when it was owned by the Pillsbury Family. In the early 1900's the property was settled by Norwegian immigrants and remained in the family until 2003 when Carvin Buzzel purchased the property and began the process of turning it into a winery and event center in the spirit of celebrating the history of the land. Upon realizing his property was perfect for hosting weddings, Carvin began transforming his property into what it is today.

Originally a dairy farm, The Rum River Barn and Vineyard, located near Milaca, is a convenient drive from the St. Cloud and Twin City Metro Area and has been conserved to convey the spirit of the family farm. Nestled in an expansive oak grove pasture, the original buildings overlook a vineyard with a small brook off in the distance. Carvin has taken special care that each building on the property that was once used by the original owners has been preserved in such a fashion to reflect the essence of the land. For instance, much of the wood used to construct the barn (now the main dance hall) was milled from trees located on the property.

While there are various amenities that distinguish The Rum River Barn and Vineyard as a premier wedding venue, the barn is certainly the focal point. The main barn overlooks the vineyard and consists of a two-level building with all the features necessary to house a reception. On the ground level of the barn, one will find an impressive bar complete with restrooms as well as several high-top tables for guests to converse. The upstairs of the barn is a large open area for dinner and dancing complete with a dance floor and beautiful built in oak benches around the perimeter.

Moving across the property, the next building down is the Bridal Suite. Adorning the wall of the bridal suite is the marriage certificate of the original husband and wife that called this place home as this building was the original home built in the early 1900's. The suite boasts a luxurious space furnished with plenty of couches, chairs, mirrors, and even a private linen-draped courtyard for the bride and the wedding party to prepare for the ceremony.

One amenity that The Rum River Barn and Vineyard possesses that many do not is a beautiful 4-bedroom guest house. Reminiscent of a quaint bed and breakfast, the house presents an extremely convenient place for guests and immediate family of the bride and groom to stay and celebrate the wedding. Completely outfitted with beds, bedding, a full kitchen, and a hot tub, the guest house will make any guest feel right at home.

Perhaps the greatest amenity that the Rum River Barn and Vineyard has is the grounds itself. Just past the barn and beyond the vineyard is a large area for guests to camp and continue the celebration into the night. This option provides guests with a great deal of convenience and spares them the expense of getting a room. For those not in the mood to pitch a tent, there are several hotels available nearby. Taking a brief stroll through the yard, there are countless scenic locations for the perfect wedding photographs as well as countless areas for guests to relax, unwind, and congregate.

One thing about the Rum River Barn and Vineyard that cannot be overlooked is Carvin's flexible and accommodating approach to planning a wedding. Not only does the wedding party have free-reign over the property for their day, Carvin does not limit catering choices, décor, or equipment rental. While many chose to use his preferred vendors out of convenience, this is by no means a requirement of agreement. This refreshing and laid-back approach allows each bride and groom to come up with a myriad of ways to use the venue.

One could choose one of the many features and facets to The Rum River Barn and Vineyard that help to tell the true story of this unique venue. It could be Carvin's distinct vision that earned him the nickname "The Wedding Farmer" from his neighbors. It could be the picturesque buildings, farm yard, and natural landscapes. Or, it could be the fact that with less than an hour drive from St. Cloud one can be taken back almost an entire century to a much simpler time. But probably the biggest takeaway from the experience at the Rum River Barn and Vineyard is the one that's experienced immediately upon arrival; the powerful feeling of nostalgia and tradition providing the perfect complement for an unforgettable wedding.

