

BEAUTY *by the SEA*

With dramatic vistas looking toward the Atlantic Ocean, the town of Westerly, Rhode Island, includes the idyllic coastal enclave of Watch Hill and the beachfront community of Weekapaug. The area's salt-tinged breezes and unhurried atmosphere have proven irresistible to generations of sea-loving sojourners.

PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHANIE WELBOURNE STEELE





Opposite and this page: The crown jewel of Watch Hill's cliff-side dwellings, the Ocean House resort recently replaced its venerable circa 1868 hotel with a new structure that replicates the original Victorian-era exterior while incorporating contemporary luxuries and more spacious accommodations. In addition to the rooms and suites of the main house, guests may opt for one of five private cottages on the property. The hotel offers the serenity of spectacular views across the Block Island Sound to Montauk and the Atlantic Ocean beyond.





Clockwise from above: Ocean House's signature sunny yellow façade has been a welcoming presence on this scenic promontory for more than a century. The resort's Forbes Five-Star OH! Spa offers the ultimate escape, with pampering and relaxation as the order of the day. Dining options abound, from The Bistro, with its casual atmosphere, to Coast, a true gourmet experience, presided over by acclaimed chef Jennifer Backman.

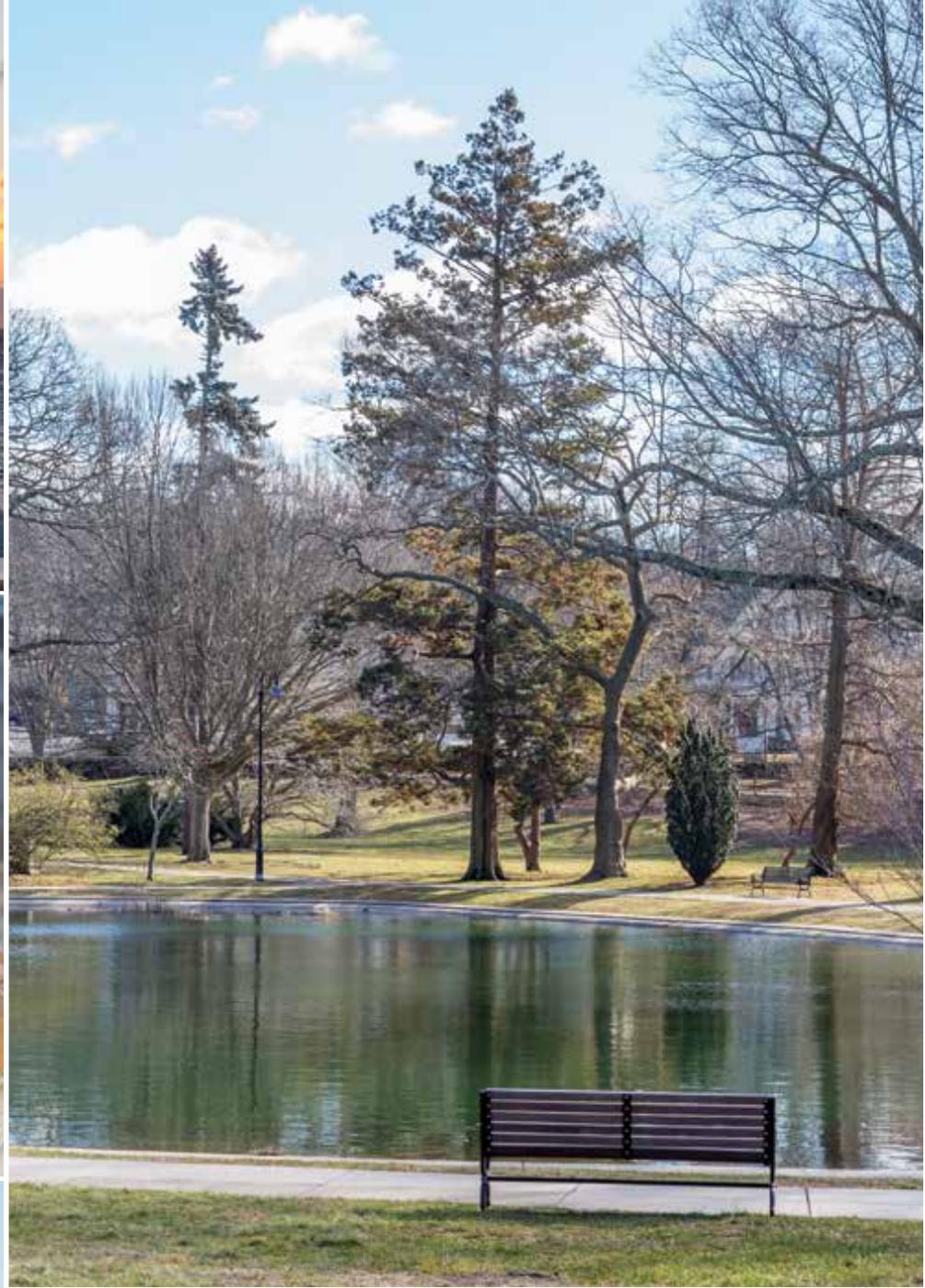
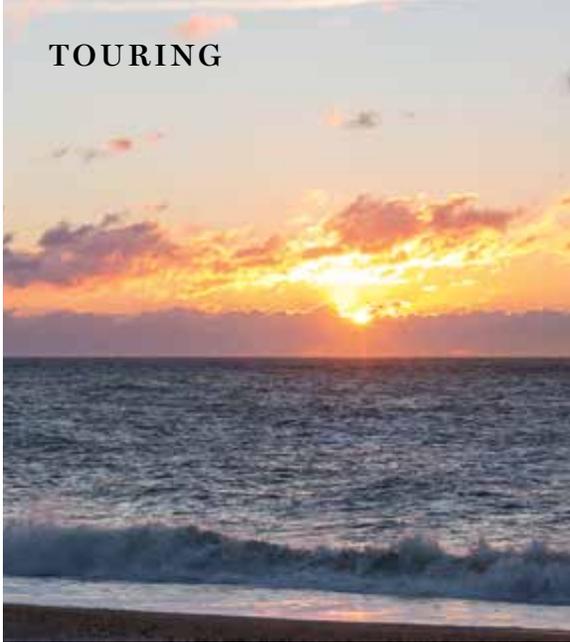




As sunlight filters into the spacious living room, right, guests gathering for afternoon tea are treated to a selection of traditional scones, sweets, and sandwiches, above and below left. On Fridays and Saturdays, the space is transformed with the talents of classically trained musicians providing live entertainment.



TOURING



Opposite, clockwise from above right: Its peaceful setting makes Wilcox Park a favorite of Westerly residents, who also enjoy perusing the vintage wares at Homespun Cottage Antiques & Collectibles. The Watch Hill Lighthouse has guided sailors through the sound since 1745, while aesthetes appreciate the offerings at The Artists' Cooperative Gallery of Westerly. This page: Weekapaug Inn is nestled along the banks of scenic Quonochontaug Pond, just a short walk to Block Island Sound. Common areas, complete with Stickley rockers and cozy fireplaces, encourage guests to mingle—or simply enjoy the views—while outdoor activities include croquet, bird-watching, and boating.

