

BC The Mag

Life. Style. Where you live.

May/June 2015

COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

Fresh as Springtime

The season comes alive with these fashion forward looks

Northeastern Adventures

Panoramic summer destinations a drive away

Getting to Know You...

Feel-good snapshots of our BC neighbors

Divorce Mediation:

Is it Right for You?

Northeastern Adventures

While the country heats up for summer, there's no reason to head down south. Just a short drive north of us are some of the most fantastic summer destinations in the country, and we've got your roundup right here.



White Barn Inn



Back of the Ocean House



The Chanter



Vanderbilt Grace



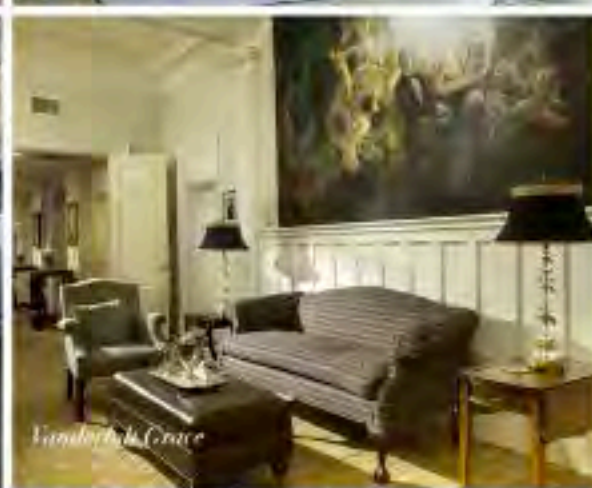
Vanderbilt Grace



The Mayflower Grace Guest Room



Silver Cloud Rolls Royce



Vanderbilt Grace



Vanderbilt Grace Courtyard

I await the Silver Cloud Rolls Royce that is going to whisk me away in style to the Mayflower Grace in Washington, Connecticut, for a few days of much needed rest and relaxation. As I enter the car, I'm immediately in love as my feet hit the incredibly soft padded lambs-wool carpet. I'm happily ensconced in the buttery soft feel of the leather seats and if this is any indication of what's to come, I'm ready and willing. The drive is so smooth and comfortable I nearly nod off. I try to stay awake to see the beautiful foliage and changing scenery, the rolling, forested hills. A mere hour and change later and I have arrived. My beautiful Rolls pulls up to The Mayflower Grace, a stately mansion surrounded by beautiful grounds and gardens.

I'm cordially greeted and handed a glass of champagne while my luggage is brought to my room. I wander around to the two living rooms off the lobby, both with huge wood burning fireplaces and plenty of seating, a tiny boutique in between. Then I find the Library. The mahogany paneled walls and bookshelves surround the quaint room, which also has a beautiful fireplace and comfy leather chairs. I happily curl up on the window seat and feel as if I'm at a favorite great aunt's home, so cozy and warm. This is understated elegance at its best.

As I ascend the double staircase I'm anxious to find out if my room is as lovely as the downstairs. I'm not disappointed. It is a large room with a canopy bed fit for a queen. A sofa and chairs surround the coffee table and a desk is next to that. This is old European charm at its best and yet the bathrooms are a study in modern elegance. I quickly freshen up and go in search of something to eat.

As I take my place at the table on the terrace overlooking the Shakespeare Garden I'm filled with a sense of peace and anticipation. The setting is so lovely and tranquil that I down a light sandwich and walk the grounds over to the spa, which is set back through a gated winding path. I'm unprepared for the beauty of the relaxation

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Five Star restaurant north of New York City. Again, the sumptuous offerings by Executive Chef Jonathan Cartwright change weekly. Most of the dishes have a strong classical European influence with a special focus on locally caught seafood. Gentlemen are required to wear jackets in the dining room, but the atmosphere is not at all stuffy. There are more than 7,000 bottles of wine to entice you and once again the meals are magnificent, not only in taste but in presentation as well, and the service is non-obtrusive, friendly and helpful. After enjoying the feast, it's back to my room to slide into a hot bath, light the fireplace and dream about a return trip.

The beauty of the Northeast in summer is that there are so many beautiful places to stay, full of old-world charm and modern-day comforts. In Rhode Island, in particular, there are two more standouts that cannot be left unrecognized in our Northeastern adventures: The Chanler at Cliff Walk and the Ocean House.

The Chanler at Cliff Walk

A brief walk down Newport's Cliff Walk past The Breakers (previously mentioned) you'll find yourself nestled into what appears to be the end of that walking trail, and more importantly, at the welcoming gates of The Chanler hotel.

Built in 1865 as a summer home for New York Congressman John Winthrop Chanler and his wife, Margaret Astor Ward, it was the first mansion to be built on the famed Cliff Walk overlooking the Atlantic, even hosting President Theodore Roosevelt. After many transformations from home to historical museum and even a school for girls, The Chanler is now a European boutique hotel intimately catering to only 20 uniquely designed rooms reflecting different historical periods or themes.

Enter the circular drive and head into the lobby with its charming original fireplace, restored parquet flooring and shining crystal chandelier and you've instantly traveled back in time. You are the social



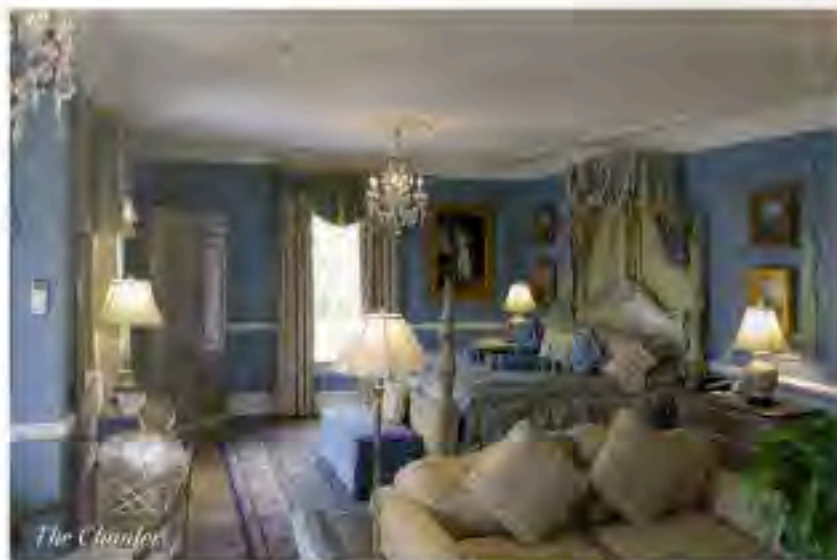
elite of the Northeast. It's summer, and it's time to vacation in one of America's best summer destinations.

Unlike many newly built hotels, the Chanler creates an intimate feeling throughout the whole grounds. With very few wide-open common spaces, most are smaller, cozy rooms, recreating the social atmosphere of times long past.

Step into any of the 20 exquisitely appointed rooms, however, and you'll see where history and modern amenities truly collide.

The Chanler at Cliff Walk's rooms are broken into three categories: 14 mansion rooms, three ocean villas and three garden villas. Every room is furnished with flat screen TVs, wet bars, fireplaces, and marble or granite heated floors. Even the showers take you well into the 21st century, with multiple heads, body jets and rain-heads. Most rooms will also have a Jacuzzi.

Of course, the three Ocean Villas face the ocean, and the three garden villas face the north side of the hotel, but in certain spots on their private patio, you can see



The Chanler



Seasons Restaurant at Ocean House



Ocean House Tower Suite



The Chanler



Ocean House veranda



July 4th at the Ocean House

the ocean from there as well. Wind your way through a private garden path to a locked gate, which opens into each villa's private courtyard. Walk a narrow path up towards your room, and you'll notice a private hot tub perfectly suited for New England's crisp summer evenings.

The Chanler prides itself on offering very personal service to each and every guest. Stay for a weekend and you'll quickly become friends with other guests, whether you're having a cocktail at the Veranda Lounge or dining at nearby tables at the award-winning Spiced Pear restaurant, both located within the comfy confines of this gorgeous boutique hotel. The incredibly attentive and personable staff wouldn't have it any other way.

Sitting nicely atop the cliffs, The Chanler's restaurants offer unrivaled dining views. The Spiced Pear serves the best of what New England's farms have to offer, giving its diners culinary delights with unmatched quality, combined with what may be one of Newport's most romantic dining destinations.

Meanwhile, the Terrazza Restaurant

and Veranda Lounge offer carefully crafted cocktails and more casual light fare for those looking for a more laid-back dining experience.

With a private beach club for its guests and their friends and families, plus many events such as wine or cigar tastings, The Chanler at Cliff Walk prides itself on offering guests a completely relaxing and enjoyable summer vacation a mere few hours drive from Bergen County.

The Ocean House & Weekapaug Inn

Sitting on the high bluffs of Watch Hill, Rhode Island, a hidden gem found only from the winding roads through Westerly, past the mansions of the social elite lies The Ocean House, a 64-room, beachfront treasure boasting some of the coolest suites I've seen, a 12,000-square-foot spa and over 10,000 square feet of event space.

For those unfamiliar with Watch Hill and Westerly, they are a wee bit shorter of a drive than to that of Newport. For those really looking for a first-class experience, Westerly Airport welcomes private air-

craft and is only four miles away, where an attendant will pick you up and whisk you in one of their Mercedes' fleets vehicles right to Ocean House.

The Ocean House opened in 1868, briefly after the Civil War. This beautiful Victorian hotel was a go-to destination for guests all across America coming "to summer." In 2003, the original hotel closed after 135 years. By 2004, however, a \$146 million renovation was begun, salvaging more than 5,000 of the hotel's original artifacts and making sure The Ocean House would once again offer world-class service for 135 years to come.

Bringing together British Colonial, early American and beloved seaside aesthetics, you'll notice a theme of sun-drenched colors of yellow, blue, turquoise and cream throughout the hotel. Public spaces are adorned with a stunning, rotating, multimillion-dollar art collection, which would be a highlight unto itself in many of the world's hotels, but here it's just a small part of Ocean House's incredibly ornate puzzle.

Guest rooms at the Ocean House are

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refined and contemporary, offering every modern amenity you could imagine, including an iPad stocked with movies, free Wi-Fi throughout the whole estate, a dedicated floor valet for butler service, and anything else you can think of. Yet, Ocean House cannot be spoken of without mentioning its truly unique suites.

One standout is the 1,200-square-foot Spa Suite, which offers exclusive access to the OH! Spa, as well as 180-degree views of the Atlantic. An Ocean House favorite, however, is the Tower Suite, which is one-of-a-kind, at the Ocean House, and well, everywhere.

This unique suite encompasses four floors of private space in the Ocean House's flag tower, climbing high above the rest of the resort. A full kitchen is a bonus, where guests can invite their friends to dine, but climb a small ladder up to a hatch, open it and you're on top of the world, with some of the highest views in Watch Hill, an unforgettable moment.

Some (hopefully) lucky men have the suite for a night just so they can propose to their beautiful girlfriends under the moonlight in what could be one of the Northeast's most romantic spots.

If you need a little more space, though, there is always the penthouse suite: 4,000 square feet of living space, including three king bedrooms, a living room with fireplace and a kitchen. Not enough? There's an additional 2,700 square feet of outdoor space with sweeping views of the Atlantic and Watch Hill Bay, and a Jacuzzi, outdoor kitchen and sunroom.

In-room dining is available 24 hours a day, but if you're looking for a real meal then look no further than Seasons Restaurant. The resort's main dining area offers every table panoramic views of the sea. The culinary team, which included a dedicated food forager, utilizes local, estate-grown ingredients from the resort's farm, as well as local sustainable produce and fish caught daily, to ensure that dining is always

top notch. And Sunday brunch is nearly irresistible, as you'll see diners from all over Westerly flocking for the Sunday dining.

When horror strikes and it's a rainy day, fear not at Ocean House. A 20-meter indoor lap pool, still overlooking the shimmering ocean, is a fair alternative to the property's private beach—one of the only private beaches in Rhode Island. There, guests can enjoy the Dune Cottage, offering an array of light beach fare, not to mention Friday night clam bakes.

On nice days, however, Ocean House truly shines. Whether it's chartering its 32-foot wooden picnic boat, the Dandy, for a day out at sea or making the ocean-front your playground with an array of water sports and activities, you may never want or need to leave.

As a member of Relais & Chateaux, every aspect of your trip to Ocean House promises to be first class through and through. Throughout the year guests can enjoy movie nights, where a projection



Ocean House pool



Ocean House penthouse



Fenway Cottage Suite



Weekapaug Inn

system is propped up on the beach, or a class from the culinary education series, where you might learn (and taste) about wine, locally raised food or cocktails.

Weekapaug Inn

A sister hotel to the Ocean House, and located just down the road in Weekapaug, Rhode Island, the Weekapaug Inn is one of the more experiential hotels I've ever come across. While most hotels preach a return to the appreciation of history, few do it with such refined taste as Weekapaug Inn. After spending just a brief afternoon here, you'll get a full appreciation for what life was like when people used to "summer" in Rhode Island. But don't worry—there is still air conditioning.

At Weekapaug Inn, they actually still have the old, handwritten log books of guests who called it their summer home way back when. A thorough scroll through one such log and you may find a relative of your own, and if not, a familiar name such as Eleanor Roosevelt, who was known to have spent some leisure time at Weekapaug Inn.

A true blast from the past, rooms do not automatically come with a TV. Yes, you can request it, though given the option of-temines many guests do not. The rooms are purposefully and historically cozy, but no expense was spared in the bathrooms, where modern amenities abound. Suites are also available, with full kitchens and enough space for a whole family.

The Weekapaug Inn borders a small salt-water pond, where guests can fish, kayak and connect with nature. A quick shuttle can take you to Weekapaug Inn's private beach or you can walk right over to the pool house for a day of rest and relaxation. Although the Ocean House and Weekapaug Inn are different on several levels, they both ensure their guests a world-class experience unlike many others.

Sharon Goldstein is co-publisher and **Brandon Goldstein** is associate publisher of BC *THE MAC*.