

# Hostel Tevere

BY ROCHELLE LASH, SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE    SEPTEMBER 6, 2010



Early season snow adds a touch of white to Hostel Tevere, where beds start at \$30 U.S. night.

**Photograph by:** Sarah Wright, Hostel Tevere

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Editor's note: Some of the details might have changed since the original publication date. Please check with the establishment before heading out!

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WARREN, Vt. – Two twentysomethings have started a country lodge with a new twist in this old Vermont tourist town established in the 1780s.

Americans Sarah Wright, 25, and Giles Smith, 27, met in Rome as students a few years ago. She was studying architecture on a program from Northeastern University in Boston. He was working as a bartender while getting a marketing degree at the American University of Rome. Romance bloomed, they graduated and then merged their talents. The result is Hostel Tevere, a smart dorm-style lodge that opened a few months ago near the Sugarbush and Mad River Glen ski areas.

The young couple did something right. Using the slogan “eat, drink, stay,” Hostel Tevere already is a hit in the Mad River Valley. Sure, there are plenty of hotels, condos and inns – more than 30 establishments – but Tevere is one of the few places to bed down at \$30 a night.

Wright and Smith renovated an old house, keeping the wide-planked pine floors, the iron stove and the hand-carved wooden doors. Wright chose quirky, modern furniture and avant-garde art. Tevere has three bathrooms and four rooms with a total of 24 bunk beds, all equipped with new, thick mattresses and heavy down-filled duvets.

“It’s definitely not your mother’s hostel,” said Wright, the architect. “When we travelled, we stayed in a dull room in an empty-nester’s house and we also stayed in state-run hostels, which were pretty dry.

