

BEACH TOWN WEEKENDS

# Southern Living®

## ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SUMMER

How To Soak Up the South's Best Season

PORCH  
STYLE  
IDEAS

WaterColor,  
Florida

Prettiest  
Tomato  
Salads Ever

Our Best  
Peach  
Desserts

Rick Bragg's  
Letter to  
Dolly

JUNE/JULY 2022



# Historic Oak Hill Inn

**C**hances are, even someone who grew up here in Natchez wouldn't find Oak Hill Inn if they weren't looking for it. This last block of Rankin Street is a dead-end stretch of road with just a handful of houses on it. As a result, Oak Hill, with its elegant front gallery and lush gardens, feels hushed and remote, though it's just a 10-minute walk from the center of town. Camellia bushes and live oaks draped with Spanish moss are everywhere. You'll also find angel's trumpets and a fountain

filled with frogs and lotus flowers. Under an arbor at the edge of the property is an antique aquarium (made of cast iron and glass) that is one of the oldest working examples of its kind. Stepping onto the grounds feels a bit like stumbling onto a movie set. So when hosts Doug Mauro (shown below left) and Don McGlynn (below right) hand you an icy mint julep and lead you to a chair on the gallery above the quiet neighborhood street, you accept your role as a pampered guest without protest.

This talented pair (Mauro is an expert gardener, and McGlynn is known for his gourmet breakfasts) is originally from New Jersey. When they discovered Natchez on vacation nearly two decades ago, they sold their house on the shore and never looked back. At the time, Oak Hill was in disrepair. "It took us two years to make it livable," recalls Mauro. "We'd already sold our house, so

we stayed here during the renovations, which I wouldn't recommend."

Built in 1835, the house still had its original cypress mantels, wide-plank cypress flooring, and transom windows above several doorways. The two opened their B&B at the end of 2006, and it's been a runaway success ever since. Today, Oak Hill regularly snags a spot on Tripadvisor's Travelers' Choice Award's

list of the country's top B&Bs. In 2014, they were ranked third in the world.

The move to Natchez was intended to kick off the couple's retirement years, but that plan has since been scrapped. "We didn't expect any of this," explains McGlynn. "Running this place really is the perfect job, though. I don't have to get dressed up or commute, and we've met a lot of wonderful people. Some come back year after year, so now they're like family." [historicoakhill.com](http://historicoakhill.com)

**DOUG  
MAURO  
& DON  
MCGLYNN**



## Happy Hour

Mint juleps on the veranda are an absolute must.

