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BEST OF NEW ENGLAND

Hall of Fame

FOR ALMOST HALF A CENTURY, YANKEE'S SUMMER TRAVEL GUIDE HAS SHOWCASED OUR REGION'S MUST-VISIT DESTINATIONS AND DIVERSIONS. THIS YEAR, OUR FIRST-EVER HALL OF FAME SALUTES 230 PAST WINNERS THAT CONTINUE TO WOW US TODAY.

MARK FLEMING

MOUNT WASHINGTON
COG RAILWAY
Bretton Woods, NH



MCLOONS, South Thomaston



MAINE

DINING

Back Bay Grill Portland

In one of the hottest foodie cities in the country, Back Bay Grill—founded in the late 1980s—remains a perennial favorite for a special evening. Though the eatery is a bit off the beaten path, chef-owner Larry Matthews Jr.'s creations have held their own against all newcomers. When critics rave about Portland's culinary scene, the conversation often starts here. 207-772-8833; backbaygrill.com

Bob's Clam Hut Kittery

A staple in Kittery since 1956, Bob's built its fame on two styles of fried clams: "Bob's," which are dipped in a mix of unseasoned flours and fried to light crispness, and "Lillian's," which make two passes through the

flours with an egg wash in between, creating a crunchier clam. In 2018, the double-barreled magic transplanted perfectly to a second Bob's location in Portland. 207-439-4233; bobsclamhut.com

Eventide Oyster Co. Portland

Here is a restaurant that serves intelligent, just-imaginative-enough, and tasty interpretations of classic New England seafood like lobster rolls, chowder, and fried fish that has earned it a national reputation. The idea is so simple and winning that you have to wonder why anyone didn't think of it before—or at least didn't execute it so well. 207-774-8538; eventideoysterco.com

Fore Street Portland

The brick and soapstone hearth at the heart of Fore Street isn't merely decorative: It's where fresh fish, meats, and vegetables are roasted

over hardwoods and fruit woods, providing a mouthwatering form of dinner theater. Award-winning chef Sam Hayward was a pioneer in the locavore movement long before farm-to-table was a concept (the restaurant opened in 1996), so his live-fire cooking always begins with exceptional ingredients. 207-775-2717; forestreet.biz

The Holy Donut Portland

It has long been a tradition in Maine potato country to add mashed spuds to doughnut batter, yielding a fluffier, moister dunker. So when Leigh Kellis decided to open a doughnut shop in Portland in 2012, it was only natural that she would make her rounds with potatoes. The results not only nail the perfect texture but also come in 20-odd flavors that are uniformly excellent (don't miss the chocolate glazed sprinkled with sea salt). Locations in Portland and Scarborough. 207-775-7776; theholydonut.com

Long Grain Camden

Do make reservations to score one of the few seats at this storefront restaurant where Bangkok-born Ravin Nakjaroen creates flavor-rich home-style pan-Asian fare. Knockouts include mussels in spicy coconut-lemongrass broth, Maine crab-fried rice, and house-made noodles with kimchi and pork belly. 207-236-9001; longgraincamden.com

McLoons South Thomaston

When people all over the world dream of eating Maine lobster on the coast, they probably imagine themselves in a place like this modest red-clapboard waterfront shack. The surroundings are quintessential midcoast Maine, right down to rocky Spruce Head Island, where the seafood shack and its parent commercial lobster wharf sit. The simple lobster salad roll at McLoons is the best in the state. 207-593-1382; mcloonslobster.com

Miyake Portland

Chef Masa Miyake takes Japanese cuisine to a new level, using ultrafresh ingredients—some from his own farm—and employing Japanese, Italian, and French techniques. While you can't go wrong with the à la carte options, you should splurge at least once on the *omakase* (chef's tasting menu). 207-871-9170; miyak-erestaurants.com

Mount Desert Island Ice Cream Bar Harbor

Crazy rich, crazy good, crazy flavors. MDI makes its indulgent ice creams and sorbets in small batches, and it's hard to say which are more creative, the names or the ingredients. Among recent offerings: Girl Scouts Gone Wild, Chocolate Wasabi, and Uncle Marshall's Fruitcake. Aside from its two hometown locations, there are shops in Portland; Washington, D.C.; and Japan. mdiic.com

Primo Rockland

"Fresh from the farm" takes on new meaning at this eatery, where ducks, pigs, and chickens are raised on the premises. Even the cocktails feature farm-grown ingredients. Allow yourself time to tour the gardens before sitting down to enjoy the Mediterranean fare created by James Beard Award winner Melissa Kelly. 207-596-0770; primorestaurant.com

Tao Yuan Brunswick

From the time that classically trained chef Cara Stadler joined with her mother, Cecile, to open Tao Yuan in 2012, the accolades haven't stopped, including *Food & Wine's* selection of Stadler as one of America's 10 best

new chefs. Small bites of distinctive Asian fare reveal nuanced flavors from primarily local ingredients, with a staple being steamed buns from her great-grandmother's recipe. 207-725-9002; tao-yuan.me

LODGING

Attean Lake Lodge Jackman

Sunrise, observed from a dock on a Maine lake surrounded by deep woods—you can find yourself in such a blissful moment at Attean Lake Lodge, one of the few remaining family-owned lodges in the Northeast dating from the turn of the 20th century. Guests stay in comfy cabins, enjoy meals in the main lodge, and spend halcyon days swimming, paddling, hiking, and fishing. 207-668-3792; atteanlodge.com

Cliff House Cape Neddick

Set atop a cliff of black volcanic boulders, Cliff House has enjoyed an osprey's view of the ocean since opening in 1872. Recent renovations have gone beyond mere restoration to create a sleek contemporary hotel with an ambitious spa for beauty and wellness treatments. All 226 rooms and suites come with private terraces and those same incomparable views that have been the resort's calling card since Ulysses S. Grant was president. 207-361-1000; cliffhousemaine.com

The Dunes on the Waterfront Ogunquit

Knotty pine paneling, braided rugs, and cobblestone fireplaces are the signature décor at the Dunes, which first opened in 1936 and has not just survived but actually improved with age. The cluster of housekeeping cottages, plus a few motel rooms, sits on 12 acres down a pine tree-lined drive and overlooking an inlet and Ogunquit Beach. Guests can access the beach by rowing across—or opt to simply stay put, kick back, and relax. 866-530-7747; dunesonthewaterfront.com

Inn by the Sea Cape Elizabeth

Handsome rooms, suites, and cottages shelter guests at this seaside resort with an outdoor saltwater pool, a restaurant and lounge with indoor and outdoor seating, and a boutique spa. A boardwalk through a New England cottontail rabbit preserve links the ultragreen, dog- and family-friendly property with dune-backed Crescent Beach. 207-799-3134; innbythesea.com

Little Lyford Lodge & Cabins Greenville

Originally a logging camp from the 1870s,

Little Lyford is now owned by the Appalachian Mountain Club as an off-the-grid retreat. The property borders 66,000 acres of conserved land and includes access to the Appalachian Trail and Gulf Hagas, a gorge known for its waterfalls. It's all yours to explore when you book a stay at one of the nine private cabins or in the bunkhouse. 207-280-0708; outdoors.org

Loon Lodge Rangeley

The Ludeke family knew a great site when they saw it. Back in 1909, they built a log home on a hillside that provided sunset views down the length of Rangeley Lake, with the distant White Mountains as a backdrop. Now visitors to this rustic yet comfy lodge can enjoy that fabulous vista from the great room, back deck, private beach, or dock. 207-864-5666; loonlodgeme.com

The Norumbega Camden

Eleven luxurious suites and sweeping views of Penobscot Bay await at this high-end B&B, located in a stone "castle" built in 1886. Owners Sue Walser and Phil Crispo are welcoming hosts, and a stay here demands at least one dinner at the inn's restaurant, where Crispo, a former instructor at the Culinary Institute of America, is known to wow. 207-236-4646; norumbegainn.com

Samoset Rockport

Samoset is the very definition of a summer escape. Facilities at this 230-acre oceanfront resort edging Penobscot Bay include an 18-hole golf course, indoor and outdoor pools, a spa, a fitness center, a children's program, tennis courts, lawn games, and easy access to the Rockland Breakwater. 207-594-2511; samosetresort.com

Topside Inn Boothbay Harbor

The aptly named Topside caps an in-town hill with sigh-inducing views from Adirondack chairs on the sweeping lawn over the inner and outer harbors. Rooms in the three buildings are bright and airy, with contemporary nautical décor, befitting the main house that once housed a ship captain. 207-633-5404; topsideinn.com

White Barn Inn Kennebunkport

Is it an inn with amazing food, or an amazing restaurant with superb accommodations? Both. It's one of those places where you splurge and love doing so. For nearly half a century this farmhouse turned elegant inn has been a star in Maine's galaxy of luxury escapes. 207-967-2321; aubergeresorts.com

ATTRACTIONS

**Acadia National Park
Bar Harbor**

Established on the sea-swept Maine coast as Sieur de Monts National Monument in July 1916, today Acadia National Park—the first national park in the East—preserves some 47,000 acres of forests and mountains, meadows and wetlands, lakes and coastal habitats. Accessible by parkway and crisscrossed by 45 miles of landscaped carriage roads, hiking trails, and footpaths, the park is a magnet for more than 2 million visitors each year. 207-288-3338; nps.gov/acadia

**Baxter State Park
Millinocket**

To experience northern Maine's most spectacular chunk of wilderness, this is the place. Crowned by Katahdin, Maine's highest peak and the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, and edged by the Penobscot River, "forever wild" Baxter welcomes hikers, wildlife-watchers, paddlers, and outdoors lovers (but leave the bikes, motorcycles, RVs, and ATVs behind). 207-723-5140; baxterstatepark.org

**Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
Boothbay**

New England's largest botanical garden encompasses 295 shorefront acres, including ornamental display gardens filled with more than 91,000 plants. Among the highlights: a rhododendron oasis with a waterfall, a woodland fairy-house village, and a peaceful meditation garden. Trails lace the woodlands and hillsides as well as drop down along the tidal Back River. 207-633-8000; mainegardens.org

**Farnsworth Art Museum
Rockland**

Enter the galleries of the Farnsworth and see how artists like Rockwell Kent, Marsden Hartley, and Winslow Homer portrayed the rugged Maine coast. Steps away is a 19th-century Methodist church that has been transformed into the museum's Wyeth Center, where works by three generations of Wyeths are on display. In nearby Cushing you can visit the Farnsworth-owned Olsen House, the farmhouse that Andrew Wyeth depicted in the background of *Christina's World*. 207-596-6457; farnsworthmuseum.org

**L.L. Bean
Freeport**

Everything from kayak paddles to cocktail party togs can be found 24 hours a day in the flagship store of L.L. Bean, the legacy of Leon Leonwood Bean and his ingenious outdoor boots. But this is much more than a shopping experience: Bean's guides lead all manner of adventure pursuits, and its "Summer in the Park" programs bring yoga, con-

certs, and movies to downtown Freeport. 877-755-2326; llbean.com

**Maine Maritime Museum
Bath**

Flying along Route 1 at 50 mph, it's easy to forget that the sea was the original highway when ships carried freight and passengers. Be reminded in a big way at this engaging museum, which offers everything from paintings of regal ships scudding before the wind to boat exhibits to workshops where you can see boats being built today. 207-443-1316; mainemaritimemuseum.org

**Maine Wildlife Park
Gray**

It's hard to know whether to look first at the majestic moose browsing on alders or the playful black bears splashing around their water feature. At this state-run sanctuary for animals unable to live in the wild, you might count as many as 30 species, most native to the Maine woods, in one afternoon. 207-657-4977; maine.gov/ifw

**Marginal Way
Ogunquit**

Entirely paved and mostly flat, the Marginal Way is hardly a strenuous hike, yet it remains one of the most popular in New England. At just one and a quarter miles long, it offers more breathtaking vistas than any other trail you'll find on the southern Maine coast. Benches along the way invite visitors to linger. 207-646-2939; ogunquit.org

**Pemaquid Point Lighthouse
Bristol**

Maine's rocky coast doesn't get any rockier than Pemaquid Point, where the vertical streaks of granite below the lighthouse look like the planet itself shipwrecked on this shore. The 1835 tower (seen on the Maine state quarter) greets 100,000-plus visitors a year, both for the astounding scenery and the fact that it's one of the rare lighthouses open for tours. 207-677-2492; bristolmaine.org

**Reid State Park
Georgetown**

Crashing surf, two beautiful sand beaches, a lagoon, tidepools, hiking trails, sand dunes, and marshlands—this 610-acre park has it all, along with shower rooms, picnic tables, and a snack bar. Don't miss Griffith Head, a rocky outcrop overlooking the park and an ideal vantage point for viewing nearby lighthouses and islands. 207-371-2303; maine.gov

**White-Water Rafting
The Forks**

When Wayne Hockmeyer guided the first raftload of thrill-seekers down the Kennebec River in 1976, he started a new way of life in the Forks region, which fast became

New England's epicenter of white-water rafting. Whether it's on the Kennebec, the Dead River, or the Penobscot, no two trips are ever alike. The adrenaline rush is real—and the adventure all the more memorable because of it. forksarea.com

**Windjammers
Camden & Rockland**

These independently owned boats run the gamut—from a 1922 racing yacht to a 1950s ship built especially for windjamming cruises—but all offer a signature Maine experience and an unforgettable maritime adventure. 800-807-9463; sailmainecoast.com



BURLINGTON BIKE PATH, Burlington



VERMONT

DINING

A Single Pebble Burlington

A temple of sophisticated Asian cuisine located in a simple storefront, A Single Pebble serves traditional recipes that are about as different from deep-fried Americanized Chinese food as Burlington is from Shanghai. 802-865-5200; asinglepebble.com

Al's French Frys South Burlington

It's a wonder that any fast-food chains ever came to Burlington, when the Queen City already had Al's. Since the 1940s this beloved institution has done its best to explain why potatoes were put on this earth—and served up more than a few burgers and hot dogs in the bargain. 802-862-9203; alsfrenchfrys.com

Cold Hollow Cider Mill Waterbury

Though cider is pressed here year-round, the real reason to visit is the cider doughnuts. The recipe: a secret mix of fresh cider, whole wheat, cinnamon, and cloves. The machine: a near-round-the-clock contraption that drops rings of dough into vegetable shortening, lets them fry for a minute, then transfers them to a conveyor belt that lifts the cakes out of the fat and onto trays. The result: a crisp shell, a soft, slightly dry inside, and a tangy aftertaste. 800-327-7537; coldhollow.com

The Farmhouse Tap & Grill Burlington

The classic pub menu is deliciously reimaged at this cheerful, highly local-centric eatery, which is adding a second location in Williston in 2020. A stellar lineup of Vermont craft beers costars with homemade

charcuterie, regional cheeses, and hearty favorites like meatloaf, fish and chips, and burgers. 802-859-0888; farmhousetg.com

Hen of the Wood Waterbury

Fresh regional ingredients are the hallmarks of this handsomely rustic restaurant, housed in an old gristmill and overseen by chef Eric Warnstedt, a perennial presence on the James Beard Awards short list. Even better, Warnstedt and his partner, William McNeil, worked their magic again by opening a Burlington location in 2013. 802-244-7300; henofthewood.com

The Lincoln Inn & Restaurant at the Covered Bridge Woodstock

Chef Jevgenija Saromova and host Mara Mehlman don't fuss with plebeian concerns like à la carte service. Instead, they guide

guests through different fixed menus, with plates such as maple confit duck and seared tiger prawns with asparagus. In the private dining room, Saromova celebrates a high mass for avant-garde gastronomy with a seven- or 12-course tasting menu. 802-457-7052; lincolnn.com

Misery Loves Co. **Winooski**

Chef-owners Aaron Josinsky and Nathaniel Wade fuel their kitchen with ingredients from dozens of area farms. Sip a glass of wild apple cider with oysters, house-made charcuterie, or fried chicken. Adventurous eaters may opt for something outside the standard culinary canon, such as whole lubina or salt-roasted rutabaga. 802-497-3989; mlcvt.com

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks **Montpelier**

The Morse family's sugaring roots stretch back nearly two centuries, and the delicious results of that expertise are showcased in many ways at this farm, which includes a country store and farm-life museum. But for our money the can't-miss offering is the Morse maple creemee, made with a full gallon of syrup per container of creemee mix. 800-242-2740; morsefarm.com

Penny Cluse Café **Burlington**

This brunch mecca has drawn generations of UVM students with its moderately priced ham 'n' egg alternatives such as "Bucket-o-Spuds" (home fries with melted cheese, salsa, sour cream, and scallions), fish tacos, peanut-tinger tofu scram, and gingerbread pancakes. Not that you'll need lunch, but that's served here, too. 802-651-8834; pennycluse.com

Red Hen Baking Co. **Middlesex**

The gorgeous artisanal breads are fresh and certified organic—and you can see them being made right in front of you, thanks to the large window that separates the café from the bakery. Standouts include ciabatta bread and olive bread; also delicious are the sumptuous maple-glazed sticky buns. 802-223-5200; redhenbaking.com

Revolution Kitchen **Burlington**

The Queen City's first all-vegetarian restaurant woos herbivores with dishes that balance elegance with creative surprises, not to mention a host of choices. Guac-stuffed wontons are the base for a killer nacho platter, while the laksa noodle pot will warm up a chilly day. 802-448-3657; revolutionkitchen.com

Trattoria Delia **Burlington**

When Trattoria Delia opened in 1993,

authentic Italian dishes like squid ink pasta and grilled octopus were a novelty. But its resounding success proved Vermonters were ready for a change of palate, and they still flock here for gorgeous pastas, hearty flavors, and an abundant Italian wine list. 802-864-5253; trattoriadelia.com

LODGING

Basin Harbor Club **Vergennes**

Elegant yet relaxed, swank yet camplike, steeped in more than a century of resort tradition and family ownership, this sprawling complex on Lake Champlain encompasses 700 acres, spectacular flower gardens, nearly 80 cottages, three restaurants, and an 18-hole golf course to go with a cruise ship's menu of activities. 802-475-2311; basinharbor.com

Craftsbury Outdoor Center **Craftsbury Common**

Rustic, friendly, and absolutely devoted to fun in the outdoors, Craftsbury's sprawling complex of dorm-style rooms, simple family suites, and lakeside cabins is a sports paradise that's fun for everyone, from millennials to seniors. World-class scullers and runners mingle with bird-watchers and walkers at the home-cooked, buffet-style meals (vegetarian-friendly). 802-586-7767; craftsbury.com

Derby Line Village Inn **Derby Line**

Dog bowls on the front steps bid "Hallo" to four-legged visitors, who care less for the antique furnishings in the five well-appointed, country-chic rooms than they do for a romp on the inn's expansive lawn. And on the off chance you don't finish your supper of handmade *jägerschnitzel* or pasta Piemontese at chef Fritz Halbedl's Austrian-inflected on-site restaurant, you won't have to travel far with the doggy bag. 802-873-5071; derbylinevillageinn.com

Hotel Vermont **Burlington**

This rare independent hotel in downtown Burlington offers bright, modern accommodations featuring wood and stone accents from Vermont forests and quarries. Locally sourced ingredients are the rule at Juniper restaurant; other hotel dining options include a satellite location of Hen of the Wood and seafood eatery Bleu. 855-650-0080; hotelvt.com

The Inn at Shelburne Farms **Shelburne**

With a fin de siècle library, marble-floored dining room, and billiard room, the Inn at

Shelburne Farms is Edwardian grandeur at its finest. Best of all, it's part of a nonprofit environmental organization that runs the on-site working farm, which is spread over 1,400 acres overlooking Lake Champlain. 802-985-8498; shelburnefarms.org

The Mountain Top Inn & Resort **Chittenden**

Set on 700 scenic acres hugging the Chittenden Reservoir within the Green Mountain National Forest, this resort immerses you in a traditional "great camp" vibe (massive fireplaces, wrought iron, rough-hewn wood). Canoe, kayak, swim, or take a guided pontoon boat ride on the reservoir, or take a dip in the heated outdoor pool. Other activities include tennis, clay-bird shooting, a full equestrian program, and a kids' adventure camp. 802-483-2311; mountaintoppinn.com

North Hero House **North Hero**

No small inn sits closer to Lake Champlain than this serene spot, in business since 1891. Twenty-six rooms and suites feature amenities such as fireplaces and screened-porch hammocks. Fine and casual dining options include a lakeside Steamship Pier Bar and Grill. 802-372-4732; northherohouse.com

The Pitcher Inn **Warren**

The village of Warren provides a classic Mad River Valley backdrop for this Relais & Châteaux gem, which offers nine sumptuous rooms and two suites. The inn's 500-bottle wine cellar was recognized with a "Best Award of Excellence" by *Wine Spectator* and its two restaurants, 275 Main and the more casual eatery Tracks, offer delicious reasons to stay put. 802-496-6350; pitcherinn.com

Rabbit Hill Inn **Lower Waterford**

A Greek Revival gem overlooking the White Mountains, Rabbit Hill defines romance. Most rooms have fireplaces, and many feature double whirlpools and/or canopy beds. The inn also offers a farm-to-table menu in an elegant dining room. 802-748-5168; rabbithillinn.com

Shearer Hill Farm B&B **Wilmington**

Years before agritourism became a popular concept, guests at this small, out-of-the-way farm were milking the cows and plowing into hearty breakfasts. The six rooms—all with private baths—are cozy and the hospitality impeccable. 802-464-3253; shearerhillfarm.com

The Woodstock Inn & Resort **Woodstock**

Crossing the threshold at Woodstock's best

address is like stepping into a sumptuous country home. Each of the inn's 142 rooms and suites are distinctively furnished. Local ingredients enrich the menus at the Red Rooster, the inn's main dining room, and at the snug, wood-paneled Richardson's Tavern. The resort offers golf, ski, and spa packages, plus activities ranging from fly-fishing to falconry. 802-332-6853; woodstockinn.com

ATTRACTIONS

Billings Farm & Museum Woodstock

Frederick Billings's model farm, established by the railroad magnate when he returned to his native Woodstock in 1871, still showcases champion Jersey cows, Southdown sheep, and magnificent draft horses. Visit the 1890 farm manager's home and creamery, learn about farm work of yesteryear and today, and climb aboard for horse-drawn wagon and sleigh rides. Interactive farm programs change with the seasons. 802-457-2355; billingsfarm.org

Burlington Bike Path Burlington

With its lakeside vistas, ice cream shops, sculptures, and swimming spots, this byway is a bikers' paradise. A bridge over the Winooski River at the north end extends the 14-mile path to the Champlain Islands, with about four miles of biking along Burlington's waterfront. At the southern end, the path crosses the bustling ferry landing, with its cafés and restaurants. Time your ride to catch the stunning sunset over the distant Adirondacks. 802-863-3489

Dog Mountain St. Johnsbury

One of the world's most inventive chapels is situated just a Frisbee toss (OK, three miles) from downtown St. Johnsbury. Complete with pews, stained glass, and walls filled with poignant photo tributes to bygone canine pals, the chapel is just one part of a property that was designed with dogs in mind. Free and open to the public, it's fully appointed with hiking trails, a pond, a dog agility course, and one of the last remaining galleries of Stephen Huneck's humorous, colorful, dog-oriented art. 802-748-2700; dogmt.com

Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, St. Johnsbury

It's a window on the wider world, Victorian-style. The Romanesque Revival building boasts an astoundingly eclectic hoard of natural science, ethnology, and Vermont-history treasures—an old-style “cabinet of curiosities” writ large. Upstairs, the state's only public planetarium offers state-of-the-art star

shows. 802-748-2372; fairbanksmuseum.org

Frog Hollow Burlington

We doubt whether there's a single town in Vermont that doesn't have a resident crafts-person or three, and an impressive number of these are at the top of their game. Founded in 1971 as an artisan workspace and gallery in Middlebury, Frog Hollow later relocated to Burlington, where its gallery features jewelry, ceramics, furniture, glass, and more. A juried application process ensures that everything exemplifies the finest craftsmanship the state has to offer. 802-863-6458; froghollow.org

Great Vermont Corn Maze North Danville

The biggest corn maze in New England is a 24-acre mind-bender whose setup includes an underground tunnel and a 28-foot cabin cruiser parked amid the corn. On average, completing it takes nearly three hours. Come autumn, daring visitors can sweat out Dead North, a haunted attraction that takes you through the fields and into various buildings as costumed characters leap out from the dark. 802-748-1399; vermontcornmaze.com

Hildene Manchester

Presidential son Robert Todd Lincoln built his Manchester summer retreat here in 1905. Home to Lincoln descendants until 1975, this Georgian Revival mansion features family furnishings, a 1,000-pipe organ, landscaping by an Olmsted protégé, and a restored 1888 Pullman rail passenger car, a legacy of Lincoln's presidency of the firm. 802-362-1788; hildene.org

Hope Cemetery Barre

When the “granite capital of the world” founded Hope Cemetery in 1895, it was understood that its stones would be something special. Serving as both cemetery and unofficial art gallery, its 65 acres display masterful carvings by master stoneworkers, many of them immigrants. A large number of the tombstones mark the graves of the sculptors themselves—and some were even carved by the very artists that now lie beneath them. 802-476-6245; barrecity.org

King Arthur Flour Norwich

The home of America's oldest family-owned flour company (since 1790) runs what must be the most amply stocked baking-supply shop in New England, offering staples as well as exotic items such as Heidelberg Rye Sour, nonstick popover pans, and Belgian waffle makers. Not only that, but it also hosts a wide range of courses in this tastiest of the liberal arts. Bonus: The on-site café serves the

flakiest pastries imaginable. 800-827-6836; kingarthurfLOUR.com

President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site Plymouth

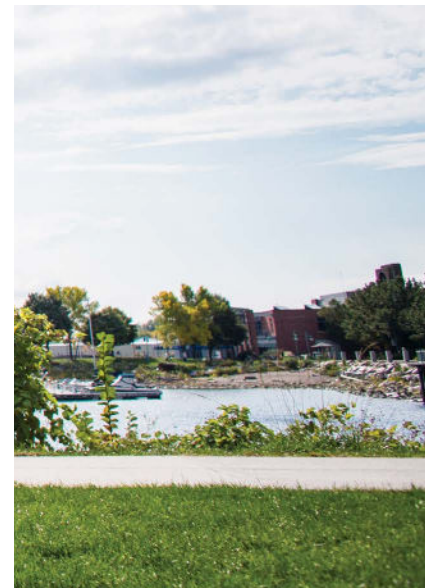
Presidential birthplaces abound, but Vermont has preserved an entire presidential birth town. The visitors' center uses Coolidge's own words, objects from his life, and interactive media to relate the story of how this farm boy became our 30th president. His white-clapboard village is frozen in the 1920s, and the cheese factory his father built now produces exceptional granular curd cheddar. 802-672-3773; historicsites.vermont.gov

Shelburne Museum Shelburne

A landlocked steamboat and lighthouse are only the tip of the iceberg at this collection of collections, which ranges from a miniature circus to duck decoys to hooked rugs to paintings by Monet, Degas, and Cassatt. Uniting them all is an unerring eye for timeless design and artistry in even the humblest medium. 802-985-3346; shelburnemuseum.org

Vermont Country Store Weston

Looking for a flannel nightie, a manual typewriter, old-time candies ... all in one store? That barely begins to describe the diverse inventory at this Vermont institution, founded in Weston in 1946 (there's a second, newer location in Rockingham). You'll find both the expected (maple syrup, wheels of cheddar) and the unexpected (pants stretchers, anyone?) in the aisles; plus, nostalgia is sold by the scoop at the sprawling penny-candy counter. 802-824-3184; vermontcountrystore.com



AMC LODGES & HIGH HUTS, *White Mountains*

NEW HAMPSHIRE

DINING

Black Trumpet **Portsmouth**

Brick-warm ambience and artful cuisine make this Ceres Street eatery a can't-miss. Nibble on sustainable seafood and seasonal fare with Latin and Mediterranean accents by chef Evan Mallett. We recommend anything with mushrooms or other wild-harvested treats, such as dandelion greens and balsam (Mallett is a lifelong forager). 603-431-0887; blacktrumpetbistro.com

Cava **Portsmouth**

Cava makes Spanish food from terrific New England fish, meat, and produce, and serves tapas as well as hearty small plates. Some

dishes (grilled octopus, chicken-sausage paella) are Spanish classics, while others are inspired by a wider Mediterranean influence. Wine selections are among the state's best. Even the back-alley setting seems fittingly Old World Spanish. 603-319-1575; cavatapasandwinebar.com

Cotton **Manchester**

This upscale American bistro is overseen by chef-owner Jeffrey Paige, a New Hampshire native who's cooked for presidents and worked for years at Canterbury Shaker Village's award-winning restaurant. Here, his dynamic cuisine is complemented by an equally creative cocktail list, including an ambitious martini lineup. 603-622-5488; cottonfood.com

The Franklin **Portsmouth**

Opened by Moxy chef-owner Matt Louis—a four-time James Beard Award semifinalist—this inviting seafood-leaning joint puts the emphasis on local sourcing (its raw bar often showcases oysters from nearby Great Bay). The house-made charcuterie and wide-ranging small- and large-plate options are further reasons to pull up a chair. 603-373-8500; franklinrestaurant.com

Jumpin' Jay's **Portsmouth**

Jay's cooks up some great fish dishes, including its signature dish, haddock piccata. But the raw seafood is, if possible,

even better. In season, you can taste several different New Hampshire oysters, alongside bivalves from Cape Cod, Damariscotta, Long Island Sound, and ChESApeake Bay. 603-766-3474; jumpinjinjays.com

Le Rendez Vous Colebrook

Fine French bread and assorted Parisian delicacies might not be what you expect in the Great North Woods, but that's what you'll find at this cozy bakery—along with almond croissants, madeleines, macarons, and fresh breads. 603-237-5150; lerendezvousbakerynh.com

Libby's Bistro & Saalt Pub Gorham

Chef-owner Liz Jackson cuts a wide swath at her two downtown restaurants, both housed in a converted bank building ("Same menu, different vibe," says Jackson). French mussels, Turkish eggplant, and Faroe Island salmon are a small sampling of Jackson's lively cooking. Desserts border on decadent, and there's a modest but thoughtful beer and wine selection. 603-466-5330; libbysbistro.org

Morano Gelato Hanover

The freshly-made-each-morning Sicilian gelato here comes in bright flavors that are shockingly delicious: Florentine cream, hazelnut, pistachio, and dark chocolate, with sorbettoes like mixed fruit and kiwi that startle the tongue. Our professional opinion? Sample many and often. 603-643-4233; moranogelatohanover.com

Parker's Maple Barn Mason

Out in the New Hampshire sticks, maple lovers queue up at Parker's like hopeful lottery winners. The lineup of pancakes and waffles to sop up the house-made maple syrup is impressive, as are the side dishes (ribs and baked beans) that are infused with it. Then there's that impossible-to-say-no-to maple frappe.... 603-878-2308; parkersmaplebar.com

The Restaurant at Burdick's Walpole

The Restaurant at Burdick's is a cozy 25-table space overlooking one of the prettiest small-town centers in New England, while its dinner menu is flavored with French favorites, from mussels meuniere and duck à l'orange to steak frites and fondue. Brunch fans know that Sunday's offering is among the best in New England. 603-756-9058; 47mainwalpole.com

Schilling Beer Company Littleton

"Bready," "toffee"—just a few notes that have beer nerds toasting this cozy, urbane brewery overhanging the Ammonoosuc River. The converted mill building is punctuated with bright umbrellas that dot the balcony like mixed-drink decorations, and the wood-burning oven releases a happy procession of Neapolitan flatbread pizzas. But it's the artisanal brews—smoked-wheat beer or Foy IPA—that keep the fans happy. 603-444-4800; schilling-beer.com

LODGING

AMC Lodges & High Huts White Mountains

Nothing beats the camaraderie, generous meals, and deep sleep earned by tramping the trails to one of the Appalachian Mountain Club's eight "High Huts," sited between 2,700 and 5,050 feet in the Presidential Range. Go for a single night or try all of them; each hut is a day's hike from the next. Still building up your hiking legs? Stay grounded in the comforts of the two AMC lodges accessible by car. 603-466-2727; outdoors.org

Darby Field Inn & Restaurant Albany

Eight miles from North Conway's brand names and outlets, this family-owned inn is a port in the storm for weary shoppers—one that includes 13 cozy guest rooms, a fully stocked tavern, a heated swimming pool, and spa services. And the name? Darby Field was the first European to scale Mount Washington—New England's tallest summit—which sits in grand view across the Saco Valley. 603-447-2181; darbyfield.com

Hanover Inn Hanover

In addition to its bragging rights as the only inn on the Appalachian Trail, the Dartmouth-owned Hanover Inn offers 108 rooms and suites outfitted with Gilchrist & Soames bath products, wide-screen televisions, and plush bed linens; an excellent on-site restaurant, Pine; and a terrace that makes for some terrific people-watching on a nice day. 603-643-4300; hanoverinn.com

The Hotel Portsmouth Portsmouth

Formerly the Sise Inn, this 32-room 1881 mansion was impressively rehabbed and reopened in April 2014. Dulcet tones of taupe and gray, the clean lines of modern

furniture, and a luxuriously stress-free B&B vibe—all just a few blocks from Market Square and the breezy waterfront—make this an irresistible city stay. 603-433-1200; thehotelportsmouth.com

Inn at Valley Farms Walpole

Here's a 105-acre family-friendly organic farm with guest rooms, cottages, and even a rental farmhouse. Get a taste of the farm experience (gather eggs! pet cashmere goats!) and then retire to your pretty, antiques-filled bedroom. In the morning, get fortified with a three-course, farm-to-table breakfast. 603-756-2855; innatvalleyfarms.com

The Manor on Golden Pond Holderness

Lovely Squam Lake—the "Golden Pond" of Hepburn-Fonda fame—ripples below this stately manor house set on a hillside of tall pines. The interior is filled with turn-of-the-20th-century details: carved balusters on the grand staircase, original Grueby fireplace tiles. Savor the ambience during afternoon tea in the library, or at dinner in the paneled dining room over hickory-smoked duck breast or lobster and shrimp thermidor. 603-968-3348; manorongoldenpond.com

Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa Whitefield

Relax in the infinity tub while soaking up White Mountain views, surrender to a hot-stone massage in the "tower spa," or chip away at that handicap on the golf course. However you choose to amuse yourself during the day, when evening comes be sure to grab a well-deserved drink on the sprawling veranda. You'll feel like so many of the A-listers before you who found refuge and relaxation here. 603-837-2100; mountainviewgrand.com

The Notchland Inn Hart's Location

Long gone is Abel Crawford's hostelry, the first in the White Mountains, but the refurbished old tavern still does duty as an elegant dining room in this granite manse. Decks, skylights, Jacuzzis, wood-burning fireplaces, a well-stocked music room and library—all are welcome additions in this once-remote outpost. 603-374-6131; notchland.com

Omni Mount Washington Resort Bretton Woods

From the moment you breathe in the fresh mountain air and enter the historic Great Hall, replete with soaring ceilings and stone fireplace, you'll fall under the Omni Mount Washington's spell. Especially

magical is the 25,000-square-foot spa, featuring rooms with views of the surrounding peaks and a long menu of facials, wraps, and seasonal treatments. 603-278-1000; mountwashingtonresort.com

Snowvillage Inn Eaton Center

Check your heart at the door: The view of Mount Washington and the Presidentials, with a hillside of rolling lawns in the foreground, is to die for. Built at the turn of the 20th century, this former private home was converted to an inn years ago by a Swiss émigré. The Alpine flavor remains, especially in the ravishingly wood-paneled dining room. 603-447-2818; snowvillageinn.com

Tall Timber Lodge Pittsburg

Founded in 1946, Tall Timber remains one of the most popular sporting lodges in New England. Gas fireplaces, Jacuzzis, and full kitchens are standard here, and just what you want after hiking, fishing, moose watching, or swimming in the Great North Woods. 800-835-6343; talltimber.com

Wentworth by the Sea New Castle

With almost 360 degrees of ocean and river vistas from its perch on New Castle's Great Island, this is a grand hotel in every sense of the word. The hotel's spa offers full-body makeovers, its two restaurants make for delectable dine-in options, and, for those who really want to splurge, you can up the fancy ante by booking one of the expansive marina suites, which have access to a private pool. 603-422-7322; wentworth.com

The Wentworth Inn Jackson

Built in 1869, the Wentworth sits in the heart of Jackson Village, just a short drive from Wildcat and Cranmore ski resorts. Its rooms are divided among the elegant main building and cottages that offer sleigh beds, hot tubs, and fireplaces. Guests can dip into the hotel's heated outdoor pool or sign up for a spa treatment; golfers can tee up next door at the 18-hole Wentworth Golf Club. The award-winning dining room is the icing on the cake. 603-383-9700; thewentworth.com

Art and nature cohabitate beautifully on Big Bear Mountain at this outdoor sculpture garden featuring more than 80 stone and metal artworks from around the world. A dozen trails lead visitors past sculptures such as *Contempo Rustic*, a couch fashioned from slabs of rock and metal, or *Mbari House*, a house-shaped granite and metal totem to peace and friendship. 603-673-8441; andresinstitute.org

Canobie Lake Park Salem

From its early days as a "pleasure resort" in 1902, with canoeing and a botanical garden, Canobie Lake has evolved into a classic New England amusement park with 85 rides, games and attractions, and actual fear-factor ratings. Thrill rides, such as the Corkscrew Coaster and the Starblaster (shuttle lift-off meets bungee jumping) demand intrepid commitment; family rides like Crazy Cups and Dodgem bumper cars let your pulse rate recover. 603-893-3506; canobie.com

Canterbury Shaker Village Canterbury

This splendid rural setting was home to the longest-lived Shaker community in New England. All 25 buildings here are original to this site, most dating to the late 1700s and 1800s. Take a guided tour of this National Historic Landmark for an up-close look at the craft demonstrations and the laundry building, which highlights examples of Shaker innovation, including clothespins, a unique drying system, and more. 603-783-9511; shakers.org

Castle in the Clouds Moultonborough

This former home of a manufacturing tycoon is maintained along with more than 5,200 acres and 28 miles of trails by the Castle Preservation Society and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. The Tiffany glass, the well-stocked library, the big billiard table, the guest room Teddy Roosevelt slept in—it's all still there, along with what just might be the finest views from any house in New Hampshire. 603-476-5900, castleinthecLOUDS.org

Currier Museum of Art Manchester

Here you'll find works by Picasso, Monet, O'Keeffe, Wyeth, and more, plus decorative arts and fine examples of New Hampshire's historic craft tradition, as well as tours of the only Frank Lloyd Wright houses in New England that are open to the public.

603-669-6144; currier.org

Franconia Notch State Park Franconia/Lincoln

A perennial favorite for New Englanders and Canadians alike, the campground is packed on most summer weekends, as it's the perfect home base for White Mountain hikes as well as swimming, fishing, biking, and rock climbing. The list of attractions here is long: the Basin, Flume Gorge, the Old Man of the Mountain, Cannon Mountain Aerial Tram, and the Falling Waters/Greenleaf/Old Bridle Path trails loop. nhstateparks.org

Gorham Moose Tours Gorham

Although moose-spotting is a notoriously unpredictable pastime, the odds of seeing one of these magnificent beasts are heavily in your favor when you join one of these town-sponsored tours. With special permission from the state, Gorham Moose Tours' buses are outfitted with lights that not only make moose easier to spot but also easier to photograph. The reported success rate is better than 90 percent, which offers a much more attractive prospect than prowling the roads in your car at dusk. 603-466-3103; gorhamnh.org/moose-tours

Harrisville General Store Harrisville

Overlooking a picture-perfect red-brick mill complex, Harrisville General Store has been its town's gathering point for nearly two centuries. Saved from closing by the nonprofit group Historic Harrisville, the store has all the right ingredients for a local grocery but serves them up with a uniquely Harrisville flavor. Premium brands prevail, and area products get first dibs: The bacon and sausages are from Mayfair Farm; the free-range eggs, fresh vegetables, honey, and jams from other nearby producers. Order a fresh-baked muffin or custom-made sandwich, and join locals at a table. They'll advise you not to miss the cider doughnuts. 603-827-3138; harrisvillegeneralstore.com

Hood Museum of Art Hanover

Reopened in 2019 after a \$50 million expansion, the Hood has one of the largest college art collections in the U.S.—everything from ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian artifacts to Italian Renaissance sculpture to paintings by Picasso. Plus, just across the green is the landmark *Epic of American Civilization* mural series by Mexican artist José Clemente Orozco. 603-646-2808; hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu

ATTRACTIONS

Andres Institute of Art Brookline

Mount Washington Cog Railway **Bretton Woods**

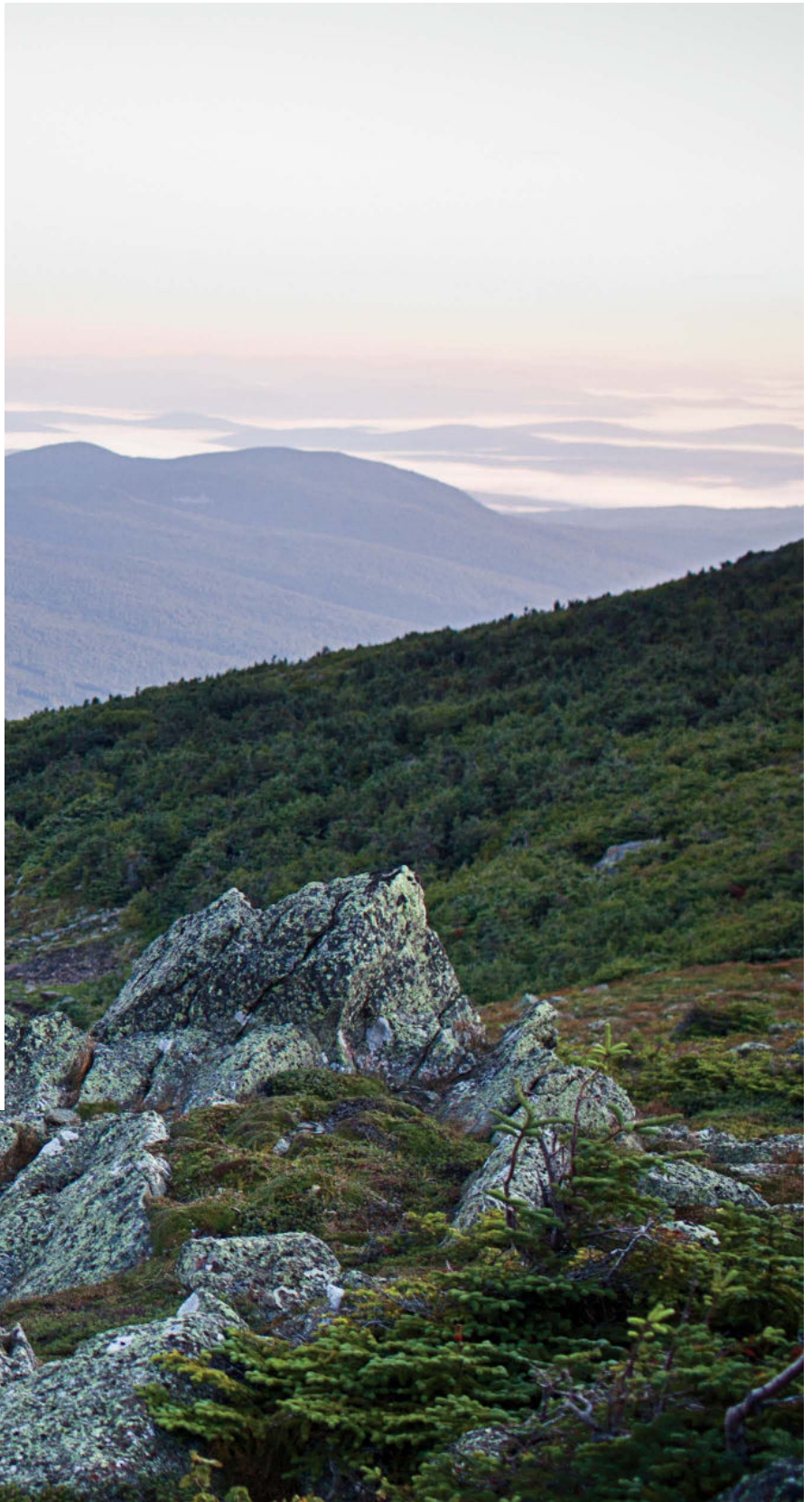
While options for scaling Mount Washington's dizzying 6,288 feet include hiking and driving, thankfully there's also this 19th-century feat of engineering that's been clinging to the steep slopes for more than 150 years. A three-hour round trip affords plenty of time to ogle views of the classic Omni Mount Washington Hotel, Vermont's Green Mountains, and New Hampshire's Presidentials. 603-278-5404; thecog.com

The Music Hall **Portsmouth**

The outrageous scope of this performing-arts venue—from Trevor Noah to Ray LaMontagne—seems right at home in this elegantly rehabbed 1878 Victorian theatre, which once hosted vaudevillians. Its acclaimed “Writers on a New England Stage” series has seen the kind of celebrity cross-pollination that would thrill any reader, spanning Salman Rushdie to Patti Smith, while down the street, “Writers in the Loft” hosts more intimate programs and signings. 603-436-2400; themusichall.org

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site **Cornish**

The great American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens was the pole star of Cornish, New Hampshire's art community from 1885 until his death in 1907. His regal home, Aspet, and its art-filled gardens evoke the man who made public monuments, such as the Robert Shaw Memorial on Boston Common, and crafted small things of great beauty, like the \$20 gold coin for the U.S. Treasury. 603-675-2175; nps.gov/saga



CONNECTICUT

DINING

Arethusa al Tavolo **Bantam**

Arethusa Farm owners and Manolo Blahnik execs George Malkemus and Anthony Yurgaitis added this casual-elegant eatery to their agrarian empire in 2013. Chef Dan Magill styles dishes such as foraged mushrooms and Camembert ravioli with primo ingredients, including dairy from Arethusa's pampered cows. 860-567-0043; arethusaaltavolo.com

Community Table **Washington**

Community Table may be home to the most forward-thinking Nordic-inspired cuisine in the state, but the ingredients are proudly New England. The frequently changing menu reflects collaborations with nearby farms and fishermen, as well as foraged wild ingredients and house-made honey and bread. 860-868-9354; communitytablect.com

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana **New Haven**

The big rivals in New Haven's pizza wars, Frank Pepe and Sally's Apizza, are both masters of the thin-crust, coal-fired pie. But we have a serious weak spot for the white clam pies at Pepe's: the crispy yet chewy crust, the briny little clams, the gobs of minced garlic. And while Pepe's has other franchises around New England, nothing beats the original. 203-865-5762; pepespizzeria.com

G-Zen **Branchford**

Chefs and farmers Mark and Ami Shadle are driven to make healthful, sustainable cuisine accessible and inventive. At their all-organic eatery, things like burgers and pastas are ingeniously crafted without animal-derived ingredients. The same conscientiousness goes into the lineup of elixirs, cocktails, wines, and craft brews. 203-208-0443; g-zen.com

Lobster Landing **Clinton**

This marina-side shack is tricky to find but worth the effort. The menu board typically features just three items, and the headliner is the superlative lobster roll: toasted sub rolls loaded with a quarter pound of freshly shelled,

lemon-spritzed, butter-slathered lobster. 860-669-2005; [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lobsterlanding)

Louis Lunch **New Haven**

Few eateries can survive with just 25 seats and a handful of menu items, but this one, on the National Register of Historic Places as the birthplace of the hamburger, has been going strong since 1895. A trip to New Haven isn't complete without a Louis burger. 203-562-5507; louislunch.com

O'Rourke's Diner **Middletown**

The next-level fare that springs from the mind of chef-owner Brian O'Rourke makes the battle for diner supremacy in Connecticut no contest. Beloved dishes such as Irish soda bread French toast are available all day, but once lunchtime kicks in, steamed cheeseburgers are the "when in Connecticut" choice. 860-346-6101; orourkesmiddletown.com

The Place **Guilford**

They arrive at your table in a bath of buttery cocktail sauce, still on a grill grate, straight off the wood fire. Instantly you understand why folks have been pulling off Route 1 to savor roasted littlenecks here since 1971. Actually, this casual, seasonal clambake restaurant's origins stretch back to the 1940s, and one other thing has never changed: tree stumps for seats. 203-453-9276; theplaceguilford.com

The Schoolhouse at Cannondale **Wilton**

Educated palates enjoy each season's diverse pairings, such as parsnip and apple soup, tamarind-glazed squab, and spiced bread pudding. Owner Tim LaBant, who worked under Ming Tsai and Frank McClelland, recently handed off chef duties to Michelle Greenfield, who honed her skills at other top Connecticut restaurants. 203-834-9816; schoolhouseatcannondale.com

UConn Dairy Bar **Storrs**

Students, professors, and local families—who insist this is the state's best ice cream—have flocked here for over 50 years. Look for the famed basketball team's namesake: Husky Tracks. 860-486-1021; dairybar.uconn.edu

LODGING

Boardman House Inn **East Haddam**

An expertise in architectural restoration makes Swedish innkeepers Andre and Mia Hylander ideal stewards of this 1860 mansion. You'll perceive only comfort—in touches like downy bedding and heated bathroom floors—and none of the labor that the Hylanders put into fashioning this peaceful retreat. 860-873-9233; boardmanhouse.com

The Copper Beech Inn **Ivoryton**

With 22 spacious, distinctly different rooms in three buildings; four indoor and garden-view outdoor dining spaces; seasonally and locally influenced menus; and an exceptional beverage list, no two stays at the Copper Beech Inn are the same—but they're always memorable. 860-767-0330; copperbeechinn.com

The Goodwin Hotel **Hartford**

If you require plush digs while in Hartford, this is the place. The 1881 Queen Anne-style Goodwin building, located across from the Hartford Civic Center, has been fully rejuvenated with high-tech amenities, enticing dining, and a contemporary design aesthetic. 860-246-1881; goodwinhartford.com

The Inn at Harbor Hill Marina **Niantic**

As Niantic's stature has swelled to rival Mystic's, this perfectly situated B&B has expanded too. You'll love sitting down to breakfast with a view of boats in the harbor before you select one of the innkeepers' secret-filled itineraries and set out on a coastal escape. 860-739-0331; innharborhill.com

The Inn at Stonington **Stonington**

Situated in a picturesque seaside village, the Inn at Stonington offers 18 cozy rooms, many with fireplaces and Jacuzzis as well as balconies and views of the village and Fishers Island Sound. Restaurants, shops, a lighthouse museum, and a little beach are

steps away. 860-535-2000; innatstonington.com

Madison Beach Hotel **Madison**

This AAA Four Diamond property has roots that stretch back to the 1800s, but the original building was razed in 2009 to make way for the current 32-room getaway that's right on the beach (and just a short drive from Hammonasset Beach State Park). It offers all the mod cons and fantastic views of Long Island Sound—and Rover is welcome, too. 203-245-1404; madisonbeachhotel.com

The Riverwind Inn **Deep River**

Wake up to a gourmet breakfast (think pesto-splashed poached eggs Caprese on homemade English muffins) and relax in a front porch rocking chair or by the fire pit out back. When you're ready for a change of scenery, innkeepers Stacie and Mike DiNello are eager to suggest local meals, theaters, and outdoor adventures. 860-526-2014; riverwindinn.com

Saybrook Point Inn & Spa **Old Saybrook**

It's more than just luxury and water views all around at this 82-room travel trifecta (inn, spa, marina). Saybrook Point's nearly 30 years of eco-innovation has reduced its energy use by half. Noticeable initiatives include solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations, and locally focused cuisine. 860-395-2000; saybrook.com

The Spa at Norwich Inn **Norwich**

At this former Georgian manor turned luxe getaway, the R&R comes via state-of-the-art spa treatments, a health-conscious restaurant, tennis, and swimming. Sound too tame? You're just five minutes from the action at Mohegan Sun, and 15 from Foxwoods and the MGM Grand. 860-425-3500; thespaatnorwichinn.com

Steamboat Inn **Mystic**

Visitors to Mystic will do well to book a room at the Steamboat Inn, the only waterfront digs in a historic town surrounded by water. Outside the door are shops, restaurants, and an iconic drawbridge. Most of the 10 tastefully decorated guest rooms have a working fireplace, whirlpool tub, and windows that frame views of boats plying the Mystic River. 860-536-8300; steamboatinnmystic.com

Winvian **Morris**

This over-the-top resort had tongues wag-

ging the minute it debuted in 2007. Its 18 lodging options are one-of-a-kind architectural gems that include a fully restored 1968 helicopter and a treehouse cottage. Winvian is a Relais & Châteaux property (as you'll realize at dinner, a four-course feast), and it's no surprise the place books up quickly with summer weddings. 860-567-9600; winvian.com

ATTRACTIONS

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat **Essex**

The young and young at heart love this nostalgic trip through the Connecticut River Valley, which begins with coal-fired locomotives pulling vintage railroad cars through historic river towns. At Deep River Landing, passengers board the *Becky Thatcher*, a Mississippi-style riverboat, for a cruise upstream before returning home on the rails. 860-767-0103; essexsteamtrain.com

Florence Griswold Museum **Old Lyme**

As the landlady to many of America's most famous plein air painters, Florence Griswold served as midwife to American Impressionism. A painstaking restoration has returned her home to its circa 1910 heyday, when Childe Hassam and other artists painted scenes on the dining room walls and doors in lieu of rent. Today it anchors an 11-acre museum complex that celebrates creativity with a packed calendar of programs and exhibits. 860-434-5542; florencegriswoldmuseum.org

Gillette Castle State Park **East Haddam**

High above the banks of the Connecticut River, actor William Gillette (known for portraying Sherlock Holmes) built this quirky fieldstone fortress as a 24-room home with handcrafted locks (47 in all) and spy mirrors. Now a state park, it offers great picnicking, hiking, and overnight camping. 860-526-2336; ct.gov/deep

Goodspeed Opera House **East Haddam**

A hallowed ground for musical theater buffs, this Victorian wedding cake of a theater was the birthplace of Tony winners *Annie* and *Man of La Mancha*, and it has even won two special Tony Awards itself. The play's the thing here, though there's also drama in the river views from the lounge and vintage charm in the Green Room. 860-873-8668; goodspeed.org

Hammonasset Beach State Park

Madison

With over two miles of sand, Hammonasset checks in as Connecticut's largest beach, a golden crescent perfect for swimming, boating, and fishing. Inland, the park's 1,100 acres are prime real estate for all kinds of recreation. Don't miss the Meigs Point Nature Center, which offers hands-on fun with a touch tank and environmental programming. 203-245-2785; ct.gov/deep

Mark Twain House & Museum **Hartford**

Though we generally ascribe qualities of modesty and frugality to New England's old houses, this magnificent 25-room mansion speaks of Hartford's heyday as a commercial powerhouse, and its exuberance expresses its famous owner's larger-than-life personality. 860-247-0998; marktwainhouse.org

Mashantucket Pequot Museum **Mashantucket**

The tribe that brought us the world's biggest casino also gives us a state-of-the-art museum. The exhibits, stunning dioramas, and re-created Pequot village, complete with sound effects, enhance our awareness of and appreciation for this remarkable nation's story. 860-396-6910; pequotmuseum.org

Mystic Seaport **Mystic**

The state's no. 1 attraction continues to pack 'em in. It's a living museum, re-creating a 19th-century seafaring village with restored houses, all manner of shops, and tall ships. What makes it all work are the interpreter-cheerleaders in period dress who staff the shops, do hearth cooking, and lead sea chanteys. 860-572-0711; mysticseaport.org

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art **Hartford**

America's oldest continuously operating public art museum has been growing its collection since the brushstrokes on Hudson River School landscapes were barely dry. A \$33 million renovation completed in 2015 revitalized exhibit spaces for some 50,000 works spanning 5,000 years of human creativity. 860-278-2670; thewadsworth.org

Yale University Museums **New Haven**

The **Yale University Art Gallery** showcases classic canvases by Hals, Trumbull, and van Gogh, among others—world-class art, all for free. Across the street, and also free, is the **Yale Center for British Art**, the premier collection of British art outside the United Kingdom. There's more than enough to keep you occupied until Yale's **Peabody Museum of Natural History** reopens in 2023 after a \$200 million renovation. yale.edu

NARRAGANSETT TOWN BEACH, Narragansett



RHODE ISLAND

DINING

Al Forno **Providence**

Opened in 1980, the restaurant that first put Providence on the culinary map remains one of the city's finest. Wood-grilled dishes—including the best pizza in town—figure prominently among the array of luscious rustic Italian offerings. Sinful, made-to-order desserts seal the deal. 401-273-9760; alforno.com

Bluebird Café **Wakefield**

Tucked into a small strip mall, the Bluebird is a peerless breakfast spot with a spicy side. Owner Bart Shumaker launched the original Bluebird in New Orleans, and you can taste that influence here—especially on Friday nights, when the Bluebird serves mouthwatering specials such as jambalaya

and Creole shrimp bisque. 401-792-8940; bluebirdcafe.com

The Commons Lunch **Little Compton**

Over the course of a busy summer week, Commons patrons will gobble up hundreds of orders of johnnycakes, Rhode Island's iconic cornmeal pancakes, made with stone-ground native whitecap flint corn. But don't overlook the superlative stuffies, another signature Rhody food, made here with both regular sausage and chouriço to keep the dish moist and meaty. 401-635-4388; [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/commons.lunch)

Flo's Drive-In **Portsmouth**

The original Flo's, in business since 1936, puts the "shack" in clam shack. The cooked-to-order food is simple but stupefyingly fresh: lobster rolls, chowder, stuffies, clams

fried to perfection. And with the view of a serene cove in the Island Park area, sitting on your hood while eating has never been so satisfying. (For sit-down dining, head for the full-service Flo's in Middletown.) 401-847-8141; flosclamshacks.com

Gracie's **Providence**

Having marked its 20th anniversary in 2018, Ellen Slattery's sophisticated New American eatery continues to burnish its reputation for not just innovative, season-based cuisine but also stellar service. That combination has won consistent kudos for Gracie's, including the AAA Four Diamond award (since 2011). 401-272-7811; graciesprovidence.com

Gray's Ice Cream **Tiverton**

The homemade ice cream at this 1923 insti-

tution is so good that people come from around the state—even in winter—to slurp up coffee cabinets, a Rhode Island specialty, and dig into flavors that range from eye-opening ginger to New England classics like grapenut, frozen pudding, and maple walnut. (Gray's has a second, seasonal location in Bristol.) 401-624-4500; graysicecream.com

Matunuck Oyster Bar **South Kingstown**

Though Massachusetts claims two of the best-known oysters—Wellfleet and Island Creek—Rhode Island has earned its own bragging rights with worthy gems like Moonstones, Cedar Islands, and Aquidneck, all sold in rotation at this popular waterfront oyster bar. The star attraction, though, is the Matunuck oysters that owner Perry Raso cultivates in a saltwater pond right next door. They boast a briny crispness and lightly sweet finish, like a friendly good-bye. 401-783-4202; rhodyoysters.com

Modern Diner **Pawtucket**

Set in a red-and-cream-colored Sterling Streamliner, shaped like a locomotive and manufactured c. 1941 in Merrimac, Massachusetts, the Modern holds the distinction of being the very first diner named to the National Register of Historic Places, in 1978. Its food also makes it one of the top diners of any vintage in New England (the line on Saturday mornings got considerably longer after the Food Network named the Modern's custard French toast the best diner dish in the country). 401-726-8390; moderndinerri.com

Nick's on Broadway **Providence**

Chef-owner Derek Wagner, who opened Nick's in 2002 at the tender age of 24, has a passion for seasonal, local food that you can taste throughout his cuisine. Meat and eggs come from small Rhode Island farms; seafood hails from the Point Judith area; and the produce includes crops from the restaurant's own gardens. Though justifiably famous for its brunches, Nick's shines at night with its painstakingly crafted four-course tasting menu. 401-421-0286; nicksonbroadway.com

Persimmon **Providence**

Having already earned six James Beard Award nominations, chef Champe Speidel picked up another in 2018 after relocating his lauded restaurant from its longtime home in Bristol. Clearly, nothing was lost in the move. His seasonally inspired modern American cooking is as elegant as ever, with recent offerings including venison "Wellington"

for two with smoked beets and king trumpet mushrooms. 401-432-7422; persimmonri.com

The White Horse Tavern **Newport**

Don't let the rough-hewn wood beams, early Americana, and Windsor chairs fool you: This is not a Ye Olde Tourist Trappe. Longtime executive chef Rich Silvia runs a serious food program, with local sourcing, house-made charcuterie, a legendary lobster mac and cheese, and a Narragansett Bay bouillabaisse that a Marseillais might envy. 401-849-3600; whitehorsenewport.com

Wright's Farm **Burrillville**

Rhode Island's famous "family style" chicken meals sprang up during the early 20th century as a way to feed crowds of Italian and French-Canadian millworkers in the Blackstone Valley. Although the mills may be gone, the tradition of those good, sustaining meals continues at Wright's, which since the 1950s has been perfecting the art of feeding large groups. The facility holds 1,000-plus diners, but even with that kind of capacity, don't be surprised if they're running a wait for their all-you-can eat rolls, salad, pasta, fries, and chicken. 401-769-2856; wrightsfarm.com

LODGING

Castle Hill Inn **Newport**

Formerly a private estate, this historic five-star hotel nests on 40 acres of a panoramic peninsula. Lodgings range from mansion rooms (including a romantic turret suite) to bungalows and cottages; amenities include all-natural bath products from Rhode Island's own Farmaesthetics. And the Lawn at Castle Hill is simply the most scenic place in the state to grab a G&T and watch the water. 401-849-3800; castlehillinn.com

Christopher Dodge House **Providence**

This 14-room B&B, which is housed in an Italianate mansion, is slightly out of the downtown Providence fray but still only a 10-minute walk to great shopping and dining. The rooms are charming (most have a gas fireplace or stove), staffers are sweet, and breakfasts—from blueberry pancakes to a vegetable frittata—are hearty. 401-351-6111; providence-hotel.com

The Francis Malbone House **Newport**

Built in 1760, the Francis Malbone House exudes a sense of elegance that harks back to the days when a wealthy shipping magnate called it home. Well-appointed rooms,

period furnishings, a gourmet breakfast, and afternoon tea are just a few of the reasons guests keep returning to this elite New England inn. 401-846-0392; malbone.com

Hotel Manisses **Block Island**

When merely escaping to an island isn't enough, the calming aura and polished service at this Block Island favorite can offer that extra little leap away from reality. An intensive makeover by new owners in 2016 has given the Victorian landmark's 17 rooms and restaurant a fresh appeal, but at least one beloved tradition survives: the bar's signature flaming coffee. 401-466-9898; hotelmanisses.com

Hotel Providence **Providence**

Comprising a pair of 19th-century buildings in the downtown arts and entertainment district, the Hotel Providence is done up in Belle Epoque style: antiques, oil paintings in gilt frames, lots of marble. Among the luxe lodging options are 16 suites that pay homage to regional authors such as Dr. Seuss and Edgar Allen Poe, and well-behaved dogs may be seen checking in at this notably pet-friendly boutique hotel. 401-861-8000; hotelprovidence.com

NYLO **Warwick**

A 19th-century brick factory that churned out cloth for Civil War uniforms and, later, Fruit of the Loom underwear may seem an odd place to spend the night. But if you're budget- and open-minded, NYLO's modern, loftlike rooms—located three miles from T.F. Green Airport and 10 from downtown Providence—will suit you to a T. 401-734-4460; tapestrycollection3.hilton.com

Ocean House **Watch Hill**

Ocean House boasts architectural splendor, Atlantic views, and AAA Five Diamond awards for both its hotel and its fine-dining restaurant, Coast. Drinks on the veranda are the perfect entrée to this Gilded Age beauty, meticulously rebuilt to preserve as many original 1868 features as possible and packed with amenities ranging from private beach to indoor saltwater lap pool. 401-584-7000; oceanhouseri.com

Renaissance Providence **Providence**

From the instant you step into the lobby, you'll feel a palpable energy at this history-meets-luxury property—making it incomprehensible that the Classical

Revival structure sat vacant for more than 75 years. Resuscitated with a \$100 million investment in 2007, the Renaissance's rebirth continues following its 2016 multi-million-dollar renovation. 401-919-5000; renaissance-hotels.marriott.com

Weekapaug Inn Westerly

The accommodations and the cuisine celebrate a sense of place at the Weekapaug Inn. In-suite views of Quonnie (Quonochontaug) Pond, the cove, and the ocean are paired with an inspired menu that incorporates the best of the region and season, from fresh-caught day boat cod to Narragansett lobster fricasee. 401-637-7600; weekapauginn.com

ATTRACTIONS

Blithewold Bristol

One of New England's most intensely planted and lovingly tended landscapes, the 33 acres of gardens, lawns, specimen trees, and rare and unusual plants at this former summer estate on Narragansett Bay are equal parts historic treasure and living classroom. 401-253-2707; blithewold.org

Clay Head Preserve Block Island

This 190-acre Nature Conservancy preserve at the northeast tip of Block Island feels like the end of the world, with landscapes as wildly majestic as any you'll find on the New England coast. Hike along the near-deserted beach or atop soaring clay bluffs, then wander the serpentine network of inland-reaching spur trails known as the Maze. 401-331-7110; nature.org

Cliff Walk Newport

To your back, some of Newport's most impressive and historic mansions stand tall; below you, surf pounds against the rock-strewn shore; in front, three and a half miles of one of the country's most famous and memorable paths unfurl. In 1975 this public-access way was the first in New England to be designated a National Recreation Trail. 401-845-5300; cliffwalk.com

Colt State Park Bristol

If we had such a park in our backyard, we'd be walking or biking it every day. The property—464 acres open to the sweep of Narragansett Bay—is the perfect place for tossing a Frisbee or picnicking on the long manicured lawns. 401-253-7482; riparks.com

East Bay Bike Path Providence–Bristol

Sights, sounds, and scents of the bay accompany your walk or ride along any or all of this nearly 15-mile shoreside path from Providence's India Point Park to Independence Park in Bristol. Possible stops include photo ops, a Crescent Park Carousel ride, wildlife watching at Audubon's Environmental Education Center, and Del's frozen lemonade at Colt State Park. dot.ri.gov

Narragansett Town Beach Narragansett

Beach aficionados cherish this crescent of shoreline. Why? Clear water, vigorous surf, on-beach activities like surfing lessons and yoga, wheelchair accessibility, movie and music nights, free street parking if you're early (or lucky), and nostalgic views of the 1886 Narragansett Pier Casino Towers. 401-783-6430; narragansetttri.gov

Newport Mansions Newport

Lose yourself in bygone luxury when you tour the Newport Mansions, which include the Breakers and Marble House (both former residences of the Vanderbilt family) and Rosecliff (based on the fabled French Grand Trianon at Versailles). Those are the heavy hitters, but bear in mind that some of the lesser-known mansions—including Hunter House and Chepstow—are also well worth a visit. 401-847-1000; newportmansions.org

Norman Bird Sanctuary Middletown

One of our favorite places for a nature hike, this 325-acre preserve has seven miles of trails and all types of terrain, from open fields to forests. Come armed with binoculars to spot swallows and sparrows, not to mention panoramas of the Sakonnet River and the ocean. 401-846-2577; normanbirdsantuary.org

RISD Museum Providence

Part of the Rhode Island School of Design, this Benefit Street museum features an aggressively diverse collection of furniture, textiles, art, silver, and more—over 86,000 objects in all. All the big names are here, too, such as Monet, Manet, Picasso, Warhol, and Homer, whose dramatic *On a Lee Shore* is reason enough to schedule a visit. 401-454-6500; risdmuseum.org

Roger Williams Park Providence

Rhode Island is justifiably proud of these 422 verdant acres of Victorian landscape design. Here you'll find the Roger Williams Park Zoo, third oldest in the country; the Roger Williams Museum of Natural

History; and the only public planetarium in Rhode Island. Kids will love the Carousel Village and riding the flying horses. 401-680-7219; rwpcconservancy.org

WaterFire Providence Providence

Yes, it's hyped, and yes, more than 10 million people have seen WaterFire Providence, Barnaby Evans's installation of 100 bonfires, with mysterious boats gliding through the darkness and haunting music spilling across the three rivers that converge in the heart of the city. But here's the thing: The whole scene always works. Throughout the evening, visitors stroll the city, enchanted by flickering light and music. There may be no better free summer event in New England. 401-273-1155; waterfire.org



CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE, Cape Cod



MASSACHUSETTS

DINING

Armsby Abbey Worcester

Between the artisanal beers (over 20 on tap, including multiple Hill Farmstead selects, and many more bottles and cans) and the refined grub, this tavern is a far cry from the usual. For an eye-opening gastronomic experience, pair your brew with Vietnamese brisket, poutine enriched by pulled duck confit, or some cuts from the deep list of primo farmstead cheeses. 508-795-1012; armsbyabbey.com

Back Door Donuts Oak Bluffs

If you follow a delicious bakery aroma to a long line of people on a warm summer night in Oak Bluffs, you'll likely find yourself at

the back door of, well, Back Door Donuts. The front bakery-café is open regular hours from mid-April to mid-October, but its "back door" opens from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. The pastries are made fresh in classic flavors as well as more adventurous ones (e.g., maple bacon, butternut crunch). And while you're at it, pick up a few of the perfectly fried, equally sinful apple fritters. 508-693-3688; backdoordonuts.com

The Back Eddy Westport

The coast of Buzzards Bay has a number of places where you can see drop-dead gorgeous sunsets, but none boasts the drop-dead delicious fare served at this eatery overlooking Westport Harbor. It excels at attention-grabbing dishes such as chouriço-stuffed quahogs and wood-grilled tuna steak with house-made kimchi, and an emphasis is

placed on local sourcing, from seafood to dairy, pasta, and produce. 508-636-6500; thebackeddy.com

B.T.'s Smokehouse Sturbridge

Hard-core fans of Brian Treitman's barbecue joint remember when it was just an improvised smoker and a shack with an order counter. But the expanded restaurant digs haven't affected the authenticity of the pork ribs and beef brisket, slow-cooked over hickory and local applewood. 508-347-3188; bts-smokehouse.com

Chatham Fish Pier Market Chatham

Hike down Barcliff Avenue to this busy market on a working pier, and you might think our judgment was swayed by the setting: keening seagulls, bobbing seals, weather-

worn fishing boats. But the food is the star, especially the chowder, which is rich with brine and clams, just creamy enough, and never gummy. It's worthy of a day's journey from wherever you are. 508-945-3474; *chatham-pierfishmarket.com*

Gibbet Hill Grill **Groton**

Since opening in 2004, this cozy rural steakhouse has inspired a mini empire of suburban eateries—the Bancroft in Burlington, Scarlet Oak Tavern in Hingham, Bancroft & Co. in Peabody—all run by the same family-owned restaurant group. The original endeavor, though, is still our favorite farm-to-fork destination, with produce from Gibbet Hill's own fields going into chef Brendan Pelley's creations. 978-448-2900; *gibbethillgrill.com*

The Clam Box **Ipswich**

Whimsically shaped like its namesake container, this local institution has been serving deep-fried seafood since the 1930s. Corn flour batter yields a superior crust, and a gentle hand with seasonings lets the clams' natural sweetness sing out. In short, you won't find a crispier or more honest-tasting fried clam, so don't be put off by the long lines. 978-356-9707; *clamboxipswich.com*

Maison Villatte **Falmouth**

Boris Villatte trained with the legendary Eric Kayser and Alain Ducasse and plied his trade around the world before opening this bakery-pâtisserie, where his classical education shines in such treats as *pain aux raisins*, croissants, and fruit tarts. There's no better baguette in New England. 774-255-1855

Mezze **Williamstown**

With its refined wood-beamed interior and white table linens, Mezza is the go-to for Williamstown Theater Festival patrons and fans of dramatically good bistro fare, presented here with Mediterranean flair. Owner Nancy Thomas founded Mezza in 1996 and keeps it in the culinary vanguard with off-season "R&D" menus and creative pop-up events. 413-458-0123; *mezzarestaurant.com*

Prairie Whale **Great Barrington**

Wunderkind restaurateur Mark Firth was thriving with farm-to-table restaurants in Brooklyn, but he decided to get much closer to the food sources and moved to the Berkshires. Now he raises Prairie Whale's sheep and laying hens in nearby Monterey; produce and whole animals are sourced locally, with the latter going into a variety of expertly house-smoked or house-cured dishes. 413-528-5050; *Facebook*

Six Depot **West Stockbridge**

The brainchild of husband-and-wife team Flavio Lichtenthal and Lisa Landry, this local favorite is where community and coffee come together. Housed in a retired station building, the shop is a little bit of everything: coffee roaster, café, art gallery, event space. Come for the sweet treats, sandwiches, and salads; stay for the local artwork and maybe a performance. 413-232-0205; *sixdepot.com*

LODGING

Blantyre **Lenox**

A Berkshires country estate turned five-star hotel, Blantyre has seen its historic glamour polished to a new gloss. A multimillion-dollar renovation early in 2019 refreshed the decor and expanded the spa; dining options include a formal dining room called the Conservatory and a cozy bar with more casual fare. One thing that remains the same: guests being pampered like Gilded Age grandees. 413-637-3556; *blantyre.com*

Briarcliff Motel **Great Barrington**

There are so many efficiencies to staying at this mod, clean, hospitable motel. No fumbling for keys: Just punch in your room access code. No Yelping for breakfast: A creative spread including Berkshires-made Bola granola and local coffee is included. The woodsy-chic common area is stocked with games and DVDs. You don't even have to go hunting for mountain highs: Sit by the fire pit and watch the sun dip behind Monument Mountain. 413-528-3000; *thebriarcliffmotel.com*

The Charlotte Inn **Edgartown**

No detail is overlooked in this enclave of Edwardian stateliness. Framed with gardens, fountains, and sculpture, the inn is pure English country fantasy. Understated luxury pervades everything from the library's leather club chairs and pastoral oil paintings to the suites' Frette linens and impeccable period furniture. 508-627-4751; *thecharlotteinn.com*

Chatham Bars Inn **Chatham**

The c. 1914 Chatham Bars Inn has changed gracefully with the times and is the Cape's sole surviving (now year-round) grand beachside resort. Facilities include tennis courts, a spa with its own pool, a quarter-mile beach with private cabanas, and a fleet of sailing, fishing, and tour vessels—plus

four restaurants whose menus are invigorated by produce from the resort's own eight-acre farm. 508-945-0096; *chatham-barsinn.com*

The Inn at Castle Hill **Ipswich**

While it's daunting to imagine living in the palatial Great House of the Crane Estate, the shingle-style former guesthouse has precisely the kind of seaside ease we love. Vistas from atop the knoll—marshes and beach and fairy woodlands—suggest command over all that you survey, but each of the 10 rooms is a hushed and private retreat seemingly made just for you. 978-412-2555; *thetrustees.org*

The Inn at Hastings Park **Lexington**

One block from the green where the American Revolution began, this boutique luxury inn—the only Relais & Châteaux property in the Boston area—echoes the domestic history of the 18th and 19th centuries. Dining is just steps away at the inn's Town Meeting Bistro, which puts a creative twist on New England classics. 781-301-6660; *innathastingspark.com*

Land's End Inn **Provincetown**

Commanding panoramic views of Cape Cod Bay and the Atlantic Ocean from its hilltop perch, this shingle-style mansion is close enough to the water that from its many decks and lookouts you can spot whales feeding offshore. The stunning vista is complemented by tasteful art and antiques and modern amenities. 508-487-0706; *landsendinn.com*

Mansion House **Vineyard Haven**

Outwardly, this hotel tips its architectural hat to the Victorian past, but inside it hews to a clean Californian sun-drenched look. Modern construction means spacious rooms with central air, soundproofing, and full-size bathrooms. Toss in a full spa, an indoor pool, a well-equipped health club, a steps-from-the-ferry location, and some pet-friendly rooms, and you end up with an unparalleled package for the price. 508-693-2200; *mvmansionhouse.com*

Old Inn on the Green **New Marlborough**

It's unlikely that the stagecoach passengers who bedded down in this 1760s Berkshires inn enjoyed quite the same comforts as today's guests, who sleep on bigger beds and perform ablutions in their private baths. But the restoration of the inn shows an unforced sense of history that makes a stay feel quite luxurious, even as the decor stays

true to colonial-era roots. Lest anything seem too modern, the dining rooms are lit entirely by candles and fireplaces. 413-229-7924; oldinn.com

Red Lion Inn **Stockbridge**

Dating back to 1773, the Red Lion is known for its authentic historic character (note the working birdcage elevator), period furnishings, and long list of high-profile guests, including five U.S. presidents. But the wicker-strewn front porch is inarguably its biggest claim to fame: To sit in a rocking chair here is to understand precisely how longtime Stockbridge resident Norman Rockwell saw his town. 413-298-5545; redlioninn.com

The Wauwinet **Nantucket**

Let's face it, this place ain't cheap. Three other things are also certain: the unparalleled location (straddling a narrow spit of land between bay and ocean), impeccable service, and scads of amenities. And did we mention the food? Topper's Restaurant was recently honored as a AAA Five Diamond award winner. Even better, the entire hotel has been left newly gleaming by a 2019 multimillion-dollar update. 508-228-0145; wauwinet.com

ATTRACTIONS

Art's Dune Tours **Provincetown**

The windblown heaps of sand beside Route 6 as you approach town seem almost like a little piece of the Sahara come to New England. Art's has been driving folks into the sand dunes on Provincetown's Cape Cod National Seashore since 1946, and nowhere else can you get such a colorful, historical, and ecologically sensitive experience of this fragile ecosystem. 508-487-1950; artsdune-tours.com

Camp Meeting Grounds **Oak Bluffs**

In the quiet world of whimsy officially known as the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association Campground, 19th-century homes outlined in painted filigree trim are set within a few feet from one another, looking for all the world like a dollhouse village. Most of the 300-plus "gingerbread" cottages are shuttered during winter, but in warm weather this enchanting community springs to life with walking tours, concerts, visiting speakers, family movie nights, and the famous Grand Illumination lantern festival. mvcoma.org

Cape Cod National Seashore **Cape Cod**

Created on August 7, 1961, with JFK's presidential pen stroke, this 43,600-acre national park gave everyone access to one of the most treasured stretches of coastline in the East; today it draws more than 5 million annual visitors annually with its endless opportunities for biking, hiking, swimming, and birding. 508-255-3421; nps.gov/caco

Crane Beach **Ipswich**

For sheer scenic beauty, no strand in New England can top Crane Beach's four miles of soft white sand set against a backdrop of undulating dunes, part of a 2,100-acre historic estate overseen by the Trustees of Reservations. It's a popular destination, but if you walk a bit, you often can find a private spot even in high summer. Shallows and tidepools call to the kids, while five-plus miles of trails traverse the sand dunes and salt marsh, opening up even more vistas. 978-356-4354; thetrustees.org

Mass MoCA **North Adams**

More than 100 large-scale wall drawings designed by Connecticut native Sol LeWitt are a must-see extravaganza of pattern and color at this bold museum that transformed old brick mill buildings into a center for contemporary art. Leave time to explore the entire complex, where gigantic gallery spaces let artists unleash their creativity through fascinating installations. 413-662-2111; massmoca.org

Minute Man National Historical Park **Concord & Lexington**

The history of the American Revolution comes alive on the five-mile Battle Road Trail between Concord and Lexington, thanks to educational plaques that spark the imagination. Highlights include the North Bridge, where the famous "shot heard 'round the world" was fired, and the park headquarters at Buttrick House, whose exhibits include the Hancock Cannon, a piece of artillery that the British were looking for when they marched into Concord. 978-369-6993; nps.gov/mima

New Bedford Whaling Museum **New Bedford**

Founded to preserve the history of the New Bedford whaling industry, this museum is home to the world's most extensive collection of scrimshaw, the largest library of whaling logbooks and journals, and the biggest model ship (not to mention four complete whale skeletons). And it continues to think big, as it recently unveiled *The Grand Panorama of a Whaling Voyage 'Round the*

World, an extensively restored 1,275-foot-long 19th-century painting that clocks in as the longest in North America. 508-997-0046; whalingmuseum.org

Old Sturbridge Village **Sturbridge**

Dramatic events are not the only stuff of history. This outdoor museum depicts a rural New England village and does a superb job of capturing the details of daily life from 1790 to 1840. See grain being ground into flour and a blacksmith at work, or try milking a cow, husking corn, or spinning. Heirloom gardens feature fruits, vegetables, herbs, and ornamental flowers. It all makes for a fascinating tapestry—just ask Ken Burns, who filmed his first documentary here while still a student at Hampshire College. 800-733-1830; osv.org

Peabody Essex Museum **Salem**

The oldest continuously operating museum in the U.S. is also one of the most ambitious. Having already expanded eight times in its history, it debuted a jaw-dropping 40,000-square-foot addition in 2019, part of a \$16 million museum-wide initiative to give visitors entirely new experiences of virtually all of its collections by 2022. In addition to an array of African and Native American art and three centuries of New England art, the PEM boasts a cache of Asian art and cultural artifacts that includes the only complete Qing dynasty house located outside China. 978-745-9500; pem.org

Plimoth Plantation **Plymouth**

Thanks to its re-creation of a 17th-century English village and its Wampanoag Home-site (populated not by reenactors but by members of the Wampanoag Nation and other indigenous peoples), Plimoth Plantation provides an immersive, 360-degree view of history. And there's no better time to experience it than 2020, as the museum celebrates both the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing and the return of the *Mayflower II* after a landmark multiyear restoration. 508-746-1622; plimoth.org

Tanglewood **Lenox**

Strolling the verdant 529-acre campus as the breeze carries the notes of musicians warming up, you may realize there's no better place to spend a summer evening than at Tanglewood, the longtime seasonal home of the world-famous Boston Symphony Orchestra. Here, concertgoers ditch fancy dress for blue jeans, and dinner reservations for picnic baskets, and if the weather's cooperating, the cheapest seats are also the best in the house: on the grass and under the stars. 413-637-5180; bso.org

Zoar Outdoor Charlemont

Founded in 1989, this adventure outfitter pioneered family-friendly white-water rafting on a 10-mile stretch of the Deerfield River. Today its offerings encompass rafting trips suitable for even the littlest paddlers as well as challenging forays into class III and IV rapids; it has guided kayaking programs and zip-line tours; and it operates a guest lodge and campground right on the river. Note: Zoar also has a second location in Wilmington, Vermont. 413-339-4010; zoaroutdoor.com

Boston + Cambridge

DINING

Area Four Cambridge

Thanks to 30 hours of fermentation and a sourdough starter that's been going strong since 2002, the pizza crust at this Kendall Square favorite has a signature tang as well as a shatteringly crisp exterior that belies the tender, chewy interior. It's so good that we'd eat it plain—but then we'd be missing out on Area Four's earthy mushroom-fon-tina-gremolata pizza and one of the best clam and bacon pies in New England. A second location opened in Boston's South End in 2016. 617-758-4444; areafour.com

Craigie on Main Cambridge

Chef Tony Maws employs his virtuosic technique to meat and veg in equal measure (when in doubt, order the pork—he's especially deft with it). The food is infused with French flavor and elevated by attention to detail and a love of perfect ingredients; plus, the bar program ranks among the city's best, and Maws serves one of the most sought-after burgers in town. 617-497-5511; craigieonmain.com

Eastern Standard Boston

This is the Swiss Army knife of restaurants: well designed and endlessly useful. A quick bite before a Sox game? A business dinner? A first date? Come one, come all. Since opening in Kenmore Square in 2005, the brasserie-inspired eatery has established itself as Boston's most reliable go-to, with a breakfast-to-late-night menu that hits all the classics (steak frites, charcuterie, shellfish) and a bar program that has

been a nexus of taste-setting from day one. 617-532-9100; easternstandardboston.com

Flour Boston/Cambridge

Joanne Chang ran a single Flour bakery-café in the South End for seven years before opening a second in Fort Point Channel; as of early 2020, there are eight locations in Boston and Cambridge—and they're always bustling. Flour's greatest claim to fame may be Chang's perfect sticky buns (hers beat Bobby Flay's), but don't miss the scrumptious banana bread, lemon meringue pie, and brownies, not to mention the excellent salads and sandwiches. For a small chain that works in such high volume, the menu remains seasonal and the service is always warm. flourbakery.com

Formaggio Kitchen Cambridge

For more than four decades, Ihsan and Valerie Gurdal and their staff have traveled the world to find the best cheeses, pastas, chocolates, vinegars, and wines to bring home to their very choosy customers. The original Cambridge venue (there's also a South End Formaggio in Boston) is one of the few such shops in existence with its own cheese cave. 617-354-4750; formaggiokitchen.com

Grill 23 & Bar Boston

Since its founding, Grill 23 has seen the high-rolling '80s give way to the low-fat '90s and then the steakhouse revival of the early aughts and the small-plates fixation of today. It has not only weathered them all but also raised the, ahem, stakes. The 100-day-aged ribeye should be on every carnivore's bucket list, the wedge salad is crunchy perfection, and the caramel profiteroles are the ultimate big-kid delight. Add in the white-jacket service and the wood-paneled clubbiness, and Grill 23 is, ever and always, the best chophouse in town. 617-542-2255; grill23.com

Neptune Oyster Boston

The space is tiny, it's always busy, there are no reservations, and street parking in the North End is impossible. So why go to all the trouble? Because Neptune Oyster is just that good. All marble counters and red booths, it's like your dream of a Little Italy seafood restaurant come to life. From the creamy clam chowder to the seafood plateaus to the roasted mackerel with chimichurri and tomato-olive broth, eating here feels like a neighborhood party. 617-742-3474; neptuneoyster.com

Sofra Cambridge

The most casual of chef Ana Sortun's eateries, this always-packed bakery serves Middle Eastern-inspired salads, spreads, and shawarmas, all packed with local produce. These star alongside co-owner Maura Kilpatrick's ultra-chocolatey earthquake cookies, almond-rose cakes, *za'atar* almond brioche, and other fusion delights. In other words: Save room for dessert. Then wash it all down with a *halva* latte or cocoa-rose tea. 617-661-3161; sofrabakery.com

Toscanini's Cambridge

Depending on the season, you can find Belgian chocolate, Aztec chocolate, or Mexican chocolate on the menu at this ice cream shop, a Cambridge fixture since 1981. Then there are the malted vanilla, French vanilla, and sweet-cream flavors. And fruit? How about lemon pistachio or mango ginger? The Tosci's team is always inventing, always raising the bar on quality. 617-491-5877; tosci.com

Uni Boston

Along with chef-owner Ken Oringer, Tony Messina—who clinched the 2019 James Beard Award for the Northeast's best chef—has made Uni one of the most innovative and consistently excellent restaurants in the city. The menu offers both baroque beauty (grilled unagi and foie gras with cranberry and bee pollen) and austere perfection (a perfect slab of wagyu grilled tableside on a sizzling rock), making a night at Uni dinner and theater rolled into one. 617-536-7200; uni-boston.com

LODGING

Boston Harbor Hotel Boston

There are plenty of excellent reasons to spend the night at this waterfront luxury hotel, but the most compelling might be all those panoramic views of Boston Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean. From your spacious guest room—replete with Frette linens and done up in elegant shades of blue—you can watch yachts, ferries, and sailboats glide along, and even witness the drama of weather as it rolls in. In the summer, head down to the harborside restaurant and terrace for the popular "Summer in the City" outdoor entertainment series. 617-439-7000; bhh.com

The Charles Hotel Cambridge

Billing itself as a home away from home for the families of Harvard students, this four-star Harvard Square hotel has oodles of appeal for the non-Ivy crowd, too. On the ground floor is chef Peter Davis's award-winning restaurant, Henrietta's Table, which has been luring foodies since 1995; a few floors up is the legendary jazz nightclub Regattabar, which has welcomed everyone from Dizzy Gillespie and Herbie Hancock to Cassandra Wilson and Ahmad Jamal. The guest rooms and suites are understated New England chic, and the service is Brahmin-worthy. 617-864-1200; charleshotel.com

Fairmont Copley Plaza Boston

Designed by the architect of New York's Plaza Hotel, this c. 1912 Beaux-Arts beauty looks right at home next to such historic treasures as Trinity Church and the Boston Public Library. Inside, the lobby exudes Old World splendor with gilded ceilings, Italian marble columns, and crystal chandeliers. Along with a rooftop health club and an award-winning brasserie, the Fairmont Copley Plaza offers Boston's only "canine ambassador," a black Lab who socializes with guests and often joins them on walks and runs. 617-267-5300; fairmont.com

InterContinental Boston Boston

Occupying a perennially prime waterfront location between downtown and the Seaport, this contemporary high-rise stay boasts a 6,600-square-foot spa and health club, a French restaurant, and two lively cocktail bars. Families will appreciate the large guest rooms (starting at 420 square feet) and rare outdoor space (two-acre waterside plaza and garden); eco-minded guests will love the fact that the rooftop hosts Boston's first-ever hotel-run beehives. 617-747-1000; icbostonhotel.com

The Kendall Hotel Cambridge

At this stately boutique hotel housed in a former fire station, you don't have to choose between Cambridge and Boston: Walk a mile east via the Longfellow Bridge, and you'll be oohing and aahing at Beacon Hill brownstones, or stroll less than two miles west to rub elbow patches with academics in Harvard Yard. Folk art lends a homey vibe, while the nightly wine reception and substantial "fireman's" breakfast buffet underscore the already strong value. 866-566-1300; kendallhotel.com

Kimpton Marlowe Cambridge

A completely refreshed look for its guest rooms is only the latest reason to love this

family- and pet-friendly boutique hotel. Located a hop, skip, and a jump from the Museum of Science, it caters to kids with welcome toys, pint-sized robes, and gourmet menus of their very own. Meanwhile, the front desk staffers are pros at helping get your pooch settled, from procuring a comfy bed to ordering a pet birthday cake from local favorite Polkadog Bakery. 617-868-8000; hotelmarlowe.com

The Liberty Hotel Boston

Opened in 2007 in the revamped Charles Street Jail (a National Historic Landmark), the Liberty ranks among Boston's hottest high-end lodgings. Offering views of the Charles and easy access to Beacon Hill, it has a sense of humor and style that informs everything from its restaurants—Clink, Alibi, and Scampo (Italian for "escape")—to the stunning atrium and the 298 luxurious rooms and suites. 617-224-4000; libertyhotel.com

The Verb Hotel Boston

Located across from Fenway Park, the retro-leaning Verb is a funky and affordable option done up with memorabilia from Boston's rock-and-roll scene. In addition to modern amenities such as high-speed Wi-Fi and high-def TVs, the 93 guest rooms have their own record players and a selection of vinyl. Even cooler: There's a seasonal outdoor pool and tiki-inspired cocktails at Hojoko, the on-site Japanese pub. 617-566-4500; theverbhotel.com

XV Beacon Boston

Between drinking in views from the roof deck and draping yourself in a cashmere throw before a gas fireplace, you might start pretending this art-filled boutique hotel near Boston Common is your very own posh pied-à-terre. Even Fido will feel right at home in the lap of luxury, as well-behaved pups of all sizes are welcomed with homemade biscuits and turndown service. 617-670-1500; xvbeacon.com

ATTRACTIONS

Boston Harbor Islands Boston

One of the best-kept secrets in Boston lies just beyond the skyline, in the form of some 30 pristine islands scattered across the 50 square miles of Boston Harbor. Part of the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, they're brimming over with spots ideal for walkers, paddlers, and campers. Those who make the effort to reach them are repaid

with a blend of old military forts, light-houses, drumlins, and rugged shoreline—all guaranteed to entice those of us who yearn for a slice of solitude. bostonharborislands.org

Boston National Historical Park/ Freedom Trail Boston

No trip to the Hub is complete without a couple of stops on the Freedom Trail, the 2½-mile route past 16 of the city's historical landmarks. And while you can certainly navigate it on your own, you'll learn a lot more about Boston's role in the Revolutionary War and the growth of a new nation during the dramatic 90-minute Freedom Trail tours led by rangers from Boston National Historical Park, which encompasses several of the most famous sites, including the Old North Church and Faneuil Hall. nps.gov/bost; thefreedomtrail.org

The Brattle Theatre Cambridge

The tagline says it all: "Boston's unofficial film school since 1953." Indeed, this Harvard Square nonprofit is ground zero for esoteric and independent cinema and a specialist in repertory programming (recent series have included "The Films of Jim Jarmusch" and "Ingmar Bergman 100"). Little wonder the Brattle's advisory board includes indie icon David Lynch. 617-876-6837; brattlefilm.org

Brookline Booksmith Brookline

As a town that loves its tomes, Boston is bound to have its share of standout bookshops. But this c. 1961 indie distinguishes itself by more than what's on its shelves (although the literary lineup is impressive and spans both new and used). There's the dog-friendly, neighborhood feel; the eccentric and sophisticated gifts and cards; and the visits by big-name authors (Julia Alvarez, Michael Chabon). And with a big expansion in 2020 and a new bar and café, the Booksmith simply can't be beat. 617-566-6660; brooklinebooksmith.com

Fenway Park Boston

With a capacity of roughly 38,000, Fenway is one of the smallest parks in the American League, but good things come in small packages. To fully appreciate this c. 1912 shrine to America's national pastime, take one of the behind-the-scenes tours offered year-round. Listen to tales of Red Sox greats, check out the view from the Green Monster, and peer down at the quirky asymmetrical field from the press box. Even if you've been to Fenway dozens of times, you've never experienced it quite like this. boston.redsox.mlb.com

Kennedy Museums Boston

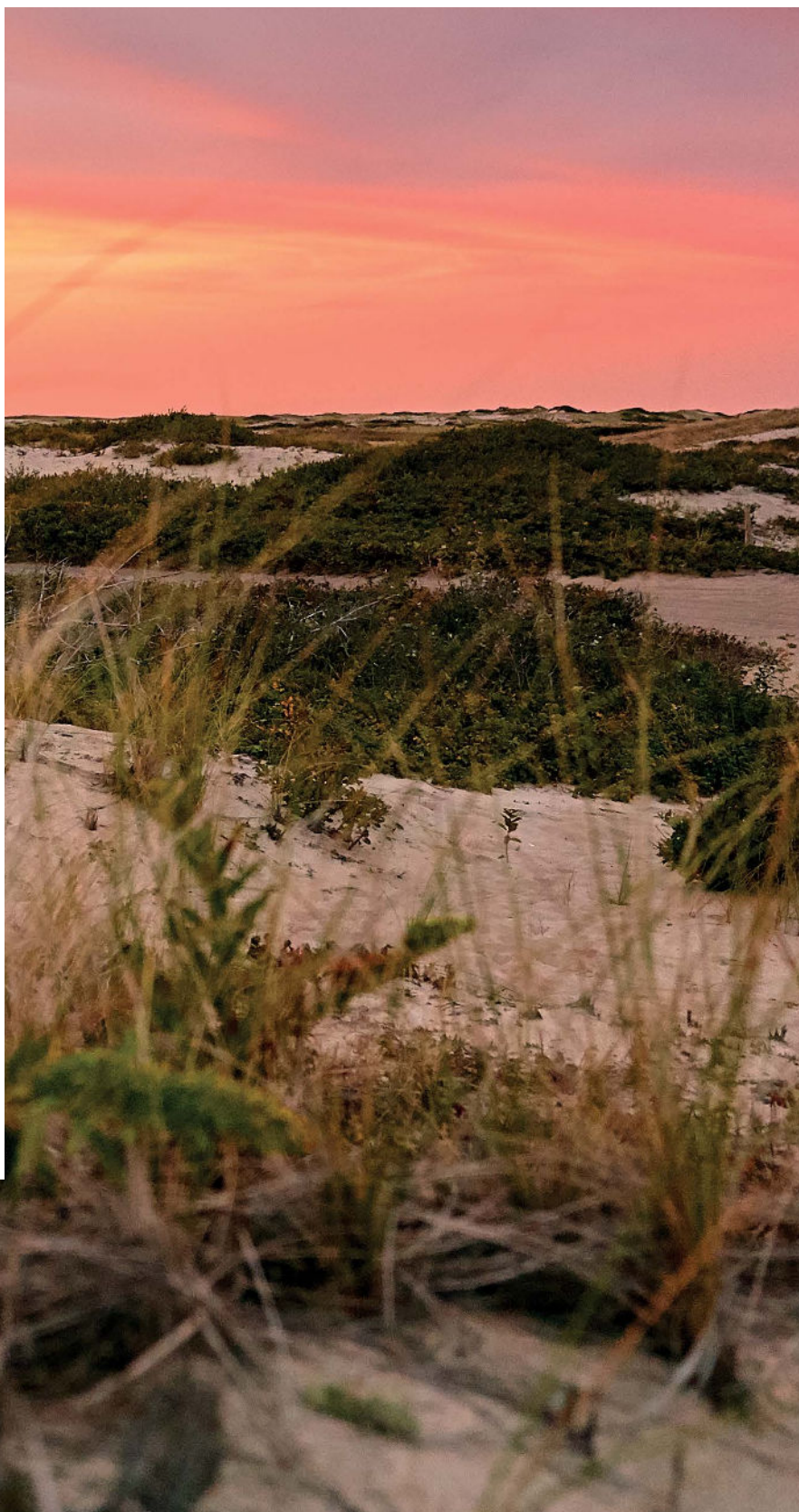
Housed in a striking I.M. Pei-designed tower rising from the waterfront, the **John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum** brings to life the excitement and tensions of the Camelot years. Next door is the **Edward M. Kennedy Institute** for the U.S. Senate, where visitors can explore the younger Kennedy's political legacy and try their hand at being legislators in a full-scale reproduction of the U.S. Senate chambers. 617-514-1600; jfklibrary.org; 617-740-7000; emkinstitute.org

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Already world-renowned for its collections of Impressionist works, Egyptian artifacts, and Asian art, the MFA made a critically hailed expansion in 2010 with a sprawling new wing dedicated to artwork from North, Central, and South America. This is where you'll find many of the locally rooted treasures that Bostonians hold dear, such as Paul Revere's "Sons of Liberty" bowl and the paintings of John Singer Sargent (don't miss his magnificent murals in the museum rotunda and colonnade). 617-267-9300; mfa.org

Paddle Boston Greater Boston

For an unforgettable skyline vantage, take to the water in a canoe, kayak, or paddleboard from Paddle Boston, providing affordable outdoor recreation for residents and visitors since 1973. Its seven locations on the Charles and Mystic rivers include a subway-accessible option in the heart of the city, in Cambridge's Kendall Square. Whether you go solo or join one of the kayak tours, the views of Boston and Cambridge, the Esplanade, and the Zakim Bridge are spectacular. 617-965-5110; paddleboston.com





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