



Bob Timberlake adds flavor to Blowing Rock

By Debbie Selinsky

Though Lexington is his home and Figure Eight Island on the coast has been a long-time vacation home, realist artist Bob Timberlake finds himself spending more and more time near the mountains in scenic Blowing Rock.

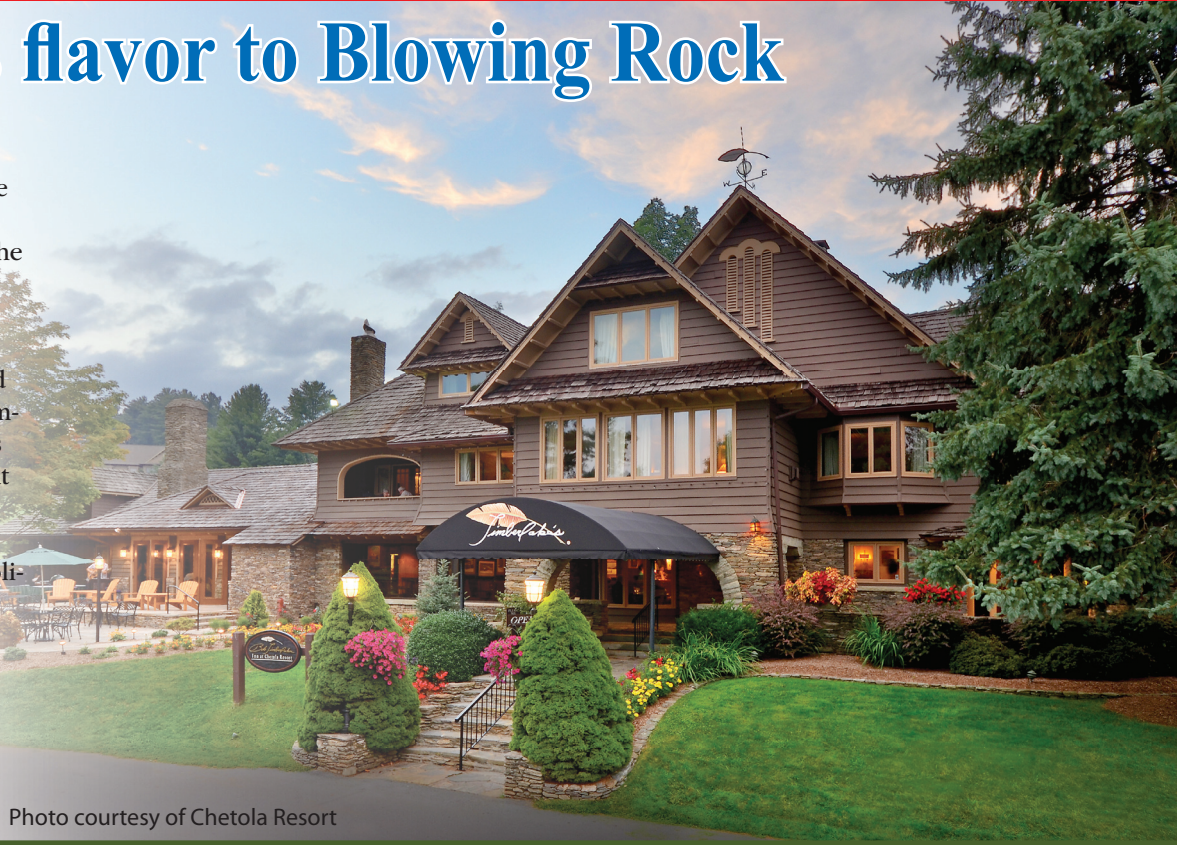
And it's no wonder he feels so comfortable in the friendly mountain town – his mark is, quite literally, all over the place.

Since 2004, the upscale Bob Timberlake Inn has been located in an 1846 estate home on the grounds of Chetola Resort. Teaming up with Chetola owner Kent Tarbutton, Timberlake and his team decorated the eight rooms – each named for an important figure in Chetola's history – with his art, his best-selling furniture line and vintage items that reflect the building's heyday from the 1920s to the 1940s when "Coca-Cola King of the Carolinas" J. Luther Snyder owned it.

And finally in August, Tarbutton and Timberlake introduced the similarly themed Timberlake's Restaurant on the bottom level of the Inn to a packed house. After a 2011 fire that shut down the generically named Manor House Restaurant, the two friends put their heads together with restaurant manager Clar-

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Photo courtesy of Chetola Resort



Stores such as The Curious Peddler in Mebane offer a variety of quality pieces for homeowners looking for just that right piece to make a room.

(Not Just) For Old Time's Sake: Antiques

By Karen Lewis Taylor

In our increasingly throw-away culture of consumerism, with fashions that change with the seasons and once-hot décor that quickly gets relegated to the rec room (or, worse, the dump), it's nice to know there's a way to embrace an environmentally-friendly decorating philosophy while creating timeless beauty in your home: by buying antiques.

Beauty and quality

Blake Addison, owner of Classic Treasures consignment store in Durham, notes that a lot of contemporary furniture just doesn't have

the quality or style to suit most consumers for long. "A lot of the new furniture today is mass-produced and made for aesthetics, not necessarily longevity," she says. "I like to call it 'disposable furniture,' because after one year's use it will need to be thrown out."

Not so antiques. Because of their superior craftsmanship and classic design, these pieces have staying power even with today's blink-and-you've-missed-it trends. After all, they've survived more than 100 years of use and changing tastes already.

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ANTIQUES

Pamela Chatham, an interior designer in Chapel Hill, extols the “uniqueness, scale, and patina” of antiques in creating a space that is distinctive and personal. “The beauty of an antique is in the lack of uniformity in the way it is put together,” she says. “Carving done by hand is often the thing that makes an antique beautiful. Another is the subtle wood grain that is revealed underneath the stain.”

Even one or two such quality pieces can add warmth, character, and timeless appeal to a room. “Antiques are a great way to give your space an eclectic, personal look that’s not the cookie-cutter chain store look,” says Barbara Guttman of Melville Trading Company in Mebane. “I like that they’ve stood the test of time and show some age.”

Historical, eco-friendly buys—and smart investments

In addition to beauty, quality and originality, antiques offer consumers something they can’t find at just any furniture store—the satisfaction of preserving the past while protecting the future.

“There’s great history in antiques,” says Elizabeth Lindquist, of Whitehall at the Villa Antiques in Chapel Hill. “These pieces have lived through wonderful periods of history that you can embrace.” She adds that they also help preserve the environment: “Antiques are the ‘greenest’ way to furnish your home—no new timber has been cut, and there are no new CO2 emissions [generated] from factories.”

Chris DiGiovanna of Pittsboro, who sells collectibles online at TraderChris.biz, agrees. “Buying antiques is earth-friendly,” he says. “You’re re-using and re-purposing something instead of buying new. Plus, good antiques are built to last. The saying ‘They don’t make ‘em like they used to’ is true in many cases.”

But here’s the best part: antiques are often less expensive than new



Vintage and primitive pieces, such as this cabinet with glass doors and small drawers at Melville Trading Company in Mebane, offer homeowners a distinctive look.

pieces of similar quality and typically maintain—or increase—their value over time. Consumers may even acquire something special that’s no longer offered in today’s market.

“The availability of many exotic woods [common in antiques] is limited or, in some cases, nonexistent today,” notes Teresa Dallas of The Curious Peddler in Mebane. “Other materials, such as American-made brass hardware, are extremely expensive. Antiques are already fitted in the beautifully crafted hardware of days gone by,” which makes them increasingly desirable even as they age.

For discerning buyers looking for something beyond the ordinary, then, quality antiques offer a world of design possibilities—“everything from Victorian to Arts and Crafts,” notes Chatham—with the extra assurance of lasting quality and value.

Tips for savvy shopping

Certainly, it helps to know whether a piece is good quality and worth its asking price, and that’s where first-time buyers may need some guidance. Our experts stress the role an experienced dealer can play in helping inexperienced antique-hunters find furniture that is well built, well maintained, and priced appropriately.

“Find locally owned shops or dealers that you trust,” says Dallas. “Develop a relationship with the store owner and communicate what you



Melville Trading Company

are looking for or the kinds of things you are interested in. This relationship can prove to be very valuable.”

Of course, there are many different venues for antique-hunting, and each one offers something different. “Specialty shops will be the most likely to have what you want, but you’ll probably pay a premium for the convenience,” DiGiovanna says. “Consignment stores carry a wide variety of items for reasonable prices, but the inventory can vary widely

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This antique desk at The Curious Peddler is both elegant and rustic, adding a touch of character to any room.

and depends almost entirely upon the consignors. Flea markets and yard sales provide some of the best opportunities to find treasures for cheap, but it's really a combination of persistence and luck that will yield those rewards. Online offers the opportunity to find what you want with ease, but be sure to shop around for the best price and buy from a reputable seller."

Regardless of where you shop, our experts caution, do some homework and inspect items carefully before settling on a purchase. Know what signals quality, and know how much it should cost.

"Just because it's old doesn't make it valuable," notes Chatham.

"All antiques will have wear, shrinkage in the wood, patination and oxidation," says Lindquist. "One should expect what we call 'house-keeping' repairs, which are done to keep the piece in good working order. However, watch for overly restored or refinished pieces, as this has a negative impact on value."

Signs of quality to look for: an overall sturdy construction; original wood (hardwoods are best); 8-way hand-tied frames; dovetail-jointed, hand-planed drawers; and age-appropriate nails and hardware. If

there are minor cosmetic issues that mar the appearance of an otherwise choice piece, consider the feasibility and expense of repairs. Price your find with similar items by shopping around and researching the era.

Talk with friends who have furniture you've admired to learn about their buying experiences.

Old or new, suit yourself

Most importantly, remember that no piece is a find if it doesn't fit your needs.

"Get an overall idea of the work that it would take to make an antique piece usable for your situation," Guttman says. "If you don't have the time, skill or desire to make repairs—or if you don't want to see any imperfection—you might consider [buying something] new."

Dallas agrees. "There are times when it is practical to purchase a mix of old and new pieces to accommodate our modern lifestyles," she says. "Several years ago, it was commonplace for people to take antique wardrobes, drill holes in the back, and use them to hold TVs and VCRs. Then the shape and sizes of TVs radically changed—and people had defaced and devalued a family heirloom."

James Kennedy, of James Kennedy Galleries, states, "When asked for advice on buying antiques or art my first response is to buy what you truly like. Don't buy something because someone else tells you it is good for you. Secondly, don't buy art and antiques as an investment. Only in rare occasions, usually at the very high end, could they be considered liquid assets, and the cost of selling can be a sizable part of the sales price. With those things in mind, buy the best you can afford. It is always better to have one great piece than a group of lesser quality mediocre pieces. You want something that can give you pleasure for a long time. If a piece really speaks to you, you won't regret buying it in the long run."

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buying new, says Lindquist, include bed frames, kids' furniture (as much for safety as for functionality), and upholstered seating. "There's no such thing as an antique over-stuffed sofa, which so many of us find ideal for lounging and watching TV on," she notes.

The bottom line, says Guttman, is to buy what works best for you: "Be selective and make a purchase that is right for you and your home."

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