

THREE EASY NOODLE DISHES FROM MILK STREET / WHEN WILL WE ADMIT THAT COLLEGE ISN'T ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA?

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A view from the
courtyard of the
Arizona Inn.

SPRING TRAVEL

SEE TUCSON LIKE A LOCAL

Insider Tips on Where to
Eat, Shop, and Stay in
Arizona's Hippest City

ADVENTURE IN THE ANDES

Five Women Escape the Grind,
and Find Friendship, in the
Mountains of Peru

LUXURY FOR (A LOT) LESS

Now Is the Time to Score Steep
Discounts at 8 of New England's
Best Inns and Resorts

Luxe for a Lot Less

Great deals on eight luxury getaways during New England's shoulder season.

BY PATRICIA HARRIS AND DAVID LYON



IT'S IN NEW ENGLANDERS' DNA to want to speed the arrival of summer and warm weather. Those who are overeager already have scrawny tomato seedlings on the windowsill, while the rest of us are counting the extra minutes of daylight. But don't be in such a rush: "Mud season" around here has its charms—and its perks. Some of New England's best inns and resorts offer the enticements of lower rates, sometimes more than half off high-season prices, and special packages to lift us out of the spring doldrums.



rooms and suites for less than half the price of a summertime stay.

You'll feel like a houseguest of the Rockefellers—not surprising, since Laurance and Mary Rockefeller established the current incarnation of the inn in the late 1960s. The genteel Federal-style architecture and decor recall an earlier inn on the same location facing the town green, while more 21st-century amenities include the sumptuous LEED-certified spa. After a seasonally appropriate Maple Mud Slide Treatment, stop in the main lobby where coffee, tea, and cookies are served every afternoon.

WHAT TO DO

IF IT RAINS: Peruse **Yankee Bookshop** (802-457-2411, yankeebkshop.com), the state's oldest independent book dealer, for a title you can read in the inn's conservatory as you scoff at the rain through big windows.

IF IT SHINES: Visit **Billings Farm & Museum** (802-457-2355, billingsfarm.org), the pioneering scientific dairy farm preserved by the Rockefellers and located in a National Historic Park. The Farm Life exhibit will tell you everything you need to know about maple sugaring.

Sweet Deals

**Woodstock Inn & Resort,
Woodstock, Vermont**

THE SUGAR MAPLE is by far the most plentiful tree in Vermont, and they practically spew sweet sap during the warm days and cold nights of mud season. The Woodstock Inn—which functions like the manor house of one of Vermont's toniest towns—honors the state tree with sugar season specials. You can settle into one of the 142 opulent

14 The Green, 802-332-6853, woodstockinn.com. Sugar Season Escape package through May 21 bundles luxury room and breakfast for \$189 weekdays, \$219 weekends. The Extra Sweet package adds a \$100 spa credit for \$70 more.



Shop & Spa

Delamar Greenwich Harbor, Greenwich, Connecticut

THE DELAMAR REALLY KNOWS how to treat its guests, starting with that glass of bubbly at check-in. It's a hint that this stylish 82-room hotel, on the edge of one of the finest harbors along Connecticut's Gold Coast, has its own not-so-secret Côte d'Azur ambitions. One glance at L'Escale Restaurant's antique terra cotta tiles from Provence and a quick perusal of the menu—bouillabaisse or steak au poivre, anyone?—confirms the French Riviera model.

Designed with girlfriend getaways and mother-daughter bonding in mind—men are always welcome, too—the Fashion & Beauty Binge package is available all year, but right now it's based on low spring room rates. Designed for two, it includes half-hour massages and hand paraffin treatments, breakfast, and valet parking, as well as discounts at some local boutiques. Save time, though, for hanging out at the Delamar—whether for the complimentary wine and cheese in the lobby on Friday and Saturday evenings or a film-noir-themed cocktail and roasted local oysters in the lounge at L'Escale. And everyone gets complimentary late checkout.

WHAT TO DO

IF IT RAINS: Shop the upscale **boutiques** of Greenwich Avenue in town (complimentary trip via the hotel's Tesla).

IF IT SHINES: Explore the trails and vernal pools of **Mianus River Park**. Starting in May, colorful warblers should flood into the woodlands.

500 Steamboat Road, 203-661-9800, delamar.com. Fashion & Beauty Binge package starts at \$309, including approximately \$200 of spa services.



King of the Hill

Ocean House, Watch Hill, Rhode Island

OCEAN HOUSE PERCHES like a castle above the seaside resort village of Watch Hill, which counts Taylor Swift as one of its fair weather residents. The long veranda of the reconstructed 1868 original still provides a catbird seat for the comings and goings along Block Island Sound. And if it's a bit chilly outside, you can get the same vistas from many of Ocean House's 247 windows.

Airy public areas emphasize the seaside light while retaining the original inn's resplendence. The 49 rooms and 20 suites are spacious and unabashedly plush. The Spring Escape rates starting at \$595—deluxe rooms only—are admittedly a spendy splurge, but that's for a deluxe or terrace water view room—roughly 500 square feet—that starts at more than \$1,100 in the summer. The resort boasts the celebrated Coast restaurant and the package includes a semi-private cooking class and \$100 resort credit. The only shortcoming is that you might have to work at actually relaxing, since the tempting daily activities might include wine and beverage tastings, guided property tours, and fitness classes such as yoga or tai chi.



WHAT TO DO

IF IT RAINS: Swim laps in the heated indoor saltwater pool, take a wellness class, or enjoy a movie and fresh popcorn in the screening room.

IF IT SHINES: Feel the spring sun on your face and the wind in your hair when you take a complimentary spin in a Mercedes convertible. Reserve ahead as guests compete for a fleet of 11 Mercedes vehicles, including two convertibles.

1 Bluff Avenue, 855-678-0364, oceanhouse.com. Spring Escape package is available every night March 25-April 30, Sunday-Thursday only May 1-June 17. ■

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