DAY TRIP: OLANA & THOMAS COLE HISTORIC SITES
GET HAPPY! MICHAEL FEINSTEIN CELEBRATES THE JUDY GARLAND CENTENNIAL
FRI AUG 5 AT 8PM

DEAR ERICH
A JAZZ OPERA BY TED ROSENTHAL
SAT AUG 6 AT 7:30PM

PAT METHENY SIDE-EYE
WITH CHRIS FISCHMAN AND JOE DYSON
SAT SEP 3 AT 8PM

LONDON’S NATIONAL THEATRE IN HD:
STRAIGHT LINE CRAZY
SAT SEP 10 AT 7PM

SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS AND THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND
FRI NOV 4 AT 8PM

STRINGS ATTACHED WITH JOHN PIZZARELLI & JESSICA MOLASKEY
SAT DEC 17 AT 8PM

Check online for current safety protocols

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Technology helps

Here at The Berkshire Edge and Out & About magazine, we are dedicated to helping you enjoy the Berkshires to the fullest, and we embrace any technology that will help us toward that goal.

First, several years ago, we took full advantage of the opportunities available through online publishing to create the region's best online calendar and we invited all the local cultural, educational, and social service organizations to post their events for free . . . and they did. Our calendar, accessible at BerkshiresCalendar.com, helps you find all kinds of interesting things to do. We especially like leading you to those obscure and off-beat events that you might not find anywhere else. Technology allows you to search the events by date, category, town, and venue, so you'll never find yourself at a loss for a good way to spend your time here.

Now, we are embracing the QR Code (an initialism for quick response code). This technology is not actually so new. It was invented in 1994 for the Japanese automotive industry. But it seems new to many of us who first used it during COVID to get to hands-free restaurant menus.

This print magazine offers you a fraction of the information available online on The Berkshire Edge at theberkshireedge.com. Augmented versions of the articles, with more information and live links, are available online in our Magazine section. Plus, while this print publication provides a great overview of what's happening this season in the Berkshires, our online Calendar gives you much more . . . hundreds of events, updated daily, with live links to venues and box offices.

QR codes, positioned throughout this magazine, will link you to all the information available online. The codes will help you move easily back and forth between print and digital. We hope you will find them useful, and that they will make your life in the Berkshires even more pleasurable.

Best regards,

Marcie L. Setlow, Publisher
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ON THE COVER
Photographed at The Bistro Box, Great Barrington.
Featuring: BOX Burger (grass-fed beef, tomato bacon jam, cheddar, roasted garlic aioli), hand cut fries with grated parmesan and truffle oil, and fresh squeezed strawberry lemonade.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHER
KELLY A. CADE

Contributors Spotlight

EVELYN BATTAGLIA
Evelyn Battaglia has been an arch inhabitant of the lifestyle publishing space for over two decades, notably crafting magazine stories and curating best-selling books on cooking, entertaining, and weddings for Martha Stewart Omnimedia. As a contented NYC expat, Evelyn relishes digging in her garden, hiking with her rambunctious dog, and soaking up the local music scene, among other Berkshire-ly pursuits.

DAVID EDGECOMB
David Edgecomb is a photographer and IT professional who lives in beautiful Becket. He is the founder and facilitator of Berkshire Photo Gathering, a group of photographers that meets monthly at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington to network, share knowledge, and support one another. The Group welcomes new members. More at: berkshirephotogathering.com.

JAMIE LARSON
Jamie Larson spent his salad days in hard news, received an M.A. in Journalism from NYU, wrote for a number of places, from The Register Star to the New York Times and worked investigations for the The Albany Times Union. Working mostly magazine and digital these days, he estimates he’s written 500 to 1,000 published articles on Hudson Valley/Berkshire business, culture and farming. Larson now resides in Red Hook, New York, with his wife and two children. He is currently engineering a clock with a single 100-year hand, plays disc golf, cooks, writes fiction, and recently entered an armistice with his tenant groundhog, as she has just produced four cute pups from beneath the tool shed.

GABRIELLE K. MURPHY
Gabrielle K. Murphy is a Berkshires-based photographer. While she enjoys shooting a wide variety of subjects, she is especially drawn to capturing the beauty of the natural world. She is a member of Berkshire Photo Gathering.

HANNAH VAN SICKLE
Hannah Van Sickle is a Berkshire County native who resides deep in the woods of South County where she spent summers as a child and is now raising her own daughters. An English teacher by training, Hannah now works as a freelance writer, academic tutor, and writing coach.
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As the Berkshires’ most popular tourist destination, Great Barrington—the “quietly cooltown” (per Vogue)—draws visitors for shopping, restaurants, entertainment, year-round outdoor recreation, and . . . the recreational (and medical) cannabis dispensaries. Not all 7,100 residents are happy about the “Best Small Town in America” becoming “the pot capital of the Northeast.” Others point to the millions of dollars that have flowed into town coffers from a 3% municipal tax and a 3% community impact tax on cannabis sales.

EAT/DRINK Hot spot Prairie Whale is the closest thing to a scene in the Berkshires. Slake your thirst with a rotating selection of beers and craft cocktails while waiting for a table (or eat at the bar); the small but superb dinner menu features local ingredients and endless creativity.

Railroad Street becomes a summer party on weekends, with tables spilling out into the street. There’s Mooncloud for artisanal cocktails and cheese boards; Baba Louie’s for family-style pizza; Bizen for authentic sushi; and SoCo for a double scoop of to-die-for ice cream any time of day.

Over on Castle Street, Number 10 dishes out classic steakhouse fare; on Main, slip downstairs into cozy, brick-walled The Well; sample Thai food at Siam Square; slurp down ramen and other Asian dishes at STEAM Noodle Café; grab casual grub at GB Eats; or drink what’s on tap at Miller’s Pub.

Inside the Barrington House building off Main, Mammo Lo’s cooks up Southern-style BBQ; Taqueria Azteca is a one-woman operation (sans seating) serving tacos and burritos; Fiesta Bar & Grill offers a straightforward Mexican menu. Take any of these to the outdoor plaza in back. (And shop for ingredients at El Punto De Encuentro Latin Market next door.)

During the day, you can grab breakfast, lunch, or coffee/tea drinks at twoflower café and bakery and Marjoram+Roux, both on Railroad, or Fuel and Patisserie Lenox on Main. ExtraSpecialTeas, in a cozy house on Elm Street, brews organic teas as well as “belonging” by employing adults with special needs (it now has a second location in Housatonic). And follow the smell of fresh baked croissants to Patrizia Barbagallo’s new Pixie Boulangerie near the even newer Flying Church Coffee, inhabiting the cute yellow shop. Besides stocking your larder, The Berkshire Food Co-op on Bridge Street serves sandwiches and such at its café; Guido’s on Route 7 offers grab-n-go meals.

 Plenty of options lie on the outskirts. Heading south on Main, Aroma makes Indian food for take-out; Bizalion’s has European-style sandwiches and salads for lunch. Bistro Box is a roadside eatery with choice burgers and truffle fries to take away or enjoy at one of the picnic tables (expect long lines). Honorable mentions: Bogies and Fiddleheads Grille.

Drive north on Stockbridge Road for mole and margaritas at Xicohténcatl, in the festive yellow house, or tasty fish tacos at Agave’s; next door you’ll find Aegean Breeze (Greek), Naji’s (Mediterranean), and Rio Café (breakfast and lunch). Farm Country Soup makes more than just delicious soups; it also offers a rotating selection of salads, sandwiches, and entrées for takeout. Both cafeADAM (upscale and up-to-date dining) and
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Barrington Brewery and Restaurant (robust and really good) are in Jennifer Commons across the road. Asian food awaits at Shiro Kitchen & Asian Market and The East, as well as Koi on State Road. The Marketplace Kitchen Table features fresh sandwiches and salads for take-out or on-site dining. Brand new, The Marketplace Specialty Foods sells its own prepared food and a selection of local goods.

Head to Housatonic for the inimitable sourdough bread and take-away pizzas at Berkshire Mountain Bakery (profiled on Chopped). Stop by Taft Farms for specialty sandwiches, housemade pies and baked goods, and the farm’s own produce (as well as plants from the nursery; see page 50 for more on this and other garden centers).

To the east, the village of New Marlborough is a scenic country-road-trip away and worth it to dine (or recline) at the exquisite Old Inn on the Green, and/or to have brunch at its offshoot, The Southfield Store. Gedney Farm is another tucked-away secret, offering chef-created food at Gedney Kitchen, as well as lodging with a modern farmhouse aesthetic. Picnics or parties on the agenda? Rubiner’s specializes in “local foods from around the world,” including cheese, charcuterie, and grocery items plus natural wines. Family-owned Domaney’s has an extensive selection of wine and spirits; newly opened Départ on Railroad stocks a more curated selection of independent and women-owned labels. Third-generation Gorham & Norton has a daily sandwich special in addition to being a grocery and wine shop.

If cannabis is your idea of a party starter, Theory Wellness was the first such shop to open in the Berkshires, followed by four others in GB: two of them—Calyx and Farnsworth Fine Cannabis—are right downtown and a third—Rebelle—is on Route 7 just south of town. Newcomer Great Barrington Dispensary is smack dab across from the police precinct (just sayin’). Need implements? Head (ahem) to Shire Glass.

SHOP Cruise Railroad Street for an eclectic mix of owner-run shops, including Griffin, which succeeds in pushing the bounds of style with new and vintage fashion, home goods, art, furniture, books, and toys. Twigs specializes in women’s clothing and accessories with a distinctly cool and wearable vibe. Artists run the store and sell their wares at Railroad Street Collective. Handcrafted clothes of natural fibers are the focus at Artemesia. Trends are on tap at GB9, eclectic apparel and jewelry at Byzantium, gems and metaphysical giftware at Crystal Essence.
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Karen Allen Fiber Arts offers a curated selection of colorful clothing, scents, and bags from independent producers, plus her own line of woven items produced right upstairs. Familiar Trees sells vintage and new books primarily focused on art, design, photography, and architecture, plus art and decorative objects. Makers relish the materials at JWS Art Supply. Rob’s Records (at the top of the street) features new and vintage vinyl, turntables, and all kinds of audio equipment.

On Main, Millerton-based Westerlind peddles uber-stylish apparel, home furnishings, and outdoor gear. Robin’s Candy has an old-school vibe, with sweets for every age. HappyPlace Berkshires makes and sells original 413-branded goods. Lexicon Vibes is an adventure in music memorabilia, featuring a mix of vinyl, books, posters, and a great old juke box. TP Saddleblanket is the retail store for distinctive Tasha Polizzi western wear and décor. Distinctive eyewear is on display at Cyril & Dayne. Next door to Main Street Clothing, Fluff Alpaca, a family-owned business born organically from the family’s Hudson Valley alpaca farm, offers ecofriendly apparel, accessories, and gifts. Tom’s Toys and Matrushka Toys & Gifts proffer lots of games and gear for kids. Barrington Outfitters sells sportswear upstairs and outdoor furniture downstairs.

In The Flying Church, Gallery SGD features prints, cards, and books by photographer Stephen Donaldson and exhibits of photography in other styles. Across the street, there’s Lennox Jewelers, Library Skate Shop (for skateboarding gear), and the newly opened Green Branch Urban Farm, which makes and sells salves, body oils, tinctures, and other health-boosting items.

Books new and old can be found at The Bookloft (on State Road) and Yellow House Books (on Main), respectively. For thrift-store finds, climb the stairs to the Soho Loft (above the bookstore), stop by Gold Digger (in the back of Main), or follow the locals to Goodwill.

Great Barrington is a haven for home furnishing shops and design studios. Wingate, opened in 1998 just north of town on Route 7, has grown to become one of the biggest home furnishings and design showrooms in the Berkshires and now offers move-in-ready homes. Asia Barong is the largest Asian art gallery in America, with more than 25,000 pieces in stock. Mundy’s Asia Galleries is chock full of Japanese antiques and collectibles hand-picked by the owner (who splits his time between Japan and the Berkshires).

Downtown, Home Love offers a mix of old and new goods. One Mercantile sells all things for the home; sister store Sett is a tabletop shop. Samantha Gale Designs, also on Main, celebrates vintage farmhouse style. Michael Wainwright, local tabletop designer now grown into a national brand, has opened a second retail outlet in the back of Main; the original is south of town on Route 7. Brand-new Scout offers two stories of curated home goods in a renovated space.

Just off Main is the GB outpost of Hammertown, known for its high-end furnishings and textiles. Across Bridge Street,
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Hart is a textile studio creating art and objects for the home, which are sold in the retail space along with work by other artists.

For antiques, The Emporium Antiques & Art Center is home to a collection of dealers selling art glass, estate jewelry, fine art, and mid-century finds. The Great Barrington Antiques Center is a 5,000-square-foot, multi-dealer shop that spans styles and budgets. Elise Abrams Antiques, the Antiques Center . . . And All That Jazz, Chelsea & Co. Antiques & Decorative Arts, and The Little Store are still other options. Robert Lloyd Gallery specializes in vintage barware and illustration art. Evergreen specializes in an extensive selection of handcrafted pottery, lighting, wearable art, and more.

Are you contemplating a makeover? Professionals are standing by. Interior design studios are prominent in the downtown landscape. William Caligari Interiors, a full-scope design studio next to the E. Caligari & Son showroom, services clients in the Berkshires and beyond. (Linen and Out of Hand are in the same shopping center.) Sue Schwarz operates her design studio Gallery 315 Home from a new office in Saint James Place. British-born fabric guru Jennifer Owen works out of her eponymous design studio on Railroad Street, and Jess Cooney has a studio on State Road (by appointment only).

JRC Remodeling has opened on Bridge Street. Design-build firm bramble! is on Stockbridge Rd. Destination Design Center on South Hillside Avenue designs and installs kitchens, baths, cabinets, and window treatments. Find new fixtures for your kitchen and bath at Waterware on Crissey Road just north of town and at S & A Showplace at 40 Maple Drive just southwest of town. Back in town, Carr Hardware is your headquarters for home-repair projects and seasonal supplies, including outdoor grills and lawn and garden equipment.

SEE Great Barrington is the birthplace of civil rights leader W.E.B. Du Bois; visitors are invited to take the outdoor interpretive trail at his boyhood homesite on Route 23.

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center anchors the downtown cultural district, putting on a full schedule of music, theater, films, and more. Saint James Place, a deconsecrated
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church-turned-performance-space, hosts concerts and community events (and weddings). The Triplex Cinema has grown from three screens into four.

Original art can be found at Vault Gallery, Carrie Chen Gallery, Bernay Fine Art, and Lauren Clark Fine Art, all of which represent high-quality paintings, sculptures, and works in other media from local and international artists. Visit Lisa Vollmer Studio & Gallery to see the artist’s own (arresting) photography (by appointment only).

Over on Division Street, The Guthrie Center (named for Arlo) holds weekly hootenannies. Bard College at Simon’s Rock, a liberal arts “early college,” is home to Daniel Arts Center, a sleek venue for visual and performance art shows.

Summer also welcomes the return of the Berkshire Busk!, street performers positioned outside at appointed spots on Main and Railroad Streets on Friday and Saturday evenings. The Gazebo in the park on Castle hosts a summer concert series as well.

The recently expanded Housatonic River Walk, a national recreation trail, provides a nice respite from window shopping; pick it up at the north end of town. The Railroad Street Youth Project Center on Bridge Street has public basketball courts and a skateboard and BMX park, complete with empty swimming pool, and a baseball field that you can use when there’s no game in play. Little ones can run off steam at Giggle Park, behind the Town Hall.

STAY The Barrington is a modern hotel right in town and the vintage Wainwright Inn is within walking distance. Granville House is a lovingly restored B&B in a residential neighborhood on Division St., next to the Guthrie Center. The Dutch-colonial Thornewood Inn sits at a fork on Stockbridge Rd., whereas The Windflower Inn is on Route 23 towards Egremont. (And don’t forget about The Old Inn on the Green and Gedney Farm, in bucolic New Marlborough.)

Budget options abound. Monument Mountain Hotel, Lantern House Motel, and East Rock Inn (opening summer 2022) are local alternatives to Holiday Inn Express, Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, and Quality Inn—all conveniently located near town. The retro-chic Briarcliff Motel (owned by The Red Lion Inn) is across from Monument Mountain.
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Sheffield is not only the oldest town in the Berkshires (dating back to 1725), it has the highest concentration of working farms, including one of the largest organic dairy farms (500 cows!) in the country. How it came to also be the antiques capital of the county is a mystery, but who cares! The town, situated just north of the Connecticut border in the Housatonic River Valley, has an astonishing number of quality shops (and nary a single grocery store). It boasts other attractions, too.

**EAT/DRINK** Many visitors head straight to The Market-place Café on Elm Court in the center of town for indoor and outdoor dining and takeout. The chef-owners created a popular catering business in 1993—the first such farm-to-table enterprise in the Berkshires—and have branched out into four additional “retail” locations, each with its own style (the others are in Pittsfield and Great Barrington). For dinner, longstanding The Bridge Restaurant has changed ownership and is now The Frog, serving pub fare.

Two hot new shops started by young entrepreneurs—Roberto’s Pizza and Bakin’ Bakery—have opened right next to each other on Main Street.

Sheffield is also home to Big Elm Brewing, the new Massachusetts branch of Sunset Meadows Vineyards, and Berkshire Mountain Distillers, the county’s first legit distillery since prohibition. Stop by any of these visitor-friendly places for a tasting.

The Stagecoach Tavern got its start in an earlier age; go for food and drink and also jazz and events. It’s part of the Race Brook Lodge cluster of buildings in a woody setting off Route 41.

**SHOP** A variety of antiques shops are conveniently located along Route 7 (aka Antique Alley); traveling south from Great Barrington, keep your eyes peeled on either side for “open” signs at (among others) Painted Porch Antiques, Susan Silver Antiques, Linda Rosen Antiques, Bradford Galleries, Samuel Herrup Antiques, Kuttner Antiques, and Mix on Main (with apologies to those not mentioned due to space constraints).

Loring Gallery traffics in fine (expensive) art.

If you like your music with strings attached, visit the Magic Fluke for handmade ukuleles, banjos, violins, and more. The shop is open for visitors (call for hours), and orders are always accepted by phone and online. In business since 1946, family-owned Sheffield Pottery sells its own ceramics, as well as all the supplies and materials for home potters.

Potters of a different ilk have their own agenda: Sheffield is the site of the state’s first licensed outdoor cannabis growing facility, Nova Farms, “boasting 80,000 square feet of sun-grown, organic cannabis canopy,” according to the company. Theory Wellness is also undertaking outdoor cultivation at Sheffield’s Equinox Farm, well known as the first organic market garden in western Mass. And a retail and cultivation facility called The Pass is open daily. In Sheffield, the times, they have a-changed!

**SEE** Part of the town lies along Route 7, and the charming village of Ashley Falls is just a few miles to the southwest. The Colonel John Ashley House, where the enslaved Mum Bett (later Elizabeth Freeman) lived before suing for and winning her freedom in 1781, is a stop on the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. The grounds of the Ashley House are open now, but the house itself is not.

The original (historical) iteration was destroyed by fire, but the Upper Sheffield Bridge (aka Old Covered Bridge) was rebuilt in 1999. There’s ample parking so you can transverse the bridge (by foot) to a lovely park that’s popular with picnickers.

There’s usually something going on at Dewey Memorial Hall (circa 1887), an impressive fieldstone and marble structure on the Sheffield green. The Hall’s wood-paneled interior and soaring beamed ceiling is a popular venue for lectures, art shows, concerts, and contra dances.

**STAY** A farm stay is fitting, so book one of four guestrooms in the 1830s Greek Revival Stayleigh House Bed & Breakfast on the 250-acre Howden Farm, which is a you-pick operation for blueberries and raspberries (and pumpkins come fall). The aforementioned Race Brook Lodge has modernized rooms in barns and cottages, all connected by footpath. A few miles down Route 41 lies Sheffield Lodge, a rustic bed and breakfast.
Situated on the main route and bearing the “Welcome to Massachusetts” sign, Egremont is, for many travelers, a first glimpse of Berkshire County. It was incorporated in 1775—the same year General Knox passed through on his way to deliver artillery to Boston—but dates to the original treaties signed along the Indian Line in the 1730s. Thanks to another General (Hugh Smiley), creator of the Old Egremont Society, the buildings and culture have survived intact. By the 1930s, Egremont had become a popular motorcar destination for being “the real New England.” And while today’s automobiles look a lot different, the view from them is much the same.

EAT/DRINK Egremont remains a go-to destination for locals and visitors alike. Long-running establishments include the perennially popular Old Mill (opened in 1978), drawing devoted fans to its circa 1797 grist mill building and familiar menu, while John Andrews Farmhouse Restaurant (1990) gets raves for its upscale farm-fresh cooking in a historic home, with patio dining spilling onto the lawn during the summer.

Mom’s Country Café is a bustling diner that’s been dishing out phenomenal breakfast and lunch fare for over 30 years. The adjacent Egremont Market makes a great sandwich to go—and stocks basics for your rental.

In 2016, Egremont made headlines when the close-knit Keene family from New York City restored a dilapidated old barn along Route 23, creating The Barn at the Egremont Village Inn, which rapidly became a renowned venue for dinner, drinks, and live music and comedy performances (plus karaoke). More recently, co-owners Nick Keene and partner Jenny Rubin opened Sara’s Place (named for Keene’s mother, who died in 2021) in the Inn, serving coffee, breakfast, and lunch Wednesdays through Sundays.

Be sure to check out the curated selection of “real wines for the people” and work from local artists at the South Egremont Spirit Shoppe, in an updated building that once housed a manufacturer of axles for horse-drawn carriages. Then climb the stairs from the parking lot to Devine, the first (and only) cannabis shop in Egremont.

Over in North Egremont, regulars flock to the Old Egremont Country Store for daily lunch specials from the deli. Expect to see a group of cyclists fueling up en route to Hillsdale or other environs. It also stocks a variety of locally made products, from maple syrup to books by local authors as well as artwork.

SHOP Families have been coming to Kenver for snow sports gear and garb for over 60 years, and in 2014 the handsome, weathered-brick emporium began remaining open in the spring and summer, proffering seasonal outdoor apparel, accessories for the home, and a special room devoted to pets. Plus you can buy or rent a bike here, then pedal off on one of the suggested routes.

If quilting is your “sport” of choice, you’re in luck: Brookside Quilts, located at the junction of Route 23 and Sheffield Rd., sells new and vintage quilts along with all the supplies you need (sewing machines, threads, rotary cutters, and the like) to DIY.

You’ll find an eclectic array of candles, decorations, cards, wrapping materials, and gifts of all kinds at The Shop by Only in My Dreams Events, a wedding and event planning service. But it’s worth browsing the Paraphernalia Packs, which feature Berkshire products in a nifty box—those bearing the “Packs with a Purpose” label are connected to a local nonprofit and include a donation to the organization. Drop by on Thursdays for fresh-cut flowers.

The owners of 41 Main Antiques (and Mix on Main, in Sheffield) specialize in 20th-century furnishings and accessories but have an eye for pieces and collectibles from all periods. For now the shop is open by appointment only. Acorn: A Brooklyn Toy Shop, launched in 2004, has recently landed in Egremont. The cheery spot stocks handcrafted toys, artwork, and apparel for children.

STAY Why not book one of seven comfy rooms—some pet-friendly—at The Egremont Village Inn, so you can “wind down your day and party all night in a restored barn while eating perfect pub food, sipping amazing local drinks, and listening to great Berkshire-based and national touring artists performing a few feet away”? (Sold!) The original one-room house was built before the Revolutionary War and over time grew in stature and size until it began operating as a guest house in the 1940s. History sleeps here.

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm may have a Great Barrington mailing address (and GPS locale), but it is in the nationally registered historic village of North Egremont, some four miles from the center of GB. “It’s a country charm thing . . . worth the confusion.” The B&B serves homemade breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to the leisurely hour of 11 a.m.—and is open to non-staying guests with advance reservation. While not an active farm, there is a gaggle of hens that lay the eggs that you get to eat.
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the (quiet) corner pocket

From left: Joie Maison, Sweet William Coffee Shop & Bakery.

As the northwesternmost town
in Connecticut, Salisbury is at the intersection of Litchfield County, the Berkshires, and New York State (you can snap a photo of the CT-MA-NY tri-state marker at the northwest corner of town). It’s home to two prep schools, but also wild and mountainous black bear habitat. Salisbury has a small-town feel, with full-time and part-time residents whose lives often take them into Manhattan, just a little over two hours by car. Who, upon seeing a little place with a “For Sale” sign on a well-kept lawn, wouldn’t feel a little tug?

EAT/DRINK Salisbury is a welcoming town, whether or not you own real estate there. It thrives on the mixture of people it attracts, from celebrities (Meryl Streep has lived there for years) to the shaggy hikers who come down a half a mile off the Appalachian Trail to pick up supplies at LaBonne's Market.

Staying on Main Street, Sweet William’s Bakery is famous for pies, pastries, and cookies, while Neo Restaurant & Bar is a newish spot for Italian-inspired cuisine in an airy setting. People drive from all over to dine at The White Hart Inn, a striking 1806 updated farmhouse overlooking the village green. The inn houses three dining rooms, a tap room with a full-service bar, two outdoor dining patios, and a large front porch offering drink service. If all that isn't enough, Provisions is a casual café for breakfast and lunch. All serve “elevated British-inspired comfort food” that highlights seasonal ingredients sourced from nearby farms. The food is both exotic and local—a good reflection of the town itself.

To the southwest, in the Lakeville section of town, lie art galleries, a gas station (good to know), The Hotchkiss School, one of the premier independent boarding schools in the country, and a surprising number of good restaurants for such a small community, including The Boathouse, Black Rabbit Bar & Grille, Mizza’s, Deano’s (purported to have the best New York-style pizza for miles around), and Picante’s South West Mexican Grill. The Woodlands offers fine dining in a comfortable setting. The Green Café, in the converted firehouse that is now Studio Lakeville (a fitness center), is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch, and coffee/baked goods from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SHOP Even if you can’t buy a house here, you can still freshen up your existing abode. Discriminating taste is the common thread for the many home-good purveyors in town: Joie Maison, Passports Antiques, Black Squirrel Antiques, Honeychurch Home, and Thornhill Flower & Garden Shop make Salisbury a worthwhile shopping destination.

The Salisbury General Store (on Main) doubles as gift shop and the town's pharmacy. A few doors down, Encore sells upscale discards on consignment from the well-heeled set. Bibliophiles have two excellent reasons to visit here too: Joie de Livres, a rare book and art gallery and browser-friendly Johnnycake Books, both of which specialize in collectible volumes.

SEE A landmark in Salisbury is Lime Rock Park. Lime Rock is one of Salisbury’s “hamlets,” but don’t look for thatched cottages. Since 1956 the 1.5-mile track at Lime Rock Park has been a mainstay on the American racing circuit; it’s also where amateur drivers can drive and dream and (if they qualify) compete. The 2022 season will open on Memorial Day weekend with the Trans Am Classic and end with the 40th annual Historic Festival on Labor Day weekend.

STAY Ahem, the aforementioned White Hart Inn has 16 guest rooms so you can roll right into bed after a scrumptious meal on the property. Situated at church-steeple level, the Earl Grey B&B inhabits the historic Chittenden House, offering two spacious accommodations amidst extensive gardens and old specimen trees. Nearby Lakeville has two more options for a Litchfield stay: Wake Robin Inn, a hilltop perch with 28 rooms, and the more corporate Interlaken Inn.
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Heading east on Route 23 from the Taconic through Hillsdale towards Great Barrington is a well-worn path for many visitors to the Berkshires. Nowadays, though, the traffic goes both ways, as Hillsdale has become a destination that Berkshire residents and visitors alike are drawn to. Indeed, the formerly sleepy farming town is now a second-home magnet with a vibrant artistic and commercial culture.

**EAT/DRINK** The Hillsdale House, right in the center of things, was revitalized after a makeover and is open for both take-out and indoor/outdoor dining. The historical restaurant, a piece of Columbia County since 1797, was first a stagecoach stop, post office, and a meeting place for revolutionary politicians. These days the tavern serves up a bevy of burgers, wood-fire pizza, and craft beers along with up-to-date small plates and vegan fare. A stone’s throw away, in a lovingly restored 1851 building, Roe Jan Brewing Company produces a rotating selection of beers that you can sample, purchase to go (in cans or growlers), or enjoy with elevated pub fare in the handsome eatery, and while listening to local talent at weekly concerts. Pups are welcome on the outdoor dining patio. Beloved O’s Hillsdale Diner has changed hands and is now Sweet Peas Country Diner.

The Little Cat Lodge (formerly Swisse Hutte) is under new management and has a spiffy new look. Sip craft cocktails at the tavern or dine on alpine fare on the four-season terrace. Or stock up on libations at Hillsdale Fine Wine & Spirits, tucked behind the local IGA.

Traveling from the Taconic, you have your choice of two pit stops on Route 23 just east of Craryville: Random Harvest is a worker-owned neighborhood market, café, and community space that offers food and goods sourced directly from more than 70 local producers. In the former (and longtime favorite) Dutch Treat, Zinnia’s Diner has quickly become a destination spot for its inventive rendition of a “New England fish fry, Hudson Valley style,” as well as the location’s retro-meets-modern vibe and expansive yard with picnic tables for al fresco eating.

**SHOP** Interior designer Matthew White renovated an 1855 commercial building on the village square into what is now the Hillsdale General Store, with an emphasis on “old-style new” home goods and “useful and beautiful things for country life”—and a predilection for tureens and other vintage finds. White is largely credited with putting the historic hamlet on the map when he opened the shop back in 2011, garnering raves and earning himself a reputation as a certified style maven.

He then expanded his empire with HGS Chef, which inhabits a can’t-miss pink house across Route 23 and offers cooking classes and an extensive cookbook selection, abundant cookware, and gadgets galore. Right next door, Tiny Hearts Farm, which organically farms 22 acres in Copake, sells its own cut flowers for pick-up or delivery in the area; better yet, sign up for its “flexible, free-choice” CSA membership, entitling you to free farmer-led tours and events along with flowers.

In hindsight Passiflora was a veritable pioneer, hanging out a lonely shingle in 2009 and billing itself as “an eclectic mix of all things contemporary, quirky, and chic” (primarily housewares and personal care products, with an emphasis on local artisans); it’s still going strong.

And whatever your home needs may be, there’s a Herrington in Hillsdale who can help. For your construction and renovation supplies, visit Ed Herrington, Inc., just west of the intersection of Routes 7 and 23, and their Hillsdale Tile Design Center just east of it. Then, when construction is done, C. Herrington Home + Design, right at the intersection, with a beautiful retail shop and professional design services, can turn that house into the home of your dreams.

**SEE** Rodger’s Book Barn, off the beaten track but well worth the ramble, has over 20,000 “old and unusual” books on its well-organized shelves. East of town on Route 23, Berkshire Pottery has been crafting hand-made wares in a 19th century
Hillsdale General Store
and HGS Home Chef

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---

**Hillsdale SHOP | EAT | ENJOY**

Dutch barn. Their pottery combines old-world craftsmanship
with modern practicality.

**The Workshop Experience** is a series of hands-on
classes on gardening, culinary arts, floristry, crafting, writing,
and more by members of **Hillsdale Workshop Alliance** at
various venues in Hillsdale (check the calendar for updates:
[theworkshopexperience.org](http://theworkshopexperience.org)).

**STAY** In addition to **Little Cat Lodge**, which has 14 rooms
(including two suites), **The Hillsdale House** has three accommoda-
tions on the second floor. And though the pandemic forced
the owners of landmarked **The Washington House** to cease
operating the restaurant and tavern (after a 48-year-run), they
have started offering five units via Airbnb for in-hamlet lodging.

For two takes on economy roadside motels, there's the
**Holiday House Motel** along Route 23, close to Catamount, or
newly restored **The Alander**, in nearby Copake, for swankier
sleeping arrangements.
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Known as “the ‘Shires,” southern Vermont extends from the Massachusetts-Vermont state line in Pownal to Manchester, which was once a summer retreat but is now a four-season leisure and shopping destination. The central hub is Bennington, with its walkable downtown filled with shops, restaurants, galleries, and historic architecture (and old-fashioned streetlights). But its location within the depths of the Green Mountain Forest Reserve makes this area an outdoor recreational paradise—hiking, biking, swimming, kayaking, fishing, you name it. Oh, and did we mention there are covered bridges?

EAT/DRINK Calling all locavores: Southern Vermont is crawling with small, family farms and restaurants that proudly herald the provenance of the foods on their seasonal menus.

There are plenty of places to slake your thirst in bustling Bennington (it is a college town). After a major downtown redevelopment, a new brewpub, Farm Road Brewing, now occupies one of the corners of the town’s central crossroads, joining Madison Brewing Company, The Dutchman’s Tavern, 421 Craft Bar & Kitchen, and The Miller’s Toll Dinner Club & Lounge in serving up craft beer and cocktails, plus tasty vittles in handsome settings. For “eclectic Italian,” head to Allegro. The Blue Benn Diner has reopened under new owners: this classic 1940s railcar diner is great for breakfast and lunch and has a menu for all tastes. The Elm Street Market is the place for “serious sandwiches, salads, and more.”

For lunch, Sunday brunch, or dinner, the Mt. Anthony Country Club offers locally sourced seasonal dishes and beautiful views. More views (and steakhouse fare) can be had from The Publyk House. At the bottom of the hill in the village of North Bennington, The Roasted Bean is a haven for a good cup of coffee and, next door, The Pangaea Lounge offers terrace dining overlooking a millpond. Or rub elbows with locals at Kevin’s Sports Pub & Restaurant.

In Manchester, a range of restaurants cater to visitors and locals, from the tavern-style Firefly (choice of locals) to tonier establishments like Social House on Depot Road Street; Mistral’s, located at the last (or first, depending on which direction you are traveling) toll gate in Vermont; and the Copper Grous, inside the Taconic Hotel.

SHOP In the 19th century, Bennington emerged as an important and innovative industrial center, a heritage it still proudly continues. Timber frames, airplane components, snowshoes, craft beer, jewelry, and stoneware from famous Bennington Potters are among the many products manufactured here. The Potters’ funky-elegant retail store is located right next to where its wares are made. The physical store is closed at present, but the online shop is open.

Other local faves include Catamount Glass (check out their glass popcorn poppers!) and Fiddlehead at Four Corners (artisanal wares). Fine Vermont jewelry and crafts are for sale at Hawkins House on North Street in Bennington. Catamount Glass on County Street is a glass factory with a retail shop (and an on-site restaurant called Tap House).

Downtown Bennington has its own bragging rights:

* **Jaw’s Art Shop** is the largest independently owned art supply store in the state; the recently relocated Bennington Bookstore is the oldest independent bookstore. Quilters will not want to pass up The Scarlet Creation for supplies and classes.

* W. Collective is a relatively new boutique selling gifts and home goods.

* Bringing You Vermont is stocked with all things Green Mountain State (think maple syrup). Antiques are for sale at Main Street Antiques, The Owl’s Nest, and Monument Vintage. Got a sweet tooth? There’s The Village Chocolate Shop or Vermont Confectionery, both on Main Street.

In North Bennington, stop by The Alpaca Shack for hand-knit apparel and accessories—and meet the cute critters that produce the yarn. Or drive south on Route 7 to Apple Barn & Country Bake Shop for a bakery and farm stand—and you-pick blueberries come July.

If you’re “from away” and are thinking of buying and running a Vermont country store like the wonderful 200-year-old Dorset Union Store (and bakery) on the green, read Ellen Stimson’s Mud Season first; she bought and ran that very store and lived to write (and laugh) about it.

Charles F. Orvis got it started in 1856 when he opened a store dedicated to fly-fishing and accessories for the great

Fiddlehead at Four Corners.
outdoors. The flagship store is still in Manchester, and it has the distinction of being the oldest still-operating mail order business in America. Manchester Designer Outlets is home to many leading clothing brands, whose easy-to-get-to stores make bargain hunting a pleasure. For books and gifts, there's the well-stocked Northshire Bookstore in the center of town, which hosts frequent readings by leading writers. There are also stores for cooks, wine-lovers, art-lovers, antique-hunters, and for sports enthusiasts of every stripe.

**SEE** The Bennington Battle Monument prevails over the landscape from its perch in Old Bennington. The Bennington Museum is home to the largest exhibit of paintings by Grandma Moses (Anna Maria Robertson) in the world. If you bring children, be sure to take them into the transplanted schoolhouse where the artist learned her ABCs in the 1860s; it's meant to be played in as well as learned from.

The stunning, white Georgian buildings of Bennington College frame a breathtaking vista of Mount Anthony—no wonder it's called The End of the World. The College's evening literary programming is open to the public, while across the street the Prospect Street Writers House holds monthly readings by its artists in residence. The Vermont Arts Exchange has resumed its public events, as has the Oldcastle Theater Company, now in its own building, Bennington Performing Arts Center, near the center of town.

The fanciful Park-McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion in North Bennington was built in 1865 with money made in California and Panama by an attorney who had grown up in the modest town of Woodford, just east of Bennington. The trails in the adjacent McCullough Woods are a popular spot for walking. The mansion's grounds are open daily; "The Big House" is open for self-guided tours Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Robert Frost bought an old stone farmhouse in South Shaftsbury just north of Bennington in 1920 (and remained in Vermont until he died in 1963). The house has been turned into the Robert Frost Stone House Museum. You can visit his gravesite, too, behind the beautiful Old First Church.

Robert Todd Lincoln's historic home, Hildene, perched on an escarpment, overlooks the Valley of Vermont; don't miss the deeply moving President Lincoln exhibit upstairs or the fully restored Pullman car, queen of the railroading era and a stop on Vermont's African American Heritage Trail, a short walk from the main dwelling.

The Dorset Theatre Festival has, over the past decade, become a national incubator for new playwrights; its renovated playhouse incorporates three original barns, which predate the Revolutionary War.

The Southern Vermont Arts Center comprises a state-of-the-art museum and the largest sculpture garden in the state, plus an impressive permanent collection of 19th and 20th century works. The Manchester Music Festival will again be presenting live chamber music and more this summer. The American Museum of Fly Fishing displays an impressive number (as in thousands) of flies, rods, and reels to inspire anyone to pull on some waders and cast off.

**STAY** If you make Bennington your headquarters, you can choose among The Four Chimneys Inn, a stately bed and breakfast; South Shire Inn, "a little hotel" in an 1887 Victorian estate; quaint and quiet Paradise Inn (with its own pickleball courts); and the more affordable Bennington Motor Inn—all within walking distance of the downtown scene. There's also a Hampton Inn in Hannaford Square and retro-chic Knotty Pines Motel.

Arlington, just above Shaftsbury on Route 7A, is home to the woodsy West Mountain Inn, the stately Arlington Inn, and the Rockwell's Retreat; the painter Norman Rockwell lived and worked in a house and studio near a covered bridge over the Battenkill before moving south to Stockbridge in the '50s.

Hotels, inns, and B&Bs abound in Manchester, led by the likes of the Mt. Equinox Resort, The Inn at Manchester, and The Reluctant Panther Inn. Some, like the Wilburton Inn and the Barnstead Inn, also host musical events. Kimpton Taconic is the area's newest boutique hotel.

Neighboring Sunderland—just north of Arlington and south of Manchester—offers two Battenkill-side accommodations: The 50-acre Hill Farm Inn has nature trails, cuddly animals, and killer views; and Ira Allen House has antique-filled rooms in the namesake's historic home.

In the fateful summer of 1776, the idea of Vermont as an independent republic was born in Cephas Kent's tavern. In today's Dorset, the aura of the 18th century lingers. The tavern is no more, but the splendid Dorset Inn has dominated the town green since 1796.
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Sonatina Piano Camps
Catamount Glass & Tap House
Madison Brewing Pub
Bennington Bookshop
Doll House & Toy Museum
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Unique Inns — Bed & Breakfasts

14 Miles from Williamstown, MA — just over the line!
As one of America’s first university townships, Williamstown—home to Williams College, a premier liberal arts institution and the town’s largest employer—dates to 1791 (as does the school). You don’t have to have a connection to Williams to enjoy what the town (or the college) has to offer—namely scenic beauty, world-class culture, outdoor recreation, charming accommodations, and night life. On Spring Street, the commercial center, you’ll find galleries, clothing stores, coffee shops with fast internet connections, and restaurants that cater to the tastes of students, locals, and visitors alike. But be sure to explore the surrounding area, too, while you are in this northernmost Berkshire province.

EAT/DRINK Spring Street is where it’s at: Spring Street Market & Café and Pappa Charlie’s Deli are standbys for lunch. There’s Indian cuisine at Spice Root, Thai and Japanese at Blue Mango next door, Turkish at Pera Mediterranean Bistro, and brick-oven pizza at Ramunto’s. Dive into Spoon for a refreshing frozen yogurt, gelato, or sorbet, or an ice cream cone at Lickety Split. Coffee, tea, and baked goods can be found at Tunnel City Coffee across the street. Unlimited Nutrition specializes in protein shakes and flavored teas, and, at the foot of the street, the newly built The Williams Inn offers dining in its Barn Kitchen & Bar.

On nearby Water Street, enjoy the Neapolitan pies from Hot Tomatoes while sitting under the trees beside the Green River at picnic tables behind the restaurant. Gramercy Bistro has relocated to Water Street from MASS MoCA; The Water Street Grill serves craft beers on tap, casual food, and a warm ambience. Just north of town, Chef’s Hat is an old time, diner-style breakfast and lunch spot.

Head south of town on Route 7 for other options: There’s Mezze Bistro & Bar for craft cocktails and farm-to-table food with outdoor seating overlooking three lush acres; ‘6 House Pub, situated in a historic barn on a 17-acre property; Coyote Flaco, for homestyle Mexican food; and A-Frame Bakery, offering scratch-baked goods.

For Chinese fare, Chopsticks is just east of town on Route 2. Right next door is Korean Garden. (Tip: get the hot stone bibimbap.) If you’re cooking for yourself, stock up at Wild Oats on the same stretch of road.

SHOP Again on Spring Street, non-profit ABC Clothing Pop-up Shop sells second-hand clothing to support programs for youth and families at risk. Nature’s Closet has a wide selection of outdoor gear and is home to the popular Smoothie Spot. Pick up a book at the light-filled Williams Bookstore or at Chapter Two Books, a “lightly, slightly” used bookstore that benefits the town’s library. Where’d You Get That?! and Purple Dragon Games are must-sees for games and more.

If you have recreational cannabis needs, Silver Therapeutics is a mile east of downtown. Or head to The Spirit Shop, on Cole Avenue, for wine and craft beers.

SEE Founded in 1955 and substantially updated in 2014, The Clark Art Institute is a world-renowned public art museum with an extensive permanent collection, groundbreaking special exhibitions, and striking architecture by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando. The Clark campus also boasts 140 acres of lawns, meadows, and walking trails. Check the calendar for outdoor events by the reflecting pool. Advanced, timed-visit tickets are highly recommended.

The galleries of the Williams College Museum of Art are filled with 15,000 dynamic works and free to the public. The Greylock Gallery specializes in contemporary American landscapes by emerging and established artists.

Also, since 1955, Williamstown Theatre Festival has been drawing leading playwrights, actors, directors, and designers to the Berkshires each summer. Independently owned Images Cinema on Spring Street presents a wide range of independent, foreign, and classic films.

STAY The Williams Inn is strategically located for a walkable stay in town, with 64 well-appointed rooms. Other in-town lodgings include Cozy Corner Hotel, House on Main Street (bed and breakfast), Maple Terrace Motel, and Northside Motel. Other options include The 1896 House (aka Brookside Inn), Fairfield Inn & Suites, The Guest House at Field Farm (a midcentury Bauhaus design on 315 acres), River Bend Farm (in the historic home of a founder of Williamstown), and the more affordable Williamstown Motel.
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Mary Ann Unger: Host, 1994
Terracotta. Mary Ann Unger Estate


RIGHT: José Guadalupe Posada, Calavera Catrina (detail), c. 1890–1913, Relief print. Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas

Mary Ann Unger, Hoist, 1994
Terracotta. Mary Ann Unger Estate

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Mary Ann Unger: Host, 1994
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Mary Ann Unger, Hoist, 1994
Terracotta. Mary Ann Unger Estate
If Stockbridge seems strangely familiar, that’s thanks to Norman Rockwell, who spent his last 25 years living and working right in the heart of town. The beloved painter of small-town American life created some of his most visionary and socially engaged work here. At his death, he bequeathed his studio, archive, and many paintings to what became the Norman Rockwell Museum, on 36 acres outside the town center.

SEE When the railroad arrived in 1850, so did the wealthy summer folk. Artists and writers came too, among them Daniel Chester French, sculptor of the Lincoln statue at the Lincoln Memorial. French’s summer home and studio, Chesterwood, is open to the public. (See p. 58 for more on Berkshire Cottages.)

Naumkeag was the summer retreat for the Choate family until they bequeathed it to The Trustees of Reservations in 1958. It’s a pleasant mile-drive up the hill from the town center and hosts tours of its prized gardens and other seasonal events, including weekly evening performances by the area’s popular bands.

Launched in 1934, the Berkshire Botanical Garden is among the oldest public display gardens in the Northeast. It offers workshops and inspiration.

The Mission House a National Historic Landmark and museum on Main Street that tells the story of the Mohicans and missionary John Seargent. It’s part of the self-guided walking tour of the town, as is the 1884 former Town Hall (depicted in Rockwell’s The Marriage License). The Stockbridge Library hosts the occasional author signing and other events.

The Berkshire Theatre Festival puts on shows at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage and Unicorn Theater in Stockbridge (as well as The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield).

STAY The Red Lion Inn has been providing lodging and food for more than two centuries and now encompasses other guesthouses on the property.

The Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health (reopened after a pandemic pause) affords residential stays that focus on yoga, wellness, and self-discovery.

The Inn at Stockbridge inhabits a refurbished 1906 Georgian-style estate. The antiques-filled rooms at Stockbridge Country Inn come with modern amenities.

SHOP Souvenirs and tchotchkes are in plentiful supply at the Stockbridge General Store on Main and Sidetracks on Elm. Also on Elm: In existence since the 1790’s, Williams & Sons Country Store is an old-fashioned emporium with an abundant selection of penny candy, games, puzzles, and so much more. Schantz Galleries has an impressive display of contemporary glass art (by reservation only as of this publication). Casablanca South is an offshoot of the main store in Lenox, specializing in fashion for women and men.

Back on Main, scope out the vintage vinyl (and CDs!), signage, and clothing at Seven Arts Gift Shop. Prado De Lana Sheep Farm Yarn and Wool is a family-run sheep farm specializing in wool products from its own flock. And Pittsfield’s Township Four is opening a second location in the former Country Curtains inside the Red Lion Inn.

Lastly, see the unique array of trinkets at Heirlooms Jewelry, in the same location for over a half century.
Must-See Exhibitions

Imprinted: Illustrating Race
and
In Our Lifetime: Kadir Nelson*
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Norman Rockwell Drawings
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*Pictured above

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peter o. mahler
Hugging the New York border, West Stockbridge manages to be a world away, beckoning the city dweller with visions of the countryside. There is something about a village (pop. 1,350) with a small river—that would be the Williams River—flowing through the town beneath flower-bedecked bridges as if it were the Arno of the Berkshires. Don’t let the dreaminess of the setting deceive you—West Stockbridge is hopping, with plenty to see and do.

EAT/DRINK The opening of No. Six Depot in the old railway station in 2013 started it all. The husband-and-wife owners reopened the shuttered café, art gallery, and event space this summer, and the small-batch roastery is still going strong—their coffees (and teas) show up on menus throughout the Berkshires.

The lively but low-key “downtown” area offers but one dining option: Amici, an Italian restaurant, has moved into the beautifully renovated former Shaker Mill Tavern; it is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner all but Tuesdays. Truc Orient Express is temporarily closed. Rouge has closed and is for sale.

For a creative specialty sandwich, swing by the Public Market on Main Street. Soma Catering operates out of a building here, in case you are planning a wedding or other event.

SHOP The town offers one-of-a-kind shops, too. Charles H. Baldwin & Sons has been preparing cooking extracts for 125 years; boomers will think they’ve gone back in time, amidst the retro novelties and candies. The owners of Out of Vietnam scour their home country each year for silk scarves and jackets, retro novelties and candies. The owners of Out of Vietnam scour their home country each year for silk scarves and jackets, lacquer work, and paintings to bring back to the Berkshires.

Unique hand-crafted home goods by creative proprietors are also to be had in and around the town center. At Hotchkiss Mobiles, Joel Hotchkiss has been designing ingenious mobiles since 1978. Elaine Hoffman is the ceramicist behind Hoffman Pottery, where you’ll find her hand-thrown creations for home and garden. Margie Skaggs Ceramics is the eponymous shop for the owner’s functional and decorative stoneware and porcelain. Anderson & Sons Shaker Tree is in its 39th year of making replications of Shaker furniture by commission; visit the showroom on Saturdays, or call for an appointment.

R & R West Stockbridge has a curated collection of bespoke and artisanal items sourced globally and domestically. Sandy Klompner@HOME has a fine selection of vintage treasures for home decorations, as does Serendipity Waterside (which also stocks vintage apparel). At Flourish Market is where you’ll find everything from newly refreshed antique furniture to modern lighting, along with jewelry and other giftable goodies.

SALA is jeweler Stephanie Iverson’s salon-style storefront, where you’ll find all her fine silver pieces, along with pieces by other artisans she loves from the U.S. and Mexico. Loftique sells colorful, billowy clothing for everyone—size XS to 2X.

Shaker Mill Books on Depot Street has a large but choice selection of rare, used, and out-of-print books, including a collection of books about the Berkshires. The Book Mill next door holds even more books and is open during the summer through early fall.

SEE Now in its fourth year, The Foundry presents diverse programming, which, according to founder Amy Brentano, has the goal of “bringing divided communities together through the performing and visual arts and creating space for emerging work and often unheard voices.” The Foundry hosts indoor events in the black box theater and intimate performances on its patio bar and adjacent sloping lawn.

The ongoing Town Hall restoration project is another sign of the town’s vitality. The West Stockbridge Historical Society is driving the decades-long effort by sponsoring virtual and live events, including performances by the West Stockbridge Chamber Players.

A short walk away from the town center, 16-acre TurnPark Art Space is a former quarry combining a sculpture park, exhibition venues, and marble amphitheater for outdoor performances. A trail runs along the Williams River and past massive boulders and striking sculptures from the Soviet Nonconformist art movement of the 1950s to 1980s.

STAY Making West Stockbridge your headquarters for a Berkshire vacation makes good sense, as you are about equidistant from either end of the county. Each of the nine spacious rooms at the rustic Shaker Mill Inn comes with a kitchen or kitchenette, making this popular with family travelers.

Or you can book The Filomena, a renovated 19th century property that Conde Nast Traveler dubbed “the coolest Airbnb in Massachusetts.” The 4,500 square-foot former rectory has 13-foot ceilings, six bedrooms, four bedrooms, and a chef’s kitchen, and sits on an acre of land with gardens. It’s within walking distance of town.
“Architecture does not so much intrude on a landscape as it serves to explain it”
- Steven Holl

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As the commercial hub and county seat, Pittsfield has a proud history of manufacturing—and of embracing the challenges and opportunities brought on by its decline. Cultural initiatives have kindled its aspirations to become a magnet for the arts. The opening of the $13.8 million Berkshire Innovation Center is another sign of the city’s resilience. Being smack dab in the middle of the Berkshire borders makes Pittsfield a good place to set up camp, in the middle of North and South County destinations, but there’s plenty to keep you occupied within the city limits too.

EAT/DRINK You won’t go hungry or thirsty here. There are more than 50 establishments (not all listed here!) to choose from, many on or bisecting North Street, the main corridor.

Rev your engine at Currency Coffee & Tasting Room, a local roastery with a coffee lounge in the Allendale Underground. Homestyle breakfast and lunch options include Dottie’s Coffee Lounge, Joanne’s Luncheonette, Otto’s Kitchen & Comfort, Samel’s Deli, and Misty Moonlight. A branch of Marketplace Café is also here, serving its signature sandwiches, salads, and soups du jour. Third-generation Pittsfield Rye sells its popular breads at its South Street retail store Fridays and Saturdays. Tucked into a strip mall, Sarah’s Cheesecake & Café has a rotating selection of cheesecake by the whole or slice; it also makes breakfast sandwiches and panini.

For an afternoon pick-you-up, join the long lines at Ayelada for small-batch frozen yogurt made with farm-fresh milk. Lakewood Creamery scoops out High Lawn Farm’s own ice cream every day until 8 pm. For over 35 years, King Kone has been a favorite spot for soft-serve with a smile. Ben & Jerry fans can get their fix at the South Street locale. For a less sugary treat, make your way to The Spot for green juices and smoothies.

Global tastes await at La Fogata (Columbian), Titos (Tex Mex), Pancho’s (authentic Mexican), House of India, Vong’s Thai, BB’s Hot Spot (Caribbean), and Thistle and Mirth (noodles).

For craft beer and artful eats, head to Mission for tapas (and live music), or settle into Methuselah and order from 16 taps. Gastropub District Kitchen & Bar serves inventive food and drinks in a lively setting. Berkshire Palate in Hotel on North features small plates and seasonal entrees. R.J.’s Restaurant specializes in seafood, chops, and pasta. Longstanding Wandering Star Craft Brewery has a 15-barrel taproom with a beer garden. Look out for the summer opening of Hot Plate Brewery by NYC expats.

Smokey Diva’s is the place for barbecue, Flat Burger Society for a full lineup (including veggie options). More tasty burgers and sandwiches are at The Lantern Bar and Grill, a Pittsfield institution. The Hangar Pub & Grill boasts 26 flavors of wings to munch on while rooting for the Red Sox. Hot Dog Ranch is another sports bar that’s “famous” for its baby sausage dogs and nightly specials. More mini dogs (it’s a thing!) and tater tots can be had at the iconic Teo’s Hot Dog Joint. Or hang out with the regulars at Patrick’s Pub and O’Laughlin’s (home of the O’wings).

Even carnivores will dig the vegan cuisine at Thrive, in a renovated old diner adjacent to historic Wahconah Park. Craving Italian? Head to old-school Mazzeo’s Ristorante, lantern-lit Trattoria Rustica, or newcomer Sibarita’s. The
Highland has been serving up Italian-American comfort food for over 85 years, with daily specials that haven't changed for decades—manicotti on Tuesdays, chicken parm on Wednesdays and, of course, fish fries on Fridays. The Roasted Garlic has affordable family-style fare.

Pittsfield could be called Pizza-field: The Pittsfield location of Berkshire Mountain Bakery features artisanal breads (get there early) and made-to-order pizzas all day. Crust is a sparkling new pizza parlor by the owners of Ayelada that touts organic and locally-sourced ingredients and inventive toppings. Greek-style Pizza House just underwent a multi-million-dollar makeover. Zucchini’s serves wood-fired pizza for takeout or dining in (gluten-free cauliflower crust available). “Direct from Brooklyn to the Berkshires,” the rustic pies and calzones from Brooklyn’s Best are available for take-out or delivery. East Side Café is yet another pie standby.

Or, get pizza and other prepared foods to go from the South Street location of Guido’s Fresh Marketplace, which also stocks organic produce, cheese and cured meats, specialty items, and wine and beer. The Pittsfield Farmer’s Market is the first teen-run market in the region and the place to be Saturday mornings from May through October (from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Two chain hotels are drawing attention for their restaurants—101 Restaurant, on the second floor of The Holiday Inn (on West St.), is run by two local brothers who have crafted a southern-style menu; Jae’s is a pan-Asian restaurant (go for the clay pot curry) at the Hilton Garden Inn (behind Guido’s).

Bousquet Mountain, now under new ownership, has two updated eateries that are open year round: Lift Bistropub, a full-service bar and restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating on the second deck; and The Kitchen at Bousquet, a casual lunch spot. (The resort is also hosting a summer concert series.)

SHOP Park on one end of North Street and make your way to the other. Museum Outlets features custom-designed, letterpress cards along with hand-crafted picture frames and mirrors. Primarily a florist, Township Four is also bursting with handmade candles, soaps, and scents, plus build-your-own terrarium kits (among other items). Dory & Ginger sells Berkshire-themed gifts as well as linens and dishware.
Steven Valenti has been selling menswear since 1983, adding women's apparel to the offerings. It's the place for wedding attire, as is Kismet Bridal Studio on Bank Row, specializing in one-of-a-kind gowns. Elegant Stitches (on First Street) offers custom embroidery and screen printing. Kidding Around is a small consignment store featuring maternity and baby/toddler clothing and toys. Miller Art Supply (on West Street) is a must for creative types, with paintbrushes and palettes galore.

If you're looking to spruce up your (first, second, or third) home, Paul Rich & Sons, also on North Street, has 30,000 square feet of floor space to look at, most of it American made; Circa Berkshires, a few blocks away, offers Danish and mid-century modern pieces. Clark Vintage Lighting sells (and repairs/restores) period lighting from the 1800s to the 1960s.

Independently owned Carr Hardware is your headquarters for all your home and garden needs. You never know what you may find among the donated home improvement products and building materials at ReStore (on Columbus Ave.), and your money will be well spent (profits go to Habitat for Humanity). Nearby, on Pecks Road, The Outlet at Pine Cone Hill is a destination for Annie Selke's coveted bedding and decorative pillows along with Dash & Albert rugs, all at steep discounts.

Take note: Pittsfield boasts three cannabis dispensaries: Temescal Wellness west of town and Berkshire Roots and Bloom Brothers to the east.

SEE Pittsfield's downtown is now its Upstreet Cultural District, anchored by the beautifully restored 1903 Colonial Theatre, part of Berkshire Theatre Group, and the innovative Barrington Stage Company, which normally attracts almost 60,000 patrons per year to its four downtown venues and has become an incubator of shows that regularly go on to stages in Boston and New York. The District comes alive at community events, including First Fridays Artswalk (from May through December) and Third Thursdays at the Common, with music, food trucks, and vendors (from May through September).

The vibrant Pittsfield visual arts scene features public art, galleries, studios, and cooperatives. Located in the center of town on North Street, the recently updated Berkshire Museum, a wonderful resource for the community, is again open for in-person visits and will host summer camps beginning in June. Like many small-city museums, its holdings range across subjects and fields of knowledge, but highlights, including an aquarium, natural history specimens, a mummy, and the Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, make it a great place to take children to discover worlds beyond their screens. The new, immersive “Curiosity Incubator” gallery is a portal to greater awareness of the human family.

The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, on Renne Ave., is a city-owned community arts center that's home to a first-floor gallery space and holds classes, performances, gatherings, readings, and more. The Lichtenstein also houses nine working artist studios, a ceramics workshop, and a darkroom.

There are also murals with messages, including Walk with Her, an installation by local artist Maurice “Pops” Peterson, who reinvented Norman Rockwell's Ruby Bridges for an installation above Center Street, in the Jubilee Hill neighborhood.

The renovated, five-screen, Dolby 7.1 Surround Sound-equipped Beacon Cinema downtown on North has comfortable reclining seats and shows operas in the Met's “Live in HD” series.

For a glimpse into a different way of living, 700-acre Hancock Shaker Village beckons from outside of town along Route 20 in Hancock. The Shakers created a religious, utopian farming community here in the 1780s around the ideas of pacifism, celibacy, and communal living. No Shakers remain, but their way of life forms the basis for a living history museum, with 20 authentic Shaker buildings and rich collections of Shaker furniture and artifacts. At the same time, it's a working farm, with extensive gardens and heritage livestock. Check their website for more fun events.

Let Whitman keep Brooklyn; Herman Melville had Pittsfield. The native New Yorker bought a 1785 farmhouse in 1850 and
settled in for some serious writing—and an intense affair with the mistress of the neighboring manor. He named his new digs Arrowhead after the many Indian ‘points’ that turned up in his fields; it’s now a museum run by the Berkshire Historical Society dedicated to his 13 years’ residence under its roof. Visitors can see the room where Melville wrote Moby Dick, with its view north to Mount Greylock, whose profile is said to have evoked for the author the whale that obsessed Captain Ahab.

STAY The 45-room Hotel on North, another repurposed downtown building that successfully blends new and old, attracts both a local and out-of-town clientele to its stylish digs, complete with bar and restaurant.

Trattoria Rustica has begun offering a “B&D” (Bed & Dinner) package, where guests can stay in one of three Airbnb units in owner Davide Manzo’s private home (built in the 1900s by the Crane Paper family)—three-course meal included.

Otherwise, you have your choice of national chains that offer proximity and target family travelers. Holiday Inn & Suites is less than a five-minute walk to downtown; Hilton Garden Inn and Yankee Inn are conveniently located between Lenox and Pittsfield; and Best Western Plus Berkshire Hills puts you close to Hancock. Berkshire Inn is a local budget motel near downtown.

For a fun family experience, the Bonnie Brae Campground, now under new management, has cabins and RV sites north of town near Pontoosuc Lake. You can also find plenty of campsites atop Berry Mountain in Pittsfield State Forest.
“The gateway to the Berkshires”

(it’s the town you enter off the Mass Pike), Lee has somehow remained an undiscovered gem. Its humble, hardworking origins— it was built by paper mills and marble quarries— reverberate today in Lee’s friendly and eclectic vibe. The historic town center has small-town feel and eye-appeal in spades. The steeple on the First Congregational Church is the tallest wooden spire in New England: lift up your eyes.

EAT/DRINK It’s a puzzle how Lee has remained off the food-seeking GSP. On Main Street alone you can order up farm-to-table breakfast and lunch fare at Starving Artist Creperie & Café and Prado’s Café, or a plate of corned beef hash at Joe’s Diner. Seafood is on deck at Salmon Run Fish House, bistro food at The Morgan House (serving since 1853!) and Café Triskele (now under new ownership), Peruvian fare at Alpamayo, and Chinese at Panda Garden. You can even cheer on your favorite teams at the Locker Room Sports Bar.

Still in town, authentic, Oaxacan-style tamales, tacos, sopes, and huaraches are on the menu at brand-new Antojitos Oaxaca, on Railroad Street (in the former site of Lucia’s Latin Kitchen), while Baja Charlie’s continues making “killer tacos” and margaritas. Or, head to Athena’s for Greek food or 51 Park Restaurant & Tavern for family-friendly pub grub. Craft-beer aficionados will appreciate the “no Bud Light” ethos at Moe’s Tavern, a self-billed beer and whiskey joint. A short drive will take you to Mint for Indian food in a lakeside setting.

Also worth the trip is family-owned High Lawn Farm. Stop by their Farmstead Creamery for a refreshing ice cream cone at one of their picnic tables while you enjoy their beautiful Jersey herd grazing in the fields. You can also stock up on their full line of fresh dairy products. And Barrington Coffee Roasting Company has a roastery that’s like Willy Wonka for the caffeinated set.

Canna Provisions, off the Mass Pike as you head into town, offers a full line of THC and CBD wellness offerings (legal weed, in plain English).

SHOP Downtown offers a multifarious mix. Zabian’s Fine Jewelry is a family-owned business right on Main. Antiques aplenty are on hand at the 3,000-square-foot Finders Keepers. Ben’s is the place for iconic shoes and boots, Off of It Gallery for custom sneakers and collectibles (Supreme and Bearbricks), and Karen Keenan’s Gifts & Home for, well, gifts and home goods. Barn Speed Hobbies is an old-school store that is filled to the rafters with rare finds (think radio-controlled airplanes) and a staff that is eager to help. Looking for building and renovation supplies? Don’t miss Dresser-Hull.

For name-brand merchandise at discount prices, Premium Outlets (the most-visited spot in the Berkshires) is just one mile east of town via US Route 20. With some 60 stores and a family-friendly food court, there’s something for everyone here, from sporting goods (Champion, Under Armour) and casual wear (J.Crew/CrewCuts, Ann Taylor/Loft, Banana Republic, Gap/Gap Kids, Levi’s) to luxe accessories (Coach, Cole Haan, Michael Kors, Kate Spade), among other name-brand merchants.

SEE While not as eminent as its Berkshire neighbors, Lee has its own arts distinction. Wilma, a center for music, dance, and other art forms, features performances by local talent in the historic Congregational Church.

From a renovated former five-and-dime on Main Street, the College Internship Program (CIP) offers a year-long curriculum focusing on creative and educational development for young
adults with Asperger’s, autism, and other learning differences. The program has two professional venues: the Good Purpose Gallery on Main and the Spectrum Playhouse & Joyous Studios, in a converted church on Franklin St. American Arts Marketing is putting on Arts in the Park (Church Park) May 28-30 and August 27-28.

In South Lee on Route 102, the Saint Francis Gallery, also in a converted church, features a mix of emerging and established local artists. At Ozzie’s Glass Gallery on Route 102 towards Stockbridge, you can see Michael Ozzie, a native Lee artisan, in action blowing glass.

STAY In-town options include The Morgan House and Chambery Inn Bed & Breakfast. Budget hotel Pilgrim Inn is on the retail strip along Housatonic Street, near the new Starbucks (in the former Friendly’s location) and existing Dunkin’. Devonfield Inn, another historic B&B, sits on 32 lush acres on the road to Lenox. Applegate Inn is across from Greenock Country Club, Black Swan Inn is on Laurel Lake.

The Holiday Inn Club Vacations Oak n’ Spruce Resort, located along the Housatonic River in South Lee, is popular with young families.

Lee also lays claim to The Playhouse, a VRBO listing that was featured in the Netflix series The World’s Most Amazing Vacation Rentals. The 7,000 square foot property includes a yoga studio, two kitchens, seven sleeping areas, and five bedrooms, plus lakefront access and views.
You could easily while away an entire day—or leisurely weekend—ambling historic downtown Lenox, ducking into the stylish shops, galleries, and eateries that beckon from every direction. Venture a bit farther afield and you can take in a show, concert, or panoramic hike. Lenox truly has it all, including Gilded Age manses galore—some that you can even sleep in! (Turn to page 58 to learn more about these exquisite Berkshire Cottages.)

When did Lenox become so fashionable? In 1821, to be precise, when a son of the Sedgwick family moved here from neighboring Stockbridge. He was soon joined by his sister, bestselling novelist Catharine Sedgwick, the region’s first literary luminary. Some of their friends from Boston started building grand “Cottages” in the neighborhood; one rented a cottage of the humble kind to Nathaniel Hawthorne and his family in 1850. Although the Hawthornes only stayed for a year and a half, the grand “Cottages” in the neighborhood; one rented a cottage of the humble kind to Nathaniel Hawthorne and his family in 1850. Although the Hawthornes only stayed for a year and a half, the author of The Scarlet Letter wrote Tanglewood Tales on the grounds of what would later become the summer home of the Boston Symphony; the name “Tanglewood” is Hawthorne’s own invention.

EAT/DRINK Lenox eats well. Alta, Bistro Zinc, Firefly, Nudel, and The Scoop (all on Church St.) are five good reasons, as is Patisserie Lenox for the French owner’s macarons. Brava Bar and The Olde Heritage Tavern (both on Housatonic St.) are others. On Main St. you’ll find Frankie’s (for Italian and a convivial vibe) and its offshoot, Pizzeria Boema, as well as Lenox Coffee, for an energy boost.

On Franklin St., Haven Café and Bakery is a brunch and lunch staple across from Prime Italian Steakhouse & Bar. Stacking a picnic basket (or your pantry)? Hit up Dare Bottleshop & Provisions and Olival Gourmet Olive Oils & Vinegars (both on Housatonic), and Nejaime’s Wine Cellar and Loeb’s Foodtown (both on Main). Plus: Chocolate Springs Café, right off Route 7, is worth a short drive for award-winning truffles.

SHOP Apparel, home goods, and fine arts await. On Church St. alone there’s Casablanka (high-end clothing), Catwalk (a resale outlet by the Berkshire Humane Society), Glad Rags (for affordable apparel), La Pace (Italian bed and bath products), Laurie Donovan Designs (custom jewelry), Mackimmie Co. (luxurious throws), Purple Plume (“where art meets fashion” in clothes, jewelry, accessory and gifts), Swtrz (yep, sweaters!), and The Gifted Child (toys).

Head down Housatonic St. for CERI Boutique (trendy wearables), Design Menagerie (“objects of utility and beauty for women, men, and home”), Shooz 44 (you got it!), and Wilcox & Co. (“necessities for better living”). Be sure to browse the curated and comprehensive selection at The Bookstore & Get Lit Wine Bar (Housatonic St.), a must for book lovers.

On Main St., the Annie Selke Shop offers the designer’s own home décor under the Pine Cone Hill and Dash & Albert brands; Colorful Stitches is a cheery nirvana for knitters, with yarn in vivid colors and plentiful patterns; What a Gift has also relocated here in bigger digs; Berkshire Classic specializes in leather goods and silver; and B Mango & bird, another gift shop that “specializes in the eclectic.”

Steilmann (Walker St.) carries women's European fashions. And on Route 7, just north of town, is the Arcadian Shop, a favorite outdoor sports retailer.

SEE Creativity thrives here. Downtown features a smattering of galleries that feature art and handicrafts, including An American Craftsman, The Art Of, His Daughter Paloma, Janet Pumprey Gallery, Hado Mark Gallery, Lenox Print & Mercantile, Sohn Fine Art, and The Wit Gallery.

Walk (or drive) to the Shakespeare & Company campus for world-class theater; WAM Theatre is also nearby. Of course, Tanglewood, the storied summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is the place for premier classical music performances in two stunning venues, as well as concerts by big names in rock, folk, and pop. The setting is as spectacular as the music, with two stunning venues that spill out onto lawn—the Koussevitsky Shed and Seiji Ozawa Hall—where picnicking has been a longstanding tradition for many visitors. Comprising 24,000 square feet across four separate buildings, the new, architecturally award-winning Linde Center for Music and Learning provides up-to-date spaces for year-round performances, rehearsals, and public programming—all part of an innovative educational initiative by the BSO.

In addition to the Bostonians, wealthy New Yorkers like Edith Wharton built some 93 impressive summer homes in Lenox and Stockbridge in the latter 19th and early 20th century (see page 58 for more on these Berkshire Cottages). Edith Wharton’s The Mount is open to the public from May through October, but you can stroll the lovely grounds for free; don’t miss the outdoor SculptureNow exhibit June through October.
Ventfort Hall, built for J.P. Morgan’s sister in 1893, even has a museum dedicated to the Gilded Age in several of its 50 rooms.

STAY Lenox is home to quaint bed and breakfasts, lavish resorts, Gilded Age inns, and budget-friendly lodgings. Take your pick.

In-town accommodations include Annie Selke’s 33 Main, Birchwood Inn, Church Street Inn, The Cornell Inn, Garden Gables Inn, Gateways Inn, Hampton Terrace Inn, The Constance, and Whistler’s Inn.

Shopping at Casablanca.

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The recently renovated Apple Tree Inn and Seven Hills Inn are within a five-minute drive from town, as is Stonover Farm and Brook Farm Inn. (Honorable mention: The Inn at Kenmore Hall is in neighboring Richmond.)

Want to feel to the manor born? You have your choice of four former Gilded Age cottages. Blantyre, a member of the Relais & Chateaux network, is undergoing (another!) multi-million-dollar facelift and will continue to boast a Café Boulud restaurant (look for it to open in September, 2022). After a $130-million renovation, the former Cranwell has emerged as Miraval Berkshires, an all-inclusive wellness retreat, and the more à la carte Wyndhurst Manor & Club. The 19-room Wheatleigh is one of the smallest Leading Hotels of the World. The Kemble Inn is slated to reopen under new ownership—and with a modern update—this summer.

Canyon Ranch Spa is the offshoot of the legendary Arizona resort, with modern accommodations on the sprawling campus. You may never want to leave, nor will you need to, given the deluxe spa services and dining options, all centered around Bellefontaine Mansion (another Cottage).

Lenox is still gilded, but in a good way.
The Berkshires boasts two towns named after signers of the Declaration of Independence. One is Hancock. The other was named in 1778 for Sam—whom most of us know as the “brewer-patriot,” not his cousin and future-president John—though they both signed the Declaration. The post-industrial town may not have as high a profile as some of its fellows in Berkshire County, including its trendy sibling to the north, but its time to shine is at hand. While here, it’s worth stopping in the Berkshires Visitors Center for information on Adams and all the rest.

EAT/DRINK The day the husband-and-wife owners of Shire Donuts hung the “open” sign on Summer Street (in October 2020), they sold 3,200 doughnuts in 15 hours—and made Adams a donut destination (expect lines on weekends).

Nearby Corner Lunch serves hearty, homestyle breakfast and lunch food seven days a week, as does the Daily Grind and the historic, much-loved Miss Adams’ Diner, which has recently reopened under new management.

Lee’s Dynasty features Asian fare, Chee’s has Chinese, and AJ’s Trailside Pub serves dogs, grinders, and wings. Bountifare, a longtime local favorite, offers a full dinner menu on the Adams/North Adams line; the Wednesday night open-mics and monthly jazz nights are a special draw.

With its Austrian-American menu, family-owned Hafflinger Haus will have you singing “the hills are alive with the sound of music.” Dine in the formal restaurant, or load up on its jumbo wings, cheesy Jaeger fries, and hefeweizen (or other German beers) in the rustic tavern room or refurbished biergarten.

SHOP Downtown Adams (namely Park Street) is home to one-of-a-kind mom-and-pop shops—or make that mom or pop: Guy Carridi opened Adams Outlets on Park Street in 2021 with the goal of offering steep discounts on all the wares (gifts, clothing, home goods) and bring people to town to help other businesses.

Bella Sky Gifts is a one-stop gift shop and maker space where you can buy, or DIY, apothecary (candles and such), home décor (pillows and signs), and more. Lynda’s Antique Clothing Loft has an extensive selection of vintage apparel and accessories. Real Eyes Gallery “aims to create original pieces that bring people together through shared conversation at mealtime.” It’s only open on weekends or by appointment; calling ahead is recommended.

North County Creates (on Hoosac St.) features art and collectibles from local artisans along with custom framing.

On the outskirts of town, the young and young-at-heart will get a kick out of the train sets and radio-operated toys at Hobby World; the original Berkshire Outfitters is a local legend, operating out of its current building at the foot of Mt. Greylock since 1982. Whatever your outdoor excursion (canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking, camping, cycling), the knowledgeable staff will set you up. (The store also offers rentals.)

SEE Adams was first settled by Quakers and Baptists in the 1760s and 70’s. The building the Quakers constructed for worship in 1784 still stands on a hill on the west side of town. The Quakers opposed slavery and war; women had a voice in Quaker society and received an education. In 1820 Susan B. Anthony was born into a mixed Quaker-Baptist family in Adams. One hundred years later, thanks in no small part to her efforts, American women won the right to vote. The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum on East Road tells the story of her life of social activism in five well-appointed rooms.

Culture is finding a foothold in Adams. The old Adams Theater in the heart of downtown spent the winter under development, with new owners transforming the building into a modern, multi-functional performing arts center that’s slated to open in the summer of 2022. Stay tuned. The impressive Adams Free Library, which also serves as headquarters for the Adams Historical Society, remains a cultural resource; President McKinley laid the cornerstone in 1897. All aboard! Hop on the historic Hoosac Valley Train Ride for a one-hour roundtrip ride up to North Adams and back.

STAY Nestled on the summit of Mount Greylock, Bascom Lodge—named in honor of the reservation’s first commissioner—offers lodging from May through October, with on-site dining. Bascom (the person) was a proponent of constructing a lodge befitting the grandeur of the mountain; the imposing structure that you see today opened its doors in 1937 and is built from local stone and old-growth red spruce trees harvested from its precipice.

Originally a gentlemen’s lodge in the 1930s and a ski lodge after that, the recently opened Topia Inn is a “green” boutique hotel. Each guest room is decorated to evoke a faraway locale, be it Greece, Africa, or Hawaii. If you lean into an old-world atmosphere, The Hafflinger Haus Inn has six rooms in its historic property.
MASS MoCA looms large in the smallest city in Massachusetts, drawing more than 160,000 people annually, and making North Adams a premier cultural destination. It was not always so. North Adams was built on manufacturing: Shoes, bricks, hats, cloth, and marble poured forth from busy factories until the Depression. Recovery came in 1999, when the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art was born, in an idle factory space. In 2017, the already vast museum doubled its exhibit space, becoming the largest institution of its kind in the world. It also sparked other enterprising folks to create businesses to meet all those visitors.

EAT/DRINK The MASS MoCA campus has its own eateries, including Lickety Split Café, Chingón Taco Truck, and Bright Ideas Brewery, which spotlights locally malted grains and hops. Door Prize also hosts pop-ups at MASS MoCA while looking for permanent digs. Other options are within walking distance of the museum: Brew Ha Ha (the town’s resident coffee shop); Renee’s Diner (for homestyle breakfast and lunch fare); PUBLIC (farm-fresh takes on American classics); Capitol (upscale comfort food); Grazie (Italian); and Ramunto’s Pizza (for delivery and takeout). Pub fare is on tap at Mohawk Tavern and Freight Yard Pub, Mexican food at Tres Niños Taqueria and Desperado’s. Jack’s Hot Dog Stand has been grilling dawgs since 1917.

Another factory facelift, Greylock WORKS inhabits a sprawling cotton-spinning mill, providing food production and retail space to local makers, including Berkshire Cider Project (hard cider) and The Distillery (small-batch gin and rum). At The Break Room, notable chef Brian Alberg celebrates farm-sourced food all day long at communal tables, where you can soak up the industrial vibe. Farther afield, The Trail House Kitchen & Bar lies on Route 2 towards Williamstown, Bounti-Fare Restaurant heading south towards Adams.

SHOP Downtown North Adams is a delightful mash-up. Persnickety Toys and Berkshire Emporium & Antiques are local favorites. The Bear and Bee is a new independent bookstore. WallaSauce is an upcycled streetwear pop-up. A group of 40 local artists is behind Common Folk Artist Collective (check the website for updated opening hours).

West of downtown, the former Norad Mill (a former textile factory) is home to Tunnel City Coffee, a local roastery (with a café at MASS MoCA). Freia Yarns, producer of hand-dyed yarns, relocated here from California; the Spinoff Yarn Shop is worth a trip to the third floor. Belltower Records stocks an eclectic selection of new and used LPs, CDs, and stereo equipment. Norad Mill Toy & Candy Shop offers a glimpse of the good old days.

SEE The town’s vibrant Cultural District is of course anchored by MASS MoCA, which hosts temporary and permanent exhibits in its labyrinthine galleries and musical performances in its indoor venues and 19th-century courtyard. The campus also hosts artist residency studio spaces and galleries, including Ferrin Contemporary and CYNTHIA-REEVES.

Keep your eyes peeled for colorful murals by local and visiting artists from as far as Mexico and Egypt and interactive public installations, such as Victoria Palermo’s bus shelter and Kathline Carr’s parklet as well as businesses like outside gallery and Martha Flood Designs. Much of this work is spearheaded by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), a distinguished liberal arts college not far from town. Besides running Gallery 51, the college facilitates DownStreet Art, a summer-long program of visual and performing art events, pop-up businesses, and family-friendly activities. The Berkshire Art Museum, North Adams Public Library, and North Adams Museum of History and Science lend cultural and historical heft.

STAY Porches Inn inhabits an entire block of once-dilapidated Victorian rowhouses, with generous porches (hence the name) offering views of MASS MoCA across the street. The Inn recently opened Studio 9, a stunning, state-of-the-art private performance venue and recording studio on the grounds.

Rustic meets sleek at TOURISTS, located in a former motel on 80 lush acres that’s home to woodland trails, riverbank vistas, and sculptural installations (there’s also a pool). Breakfast and snacks are available to guests, but anyone is welcome to dine at Airport Rooms, the onsite restaurant, which serves “tasty suppers, natural wines, and stiff drinks” (reservations recommended).

Blackinton Manor is an 1832 Italianate home in the historic Blackinton neighborhood (halfway between downtown North Adams and Williamstown) with five spacious guest rooms. (Or you can rent the entire shebang through Airbnb.)

Camping is a thing here, especially during festivals. The Historic Valley Campground on Windsor Lake offers 100 sites for your RV, camper, or tent.
The Future of Food is Local

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures supports farmers and food makers through business assistance and flexible financing to ensure long-term viability, growth, and a thriving food economy.

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outdoor fun on, and off, the beaten path

Nature beckons from all points of the Berkshires. Hiking, cycling, kayaking, even outdoor yoga—those activities and more await from summer through fall. The following ideas are organized by town so you can plan an all-day outing (including shopping and grabbing lunch). If hiking is your idea of heaven, you’ve come to the right place—especially for leaf peeping. Start by downloading the Berkshires Natural Resources Council (BNRC) Trails App to explore 58 properties spanning the county, some of which are highlighted below. And if you happen to over-exert yourself, Great Barrington’s award-winning Fairview Hospital is there to help.

What are you waiting for? Hit the trails—and soak up the incredible scenery!

ADAMS At 3,491 feet, the peak of Mount Greylock is the highest point in Massachusetts and the centerpiece of the oldest park in the state. On a clear day you’ll be treated to 90-mile views of four states and five mountain ranges. The reservation offers 70 miles of hiking trails that vary in difficulty (and don’t require hoofing it to the top).

The 12.7-mile, recently resurfaced, Ashuwillticook Rail Trail originates in Adams and passes through some surprisingly wild country on the way to its southern terminus at the Berkshire Mall. Strollers, runners, cyclists, and roller-bladers amicably share the ten-foot-wide former railbed.

Greylock Glen Resort’s well-maintained trails have become a destination for walkers, hikers, and mountain bikers. If you decide to go for the summit (two and a half miles up the mountain), expect moderate to strenuous stretches.

NORTH ADAMS The Hoosic River brought Native Americans, early settlers, and current residents to North Adams; learn about its history on the self-guided Hoosic River Revival Walking Tour, part of an initiative to reconnect the river to the city and make it an attribute for recreation, economic development, and community building.

For dramatic views, the three-mile ridgeline Hoosac Range Trail takes you along the Berkshires’ northeastern border over dramatic cliffs up to Spruce Hill; a shorter 1.6-mile roundtrip loop to Sunset Rock has spectacular vistas as well.

Discover a 550-million-year-old geological wonder at the 48-acre Natural Bridge State Park, site of the only naturally formed, white marble arch in North America. Nathaniel Hawthorne, who visited here in 1838, recorded his experience about then-named Hudson’s Cave (or Falls) in An American Notebook: “The cave makes a fresh impression on me every time I visit it . . . so deep, so irregular, so gloomy, so stern.”

The Mohawk Trail State Forest is named for an historic Native American footpath that connected the Connecticut and Hudson River Valleys. Sections of this route are open for hiking today, as the Mahican-Mohawk Trail. The 6,000-acre state forest, only 10 miles from North Adams, is a veritable woodland playground, with miles of rivers and streams for trout fishing, a designated swimming area, picnic areas, and seasonal campsites.

Experienced cyclists will want to visit Bike Berkshire North for mapped rides in the region leading to all points north, south, east, and west.

Back in town, Windsor Lake has a public beach with a full-fledged snack bar (and a Summer Concert Series). Got trout? Berkshire River Drifters will take you to where the browns and rainbows lurk.

WILLIAMSTOWN There’s a lot of wild country around Williamstown, with well-maintained trails to get you into it. The Williams Outing Club publishes an excellent guide to North Berkshire recreation; the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation trail kiosk at Sheep Hill on Cold Spring Road south of town offers complete information on all local trails, including those in the Hopkins Forest, nearby Mount Greylock Reservation in Adams, and Field Farm.

For rural family fun, especially with younger children, Ioka Valley Farm, on route 43 south of town in Hancock, has...
approachable farm animals and farm-related activities. Or, tote along your clubs and hit the 18-hole championship course at Waubeeka Golf Links, open to the public.

**PITTSFIELD** The 11,000-acre **Pittsfield State Forest** offers 30 miles of trails (including the accessible Tranquility Trail) that follow the crest of the Taconic Mountain Range separating Massachusetts and New York and cut through with cascading streams—it's an idyllic spot for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

**Berry Pond**, one of the highest natural water bodies in the state, is a favorite for fishing. Swimming and canoeing? Yep, you can do those here, too. And if you want to watch the sunset from a panoramic perch, drive to the top of Berry Mountain.

One mile from the center of town, **Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary** attracts warblers, otters, and humans alike to its wilderness setting; there are three miles of gentle nature trails to explore.

The 617-acre **Onota Lake** is popular for boating, water-skiing, and swimming: anglers flock here for the diversity of catch.

If you're inspired to hit the road on two wheels, buy (or rent) a bike at **Berkshire Bike & Board** on East Street. The knowledgeable staff is happy to recommend bike routes, whether or not you make a purchase.

Even when it's not ski season, the outdoor fun never ends at **Jiminy Peak Mountain Adventure Park**, which offers good old-fashioned fun (and food) for the entire family.

**GREAT BARRINGTON** For hiking amidst history, head to **Monument Mountain Reservation**—where Nathanial Hawthorne urged Herman Melville to write *Moby Dick* (read the plaque at the entrance to the Hickey Trail). The loop trail is less than three miles and moderate enough for the whole family; climb out on the bluffs along the Peeskawso Peak Trail for views of the Housatonic River Valley. A new connector trail links the Mohican Trail to **Flag Rock**, or you can access this short out-and-back trail from an unmarked trailhead off Route 183 in Housatonic. **Three Mile Trail** is another easy hike, with parking on Stockbridge Road.

The GB headquarters of **Berkshire Bike & Board** rents bikes (including e-bikes) and organizes group road rides on Tuesdays and Thursdays; call the store or check the website for details.

Swimming with the kids? There's a sandy beach with lifeguards (through Labor Day) at **Lake Mansfield**, a popular spot for kayaking, paddle boarding, and fishing. **Benedict Pond** in Monterey, part of Bear Town Forest, has a designated swimming area and picnic tables along with a trail that hugs the water.

Clay tennis courts and an 18-hole golf course come with membership to **Wyantenuck Country Club**, whether you join as a full- or part-time (seasonal) member.

**SHEFFIELD** Bartholomew’s Cobble is a 329-acre nature sanctuary with five miles of trails that take you through a diverse landscape, and a 1,000-foot-high summit on the Massachusetts-Connecticut border. You can also paddle the Housatonic River and tour the on-site natural history museum.

At **Mount Everett State Reservation**, you can take in panoramic views from (among others) the **Alander Mountain Trail**, a 6.1 mile out-and-back hike up to the summit. Or take the forested **Race Brook** trail, with parking on Route 41, where you will encounter the three-tier **Race Brooks Falls**.

**LENOX** Rugged adventures can be had at 500-acre **Kennedy Park**, which has 15 miles of groomed trails and can be accessed by a short uphill walk (or drive) from downtown on Main Street or via the parking lot at the **Arcadian Shop**—where you can buy/rent bikes, kayaks, paddle boards, and more—on Route 7.

The **Mass Audubon/Pleasant Wildlife Sanctuary** offers seven miles of trails that wind through 1,300 acres of forests. You can also launch your kayak or canoe at **Woods Pond**, in Lenox Dale, or go horseback riding at **Undermountain Farm**.

**LEE** Visit the **Lee Chamber of Commerce Information Center** for its guide to the best (15!) hikes in the area.

Or plug these highlights into your GPS: **October Mountain State Forest**, the largest in Massachusetts. It offers camping, hiking, picnicking, and non-motorized boating. There’s also the **Goose Pond Reservation** in a dreamy setting south of Lee.

The **Appalachian Trail** crosses adjacent National Park Service land, and Goose Pond itself, a mountain lake with exceptionally clear water, is ideal for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. And if you’d like to try fishing, or simply floating, on the region’s rivers, **Berkshire Rivers Fly Fishing** can help.

Residents and guests staying in the town of Lee can swim at **Sandy Beach at Laurel Lake**. Or if you are looking to tee up, **Greenock Country Club**, operating since 1985, is open to the public.
STOCKBRIDGE Exceptional nature trails are within walking distance of town, or you can drive to the parking lot at the end of Park Street. Either way, you’ll traverse a photogenic footbridge across the Housatonic River to your choice of pathways: a paved, handicapped-accessible trail that runs beside the river; a trail that leads up to Laura’s Tower, with a three-state view; and—not to be missed on a hot day—the trail into Ice Glen, with glacial boulders and caves of ice that last even into July.

For kayaking, paddle boarding, and water skiing (in case you brought your motorboat), the Stockbridge Bowl—first known as Lake Mahkeenac, a name given by the local Mohican Indians—is a 372-acre recreational watersports wonderland with a public boat launch off Route 183.

WEST STOCKBRIDGE The view of the Stockbridge Bowl from the parking lot at Olivia’s Overlook is ideal for “selfies”—and for strapping on your hiking boots and hitting six miles of trail that wander through the 734-acre Yokun Ridge South Reserve. As the ancestral homeland of the Mohican people, who were force-fully displaced to Wisconsin by European colonization, these lands continue to be of great significance to the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation today. They are also a favorable habitat for barred owls; keep an eye (and ear) out for a close encounter.

EGREMONT South Egremont is home to the 1,158-acre Jug End Reservation, with scenic views of the Berkshires. In addition to having its own loop trails, which take you past streams and open meadows, Jug End also offers access to and parking for the Appalachian Trail.

On the north side of town, Prospect Lake is a great locale for watersports. In nearby Mount Washington, Bash Bish Falls is the highest waterfall in Massachusetts and a popular scenic destination, with a dramatic final 80-foot drop into an emerald plunge pool. The hike from the Massachusetts parking lot is shorter (less than a mile) but more strenuous, whereas the 1.5 mile round-trip path from the New York trailhead is much easier (and more populated).

HILLSDALE, NEW YORK A ski area by winter, Catamount Mountain Resort, straddling the New York/Massa-chusetts line on Route 23, transforms into an aerial adventure park by summer, boasting the longest zip line in the country. More even terrain can be trod at Roeliff Jansen Park on Route 22. The 30-acre recreational area includes multiple trails, access to the Roeliff Jansen Kill (for swimming), and a dog run—all with 360-degree views. Plus it’s where you can go for local foodstuffs at the Hillsdale Copake Farmers’ Market during the growing season.

SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT Outdoor activities draw many people to the area, and not just those who hop on and off the AT. The Undermountain Trail, with parking on Route 41 (get there early!), can be used as a day hike or jumping off point for greater excursions, including picking up the AT.

Or, climb one-half mile uphill to Lion’s Head for spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. The trailhead is only a mile out of town on Bunker Hill Road (there’s a parking lot marked “Hiker Parking” where the road comes to an end). For a more horizontal hike (or bike ride), pick up the Railroad Ramble, Salisbury’s scenic rail trail, via Library and Railroad Streets in Salisbury. The two-mile section passes through woodlands, open fields, and even neighborhoods and ends in Lakeville.

There are six lakes, with names like Washinee, Washining, and Wononpakook (brush up on your Algonquian before you visit). Deep, beautiful 348-acre Wononscopomuc (also known as Lakeville Lake) is the site of the well-run public beach, known as the Salisbury Town Grove.

SOUTHERN VERMONT Hikers of all skill levels will want to explore the extensive trail networks, including the AT, which crosses through Woodford five miles east of Bennington on its way up the spine of the Greens. The Vermont section, known as the Long Trail, was the inspiration for the AT, in fact. Robert Frost and his family were among the first to hike it when it opened in 1922. Check out the Bennington Area Trail System (just say the BATS) for trails and events. There are also three state parks to choose from with sparkling lakes and campgrounds. A good way to get your mind around all the possibilities is to visit www.bennington.com/soar by the Southwestern Vermont Chamber of Commerce, with descriptions and links for hiking in the area.

BYOB(ike)? Head to Manchester and explore road routes or mountain bike trails on two wheels—stop by Battenkill Bikes (or visit its website) for popular rides.

No summer visit to Southern Vermont is complete without dipping your toes—or better yet, casting off—in the Batten Kill, one of the country’s most historic trout streams and the inspiration for Orvis, the leading name in flyfishing gear and instruction. You can fish, swim, or kayak in the region’s many small lakes and ponds.
pick your own
BERKSHIRE GROWN FARMS & ORCHARDS

For updates or more information, visit: berkshiregrown.org/guidetolocalfoodandfarms/

THOMPSON-FINCH FARM
750 Wiltzie Bridge Road, Ancram, N.Y.
518-329-7578 | thompsonfinch.com
Blueberries: July through August.
NOFA NY Certified Organic.

THE BERRY PATCH
15589 New York 22, Stephentown, N.Y.
Visit theberrypatch.net
Blueberries and raspberries in mid- to late summer.

BLUE HEAVEN BLUEBERRY & RASPBERRY FARM
246 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, Mass.
blueheavenblueberries.com
Blueberries and raspberries after July 1.
Open Tues – Sun, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

BLUEBERRY HILL FARM
413-528-1479
Located 1/2 mile north of Mount Everett Reservation.
Organic blueberries.
Hours subject to change. Call or check Facebook for current picking conditions.

BUG HILL FARM
502 Bug Hill Road, Ashfield, Mass.
bughillfarm.org
Organic black currants, black raspberries, blueberries, fall high tunnel raspberries, aronia, elderberries. Visit website for picking availability.

GAETANO’S ORGANIC FARM
453 Main Street, Becket, Mass.
gaetanosorganicfarm.com
Raspberries. Call for details.
Offering CSA and SNAP benefits.

LAKEVIEW ORCHARD
94 Old Cheshire Road
Lanesborough, Mass.
lakevieworchard.com
Sweet cherries & tart cherries, red and black raspberries, red currants, and blueberries (mid July to August).

MOUNTAIN PASTURE FARM
818 Surriner Road, Becket, Mass.
413-623-6455
Certified organically grown wild blueberries, cultivated blueberries. Organic apples possible, call ahead for availability.

MOUNTAIN VIEW FARM
45 Old Cheshire Rd, Lanesborough, Mass.
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily, weather permitting and subject to change without notice.
On Facebook.

SAMOSCOTT ORCHARDS
5 Sunset Avenue
Kinderhook, N.Y.
Samoscottorchards.com
Strawberries, rhubarb and peas, followed by cherries, summer squash, blueberries, cucumbers, black raspberries, kale, and peaches.

SECOND DROP FARM
551 North Main Street
Lanesborough, Mass.
Season begins in July for blueberries, raspberries, black raspberries, zinnias, and sunflowers. Containers for berries available, cash or credit accepted.
On Instagram.

WINDY HILL FARM
686 Stockbridge Road
Great Barrington, Mass.
windyhillfarminc.com
Pick your own blueberries late June through mid-August.
Apple picking starts late August.
Certain places are synonymous with food

—Philly calls to mind cheesesteak, and Buffalo has spicy wings. Closer to home, Maine is known for lobster rolls, Vermont its maple creemees, and Rhode Island the milkshake known as coffee cabinet. The Berkshires may not have its own eponymous dish, but the food-centric region is routinely prized for proffering real-deal renditions of universal favorites as well as taking a few creative (but referential) tweaks on tradition.

These fan foods, so-named for their staunch cult following, can be found throughout the 413 and neighboring counties—as evidenced by the dozen-customers-deep lines at roadside shacks, neighborhood eateries, and otherwise off-the-beaten path destinations dotting the landscape.

When the craving strikes, let your GPS lead you to one of the following impromptu pit stops to slow down and fuel up, whether your plans include basking in the late-summer sun or leaf-peeping come October. (Note: Most places here are open year-round while others close for winter, as noted. Also, the categories aren’t exclusive; many restaurants serve multiple fan foods, so you can satisfy everyone’s fancy in one fell swoop.)

Think of this as your go-to guide to eating like a local whenever the hankering for something familiar hits, morning, noon, and night—and wherever your wanderings may lead you.
Where to go for burgers, tacos, and other “fan foods”

Diner Breakfast
The promise of an old-fashioned breakfast is a surefire way to coax the consummate sleepyhead out of bed. For others, the real egg-in-the-hole is being able to eat everything from flapjacks to omelets and all the rest all day long. Crack of dawn? Yes, please.

Miss Adam’s Diner | 53 Park Street, Adams
This iconic eatery has been slinging hash and frying bacon since 1949, when the Worcester Lunch Car No. 821 arrived in its current location. Replete with vintage vinyl and hearty servings that are easy on the wallet, fan favorites like sausage gravy and biscuits (featuring links from the Berkshires' own Brazeau's Butcher Shop) top the menu—plus there are daily specials.

Mom’s Country Cafe | 65 Main Street, South Egremont
If a taste of home is what you’re after, look no further than this village staple on the main drag, just a handful of miles from Hillsdale. Denizens of the region flock here for served-all-day breakfast standbys like eggs, bacon, home fries, and pancakes (psst: ask for the Mickey Mouse version!). In keeping with tradition, lines are known to stretch out the door, as they have for more than three decades.

Joe’s Diner | 85 Center Street, Lee
The epitome of local, this historic downtown hub is indeed reminiscent of a bygone era. A distinct ’50’s vibe exists, especially at the infamous counter captured by Norman Rockwell in his 1958 painting The Runaway. Joe’s features friendly service and traditional diner fare—plus hash-browned potatoes, which are distinctly different from home fries. Try the breakfast sandwich (available to go) or opt for the corned beef hash. Neither will disappoint.

Hot Dogs
While residents of Frankfurt and Vienna might quibble over minute differences in their respective national sausages, one thing remains true: fans of the humble American-style hot dog—no matter how it’s topped off—run rampant. Those with more discerning tastes swear by the hot-off-the-grill, farm-fresh sausage sandwiches at the North Plain Farm/Blue Hill Farm stand at the Great Barrington Farmers Market on Saturday mornings with chimichurri sauce, beet ketchup, and beet sauerkraut as DIY toppings. New this season: crimson “beefurters” (made with pork and beets).

Jack’s Hot Dog Stand | 12 Eagle Street, North Adams
This iconic, third-generation joint has been doling out grilled hot dogs, burgers, and hand-cut fries since 1917. Eat at the counter (it’s a tight squeeze) or take your lunch to go. Either way, a little know-how goes a long way: Although some aficionados concede ketchup for kids, Jack’s dogs are meant to be eaten “with everything” (meaning mustard, relish, and onions). Period.

Hot Dog Ranch | 114 W. Housatonic Street, Pittsfield
Stop by for yourself and see why this family-owned and -operated spot has been appeasing appetites for nine decades. Their house-specialty Famous Baby Hot Dogs with “everything” (see above, subbing sauce for relish) are worth the trip from (almost!) anywhere. Or dive into other diminutives: mini sausage dogs with peppers and onions or mini kielbasa dogs with brown mustard and ’kraut. Both are beyond big on flavor.

Roe Jan Brewing Company | 32 Anthony Street, Hillsdale
Besides its extensive on-tap beer selection, this rustic-meets-modern place is lauded for food served between the buns—notably the wood-fired beer brat and smoky dog—and in the dog-friendly (ahem) beer garden. Top things off with grainy mustard and your choice of caramelized beer onions, RJBC beer cheese, sauerkraut, or fried dill pickles. Cheers to some famous combos.
good local grub

From left: Food offerings at Barrington Brewery with owner Gary Happ, chickpea veggie burger and fries at Flat Burger Society.

Barrington Brewery | 420 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington
Familiar pub food and solar-powered craft beer are at tap at this genial, low-key eatery. Top your grilled hot dogs with chili or sauerkraut, or go for a grilled brat from the Family Alpine Pork Store in Cairo, N.Y., served in a bun with spicy mustard. Burgers are also here, and even non-carnivores can get in on the game thanks to the house-made tofu-tamari veggie burger. Beer-battered onion rings? You bet.

Burgers
When it comes to a prototypical comfort food, the hamburger—in all its incarnations—always rises to the occasion. Choose from low-down and stepped-up versions alike.

Flat Burger Society | 75 North Street, Pittsfield
Fear not: This burger joint is anything but one-dimensional. The name is a nod to smash burgers, flattened on the griddle and boasting charred bits, which are a niche fan food all on their own. Highlights include the Society Burger (greens, pickled onion, cheddar, Society Sauce), Banh Mi-ish Burger (many pickled veggies, herb salad, and mayo), and Breakfast Burger (sunny-side-up egg, bacon, greens, and yum yum sauce). A chickpea veggie burger and fried chicken sammie round out the menu.

Bistro Box | 937 S. Main Street, Great Barrington
Sure, you may have to wait in (very) long lines, but the grilled burgers—and Farm Franks from nearby Whippoorwill Farm—are well worth the wait. Try the Roadside Burger (sirloin with optional cheese and bacon) or the elevated—and top-selling by far—BOX Burger (grass-fed beef topped with tomato-bacon jam, roasted garlic aioli, and cheddar). Outside-the-box specials, from fish tacos to lobster rolls, are other consistent hits. Whatever else you order (or not), the parmesan-dusted truffle fries are a must.

Prairie Whale | 178 Main Street, Great Barrington
The seasonal fare changes daily at this fabled and frequented locale, but you can count on some version of the grass-fed cheeseburger (courtesy of Holiday Brook Farm, direct from Dalton) to be on the menu. Currently served with French fries, pickled onions, and house-made aioli, this burger experience provides a real taste of the Berkshires—especially when washed down with one of several draft New England craft brews.

Caddie Shack | 316 Ashley Falls Road, Canaan, Conn.
This roadside landmark has been drawing families (and fun-loving grown-ups) to its food stand for decades. Hamburgers and cheeseburgers (doubled upon request!) can be had for under six bucks; leave room for crispy onion rings, spicy fried green beans, or chili-cheese fries—plus milkshakes and ice cream. Work up an appetite playing mini-golf or hitting the batting cages—or stop by just because.

Public Eat+Drink | 34 Holden Street, North Adams
A stone’s throw from MASS MoCA, Public is an urbane North County outpost—and worth the drive for the convivial atmosphere and innovative menu. (District is the sibling restaurant in Pittsfield.) Options include the namesake burger—topped with bacon, caramelized onion, and roasted jalapeño mayo—or Guacamole Bacon Burger (guacamole, crispy onion, bacon, chipotle aioli, tomato, pickled jalapenos), which can be made with pasture-raised grass-fed beef or the plant-based Beyond Burger and served with fries or Peace Valley Farm mixed greens. (Craving noodles (covered below)? Order the Tanuki Udon—ginger-soy broth, crispy garlic, soft-boiled egg, gochujang tofu, and more.)
Tacos
Why wait for Taco Tuesday? These endlessly adaptable, handheld creations are worth eating any (some would say every!) day of the week. Fortunately for us, the quintessential Mexican street food can be found up and down the region, with too many to include in these pages. (Others to try: Agaves in GB, Pancho’s in Pittsfield, and Coyote Flaco in Williamstown.)

Taqueria Azteca | 284 Main Street, Great Barrington
A venerable one-woman take-out operation, this hole-in-the wall (in the passage of the Barrington Building across from Fiesta Grill, a full-scale Mexican eatery) may specialize in burritos but also does a mean job of constructing double-corn-tortilla tacos with your choice of shredded beef, chicken, pork, mushroom, or avocado fillings along with the usual fixings. Pick up some Jarritos sodas while you are at it.

Chingòn Taco Truck | on-the-go from North Adams to New Marlborough
According to Urban Dictionary, chingòn is an “addictive Mexican phrase used to describe something that is awesome or cool”—an apt name for (per its Facebook page) the “18 foot, taco slingin’, music bumpin’ bad a$$ MACHINE”. Followers of the thoughtfully sourced, made-from-scratch (by founders Justin and Mariah Forstmann) Mexican-inspired food with a twist rate the tacos—and gorditas, tostadas, and hamburguesas—as top notch. Catch them when you can! (As of this publication, Chingòn is at TOURISTS Hotel on Sundays, Cantina 229 on Mondays and Tuesdays, and MASS MoCA Wednesdays through Fridays—and only until they sell out.)

Antojitos Oaxaca | 109 Railroad Street, Lee
Downtown Lee welcomed this new arrival to its bustling Mexican-cuisine scene earlier this year. (Baja Charlie’s and Avocados both have tacos, too!) Here, a trio of authentic options (hard or soft shell), can be customized with chicken, beef, or pork. Tacos de Rajas, filled with potatoes and jalapeños, pack a punch, as do Tacos de Birria—an exquisite savory Mexican meat dish, full of flavor and tradition.

Methuselah Bar & Lounge | 391 North Street, Pittsfield
Those looking for creative interpretations will want to pull up a stool (or a communal bench!) and dig into tacos stuffed with New Orleans-style shrimp, avocado creme, and red cabbage slaw, or sesame shoyu-roasted portobello mushrooms with sticky rice, ginger-garlic aioli arugula, and scallions. For purists, braised pork shoulder and local chicken also spill forth.

Destination Doughnuts
While America has been said to run on a certain brand of doughnuts (born in the Bay State, btw, in 1950), few in the region have devoted themselves to perfecting the popular treats. Enter Shire Donuts (52 Summer Street, Adams | 813 Dalton Division Road, Dalton), where Jeff and Heather King’s made-to-order halos—boasting more than a baker’s dozen of build-your-own topping combinations—elevate the doughnut-eating experience. Options run the gamut from caramel-iced with sea salt and maple with chopped bacon to creative takes on blueberry buckle, s’mores, and French toast—all built upon a traditional cake-doughnut base. The two locations offer online ordering (a great way to avoid the endless weekend queue!).

And come apple season, cinnamon-sugar-dusted cider doughnuts are a perennial favorite at the area’s many you-pick orchards; scope locations on page 49.
good local grub

Xicohtencatl | 50 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington
Residing in a bright yellow house with patio seating—and with chef Angel Espinoza Jimenez heading the kitchen—Xico’s (its local nickname) is known for its mole and margaritas along with its taco platters, with fillings that range from al pastor and carnitas to bistek and pollo and even shiitake. But the Tacos Pescado—lightly fried tilapia with guacamole, cabbage, and chipotle sauce—are what those in the know come (back) for. Be sure to request corn tortillas if that’s your druthers.

Noodles
No wonder noodles in all their guises have been a street-cart staple in Asian cultures for millennia: Slurping the silken strands is a full-on sensory adventure—hence their countless iterations and widespread appeal.

Thistle & Mirth | 44-46 West Street, Pittsfield
The menu at this popular watering hole evolves at a quick and constant pace. Build a (custom) bowl by choosing a base of chilled noodles (or rice or greens); gain height with marinated yellowfin tuna, chashu pork belly, or ponzu tofu; and get saucy—think spicy mayo or green goddess dressing—before topping things off with seaweed salad, sprouts, or tajin. (The bahn mi is also worth sidling up for.)

Steam Noodle Cafe | 286 Main Street., Great Barrington
This downtown GB spot proves, once and for all, that slurp-worthy noodles do exist in the 413. Choose from shoyu, kimchi, or miso ramen with accoutrements like sliced pork shoulder, seasoned egg, scallions, and nori. Or try Tonkotsu, a lighter take on the classic deep flavors of traditional ramen.

Blue Mango | 27 Spring Street, Williamstown
Head to the North County to sample Japanese, Thai, and Vietnamese cooking in a single in-town location that gets high marks for both the food and the friendly service. Choose from favorites like peanut-infused pad Thai; udon bowls featuring Japanese wheat noodles and seafood or tempura; or pho—the much-loved Vietnamese-style noodle soup that’s available here with either beef, chicken, tofu, shrimp, or pork (or ask for a combo!).

Barbecue
For many folks, BBQ is as American as apple pie—and serious connoisseurs will passionately debate the merits of the different permutations, from Memphis-style pulled pork to Texas low-and-slow brisket, among other regional specialties. Whichever camp you fall into, follow your nose to these smokin’ hot spots around the county. Honorable mention: At this time, Smokey Sweet BBQ is only operating as a pop-up at Roe Jan Brewery on Mondays and Tuesdays; check its website for updates (smokeysweetbbq.com).

Momma Lo’s BBQ | 284 Main Street, Great Barrington
The mother-son team behind Momma Lo’s has been dishing up Southern-style barbecue to curious South County crowds since landing here (from Claverack) in late spring. A full menu of mains—the aforementioned pulled pork and brisket as well as jerk chicken and ribs—keeps company with cole slaw, baked
beans, collards, and other classic sides. There's no seating inside but plenty of tables in Barrington Courtyard, offering seasonal outdoor dining.

**Smokey Diva's** | 239 Onota Street, Pittsfield

This unassuming spot (blink and you'll miss it!) dishes up big flavor despite the small space. The menu, rife with Southern barbecue and soul food, hinges on the owner's line of world-famous smokey, smooth, and savory 92nd Sauce™ (evolved from her grandmother's recipe)—which gets slathered on all kinds of slow-smoked meats, from brisket to pork ribs. The potato salad, cornbread, and other go-withs are all made in-house.

**Jackson's BBQ** | 14 Route 9H, Claverack

Play yard games while awaiting down-home comfort food crafted from locally sourced ingredients. Customers rave about the generous servings and gobsmacking flavor of the pulled pork and brisket “as good as anywhere in Texas”—plus ribs, sausage, and wings doused in smoke and sauce. (It's also worth the trip for its fish fry—the last-but-not-least fan food of the bunch.)

**Fish Fry**

New Englanders love a good fish fry, and for good reason: the crunchy crust enveloping tender, flaky fish is a consummate match. Even in land-locked parts of the region, a handful exist.

**Pedrin’s Dairy Bar** | 1360 Curran Highway, North Adams

Despite its moniker, this old-school shack—on a desolate stretch of Route 8—is beloved for its fish fry (and, yes, the soft-serve cones). A loyal following eagerly awaits its opening each spring, lining up for clam rolls (another regional pick) and legendary sidekicks such as cheese fries and onion rings. Order at the window, then take your pick from the slew of (pink!) picnic tables. Like the foliage, Pedrin’s season winds down come mid-October (longer if weather permits)—so hit the road stat.

**The K Shack** | 9 Tilden Road, New Lebanon

Owner Kelly Hagan opened the funky (and seasonal) K Shack in a former BBQ stand and quickly earned a reputation for serving creatively inspired food with a commitment to supporting nearby farms. Go for the beer-battered fish sandwich and stay for the K-Shake and daily scratch desserts. A gem of a find for sure; cash only (two ATMS are nearby).

**Zinnia’s Dinette** | 1843 Route 23, Craryville

Another visionary gave the former Dutch Treat, itself a long-running institution, a retro update that nods to the building’s mid-century roots. The result is a sunny spot boasting a New England fish fry with Hudson Valley style—and a sweet hummingbird theme. Try the traditional baskets, including the top-selling (by leaps and bounds) fish and chips, made by dipping hake from Montauk in a beer-and-Old Bay batter and coating it with crushed Kettle chips. The fried smelt, whose charcoal-black garlic aioli is a revelation, and calamari (spiked with hot cherry peppery heat) are other musts, as are the colossal cornbread hush puppies doused in hot honey. Nosh inside or on the sprawling lawn out back. Bring a hefty appetite: “I’m not a stranger to large portions,” says owner Amy Lawton. “I want to be approachable and serve a lot of food to a lot of people while using high-end ingredients, including what I grow myself.” (Mission accomplished.) And that comfort-meets-quality quotient is what makes all these fan foods so enduring—and endearing.

Let the good eats roll!
VINTAGE SHOPS FOR EVERY AGE AND ERA

By Evelyn Battaglia

What’s old is, apparently, brand new again—at least for the time-honored tradition of scouring antique shops, estate sales, and flea markets in search of vintage goods. These days, an entirely new breed of hunters and gatherers has discovered an appreciation for patina—and is making the Berkshires its stomping ground.
On a steamy June afternoon, a pair of twenty-something women comb through a box of CDs in the entrance to Saddleback Antiques, on a bucolic stretch of Route 7 approaching Williamstown. Mind you, this handsome, esteemed shop is prized for its Civil War pieces (such as a powder horn belonging to Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen) and folk art, plus furniture, stoneware, farm tools, and first-edition books along the lines of Huckleberry Finn. So finding CDs was an unexpected bonus.

“My family arrived in southern Williamstown in 1874 on a horse-drawn wagon and I grew up on the original farm,” says owner Daniel Rhodes, who opened the shop some 30 years ago—and enjoys regaling customers with historical anecdotes. “Greylock was once known as Saddleback Mountain because from a certain vantage point it resembled a horse with a saddle. I have a bunch of postcards of Saddleback from the 1800s.”

Later the same day, it’s near closing time at Mix on Main, on Route 7 in Sheffield, but Andre Gordon—who owns the shop with husband Harvey Wiener—encourages customers to linger. “I live five minutes away and I don’t have to cook dinner tonight.” Jazz is a fitting soundtrack for the delightful mash-up of 19th- and 20th-century furniture and artwork, run through with pops of color. (Fans of Mrs. Maisel take note: Some of the stylish show’s midcentury modern pieces came from this very place.)

Explaining “we like to read and drink,” he says the shop is known for its barware—including a cool set of 50s highball glasses—as well as lamps (to read by). “Harvey has a knack for picking the perfect shade.”

Gordon is especially fond of Primitives right now, pointing to a storage piece “that would be a great bar—you could store your olives in the little drawers, your drink tools here, and a giant ice bucket down below.”

Pricing to sell is a key part of the couple’s strategy: “We are more about volume than getting top dollar and having items sit around,” Gordon says. “That way we get to do the fun thing, which is to go on safari for new merchandise.”

Such are the unique encounters with proprietors in the Berkshires, who are happy to share their passions with passersby and long-time clientele alike.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL
Tired of flat-pack boxes arriving on their doorstep, people are once again relishing the relational aspect of shopping—and looking for items with a pedigree. “It might be more convenient to buy online and have it land on your door, but you’re missing out on a unique experience—and the vendor’s expertise,” says Maxine Carter-Lome, publisher of Sturbridge-based The Journal of Antiques & Collectibles and member of the Southern Berkshires Chamber of Commerce “it’s very inspirational to get out there and touch the items. You are going to meet people who know things that you don’t. They can tell you its provenance and how it was meant to be used.”

An avid collector herself, Carter-Lome purchased, in 1988, The Weathervane Inn on Route 23 in Egremont to—she explains, half-jokingly—house her own massive collection. (After two decades she sold the property to the current owners of what is now The Egremont Village Inn.)

In that heyday, visitors flocked to the Berkshires to explore the potpourri of shops that dotted the landscape. You could easily spend a day or weekend winding your way along Route 7 —known as the “antiques corridor.” Over time, however, a number of shops on that main thoroughfare faded away, with many shutting their doors and/or moving their business online to stay afloat.

From left: Elise Abrams Antiques in Great Barrington, Painted Porch in Sheffield, Saarinen tulip chairs at Circa in Pittsfield.
Now that we are in a “newly domestic era” (sayeth The New York Times), with people spending more time at—and more money on—their homes, antiques are once again on the decorating radar.

“The pandemic was a huge opportunity for empty nesters to clean house and maybe downsize, so once-private collections have flooded the market,” Carter-Lome says. “A lot of inventory is priced to sell, so it’s a good time to start collecting.”

What’s more, “Now that shipping costs have skyrocketed, I’m seeing a resurgence in brick-and-mortar shops and people doing it the old-fashioned way,” says Gary Leveille, 25-year archivist for the Great Barrington Historical Society and 45-year collector of local ephemera—postcards, souvenirs, photographs, maps, and other artifacts. (He is also author of the “Then & Now” column for The Berkshire Edge and several books on the history of the region.) “Plus, it’s fun to get out there and get exercise instead of sitting at a computer.”

A fresh crowd has settled in the Berkshires, which is also attracting a different generation of tourists. (Tanglewood’s “Popular Artist” concerts were already drawing them here too, well before COVID.) And from all reports, these newcomers have jumped on the vintage bandwagon, whether buying for themselves or looking for gifts.

“Younger people are liking older things and not so matchy-match, which we find encouraging,” Wiener says. “Quite frankly they represent a whole new market for us. This new demographic is also embracing more than the usual midcentury modern.”

TOGETHER TIME

For families with children, antiquing—or better yet, “we’re going on a treasure hunt!”—is a screen-free pastime, and you never know what might spark their curiosity.

“I started antiquing with my mom when I was just a kid and I’ve been doing it ever since,” recalls Solange Boucher, who recently graduated with a degree in history from Smith College and plans to pursue a master’s degree in library science. (Yes, she sees the connection.)

What hooked her was coming across a circa-1913 math textbook when she was 10 years old. “Something compelled me to open it up and I discovered it was from the local public school. It was like finding a piece of history.”

OTOBEY

Above: Berkshire Mantiques in Lanesborough. From left: Rob’s Records in Great Barrington, Mix on Main in Sheffield.
school in the middle of nowhere Vermont, and I thought about how for 100 years or more students have been learning math and not enjoying it,” she says, laughing. Since then she has collected more than 75 historic textbooks and other volumes, which she enjoys flipping through (“the pages are soft like fleece”). She even got some of her college friends to tag along to her favorite haunt—The Vintage Cellar East in Easthampton (now rebranding as Keystone Vintage Market).

Lest you fret about having kiddos in tow: “I love it when children come in here,” Rhodes says. “My grandmother used to pull me out of places by my ankles. She never knew what I was searching for and neither did I, but I just had to search.” Granted, not every place will be so hospitable, and it’s up to you to keep little hands from touching (and potentially breaking) everything, but you can always ask before entering.

Besides, these kids just might grow up to be future collectors. “Memory connections are a huge part of attracting younger buyers, who may see something that reminds them of their grandparents or parents,” Carter-Lome says.

**CONSCIENTIOUS SHOPPING**

Vintage may be all the rage, but for different reasons than in the past. For starters, buying old satisfies the three R’s of today’s sustainability ethos—repurpose, recycle, reuse. Indeed, Carter-Lome sees “upcycling” as resonating more with younger generations than a fuddy-duddy word like antiques. (Boucher is a holdout but admits to being proudly old-fashioned.)

The 50-and-under set has caught onto the fact that these are investment pieces and not “just” decorative items. Hence, they may be willing to spend money on premium furniture or artwork that gains even more value over time. And the rise in home entertaining has people longing to elevate their basic white dishes and tumblers. By all accounts, barware is the bee’s knees.

“These new buyers are not just buying an object, they’re going for an experience,” Carter-Lome says. That’s fitting for the “experience generation,” which routinely shunned registering for china and crystal in favor of receiving more practical, everyday items as wedding gifts—and spending the real money on travel or other things like state-of-the-art road bikes or kayaks.

Certainly, exploring independent shops, where each and every item is hand-picked by the owner(s), is immensely more rewarding than clicking “buy now” or buying mass market. We have these proprietors to thank for being stewards of the past and preserving one-off, hand-crafted treasures for our enjoyment.

**ON THE TRAIL**

If you think collecting is not your cup o’ tea, time to dust off images of dusty, oldfangled shops. Nor do you need any knowledge of historical artifacts and ephemera. Keep an open mind: it’s about being fully engaged in the process of procurement—of savoring the journey as much or more than enjoying having the piece in your home.

A great way to explore diverse styles, periods, and price points is at the larger multi-dealer markets such as Berkshire Great Finds (in Sheffield; also the exclusive dealer of limited-edition 1970s Ken Rogen photos of the Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan); Great Barrington Antiques Center, Antiques Center “And All That Jazz”, and Emporium (all in Great Barrington); Route 7 Trading Post (Lenox); and Berkshire Emporium & Antiques and Sanford & Kid (both in North Adams). The Antique Center at Camelot Village and Main Street Antiques are both worth a day trip to Bennington, Vermont.

Otherwise, seek out shops that reflect the vision of one vendor, including the following.
EXPLORING THE ANTIQUE CORRIDOR, FROM NORTH TO SOUTH

For “roadside memorabilia,” head to Berkshire Mantiques (in Lanesborough), a new market specializing in Texaco signs and all things related to the American automobile culture of the 50s. Plus it has a coffee bar in the back that sells No. 6 Depot coffee and live music on weekends through summer. A country general store, drive-through coffee shop, and food shack with picnic tables share the same campus.

Midcentury and Danish modern fans will want to visit Circa in downtown Pittsfield for furnishings, lighting, home decor, and collectibles in a minimalist space with original tin ceilings and plank floors in the Greystone Building. (Check back often; new items arrive daily.)

In business since 1985, Berkshire Hills Coins and Estate Jewelry “sells lots of interesting things, including postcards,” Leveille says. But collectible currency is its stock in trade.

In West Stockbridge, the owner of Serendipity Waterside has evolved the former art gallery into a full-fledged antique shop; highlights include a vast array of barware (displayed in a real bar), plus an impressive selection of vintage clothing. A few doors down, Sandy Kemper@Home has a mix of early country, mid-20th century, and even later vintage pieces (a sampling of what the interior designer keeps at her original store in Canaan, N.Y.). The “back room” has vintage and designer clothing as well.

Retro Pop Shop, on the outskirts of Lee, is the place for Coke machines, Mobil Oil signs, and Wurlitzer jukeboxes. “It’s Americana—most of it was thrown away. It’s not for everybody, but the people that love it just love it,” says owner J. Pierre Duhon, who fell into the business 30 years ago out of “a passion for logos and signs.”

Duhon credits Lee with being a unique antique community because all the different purveyors work together and recommend each other. Uptown (which has a vintage stereo corner), Christopher James, Finders Keepers, and the Jewelry Box are all within walking distance of each other in the town center.

Just south of Monument Mountain in Great Barrington, Chelsea & Co. Antiques stocks country and formal antiques, mid-century furniture, vintage items, collectibles, and folk art in a three-story, 3,500-square-foot converted horse barn right on Stockbridge Road (aka Route 7).

Along this same stretch are two world-class sources of authentic Asian art imports. For over 30 years, the owner of Mundy’s Asia Galleries, who divides his time between Kyoto and the Berkshires, has amassed an extensive selection of Buddhist artifacts and Japanese antiques at his warehouse in GB (in Jennifer House Commons). What you’ll find: Screens, scrolls, shop signs, lacquered tea boxes, ikebana (Japanese vases), opium art, ceramics, lanterns, rugs, furniture, dolls, jewelry, Samurai artifacts . . . and so on.

AsiaBarong has more than 50,000 sculptures, furniture pieces, crafts, and antiques from all over Asia, importing a new batch each spring—all hand-picked and ethically obtained by the owner during his winter travels. Browse the outdoor sculpture garden and indoor gallery for instruments, furniture pieces, textiles, armor, pottery, artwork, shrines, temple relics, jewelry, animal statues, masks, gazebos—pretty much anything you can imagine (even erotica).
Tucked away at the intersection of State and Stockbridge Roads, Elise Abrams Antiques has the largest collection of museum-quality porcelain, stemware, and tabletop accessories—all organized by color. “Barware is hot: Champagne coupes, martini glasses, highballs—those are selling,” says Abrams, who readily assuages any concerns about buying an entire 12-piece set of china. “You don’t have to use it all together and at the same time. Just take the dessert plates out or use the bread-and-butter for a cheese platter.” As for her everyday dishes? Hand-painted enamelware, which can go into the dishwasher on the gentle cycle “and makes everything taste better.” It’s perfect for mixing and matching too—a must for setting a modern table.

Downtown GB has its own vintage offerings—Griffin for clothes, furniture, and home goods; Robert Lloyd for barware and 1930s Guinness illustrations; and Shire Glass smoke shop for glassware, LEGO, disco balls, and other “stoner” paraphernalia, says co-owner Maggie Bona. At brand new Scout-House, in a smartly renovated home on Elm Street, choice midcentury chairs, pine chests, and other vintage pieces share space with new merchandise. (Tip: The Edward Acker street photos of up-and-comer Madonna are a must-see.)

Looking for vintage vinyl? Rob’s Records (at the top of Railroad Street) is popular with the teenage set. “It’s why I opened up this place, 110 percent. I wanted to bring something soulful to the community that will bridge the generation gap—everyone listens to music,” says owner Rob Brannock. “Vinyl is coming back, and it’s because of young people.” Besides first-press renditions, there are plenty of new albums to choose from, as well as turntables and speakers. Lexicon (in the old Baba Louie’s space on Main St.) has LPs on one side and books on the other.

SHEFFIELD—THE ANTIQUE STRONGHOLD

Besides the aforementioned Mix on Main, Le Trianon is a Berkshires port of call for in-the-know designers and collectors. It’s also a family affair: Owners Jean-Henri, Colette, Alexander, and Eric Sarbib travel to private estates across Europe and the U.S. to amass rare pieces, notably a large selection of paintings, architectural elements, tapestries and Aubusson carpets.

Inhabiting an 1815 colonial house and a two-story restored barn, Painted Porch has specialized in English and French country furniture and accessories since 2001. Owners Larry and Carol Solomon will also create reproduction tables and chairs to order.

Linda Rosen Antiques is a recognized dealer of American country furniture, with a sizable selection of Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite, Sheraton, and Federal tables, chairs, cupboards, blanket chests, and bureaus, plus folk art (and a convenient layaway plan). Ceramics are another reason to shop here; recent additions include a Spatterware basin and pitcher set, lots of decorated redware jars and stoneware crocks, and various Delft platters and dishes.

Formal English antiques from the 18th and 19th centuries are the raison d’etre of Susan Silver Antiques—particularly Georgian and Regency period pieces for libraries and living rooms (tables, desks, bookcases, and chairs). Silver credits her mother, an interior designer in NYC, with helping her discover her passion for fine craftsmanship. “Beautiful antiques make my heart race!”

Dipping into North Canaan, Conn., Old Soul at Jim’s Garage has a nice mix of vintage pieces on display in a refurbished auto shop on Railroad Street next to Flea at 99, a year-round indoor flea market with multiple vendors, and the Old Canaan Market, a dealer of higher-end antiques. “I’ve been in this business so long that I am only doing better quality and atypically fine antiques,” says owner Dave Mason.
FOR BIBLIOPHILES
If you share Boucher’s love for rare tomes, Leveille recommends the “incredibly priced books and ephemera” (and 20,000 title selection) at the quaint Rodgers Book Barn, reached via winding backroads in Hillsdale. No less than E.L. Doctorow deemed it “a national treasure.”

The Book Nook at The Great Barrington Historical Society & Museum, open by appointment or on Sundays, sells most books for a dollar each.

Familiar Trees sells new and used books focusing on art, architecture, design, and photography (plus vintage objects), including a first-edition Isamu Noguchi monograph published in 1965.

Yellow House Books has a room devoted to a wonderful selection of used children’s books as well as sections on history, biography, and literature.

In two delightful buildings, Shaker Mill Books boasts an eclectic collection of over 30,000 books: used, rare, antiquarian, out-of-print, and some new. While there are books for every interest, the shop’s selections of photography and art books, as well as local history titles, are particularly noteworthy.

MILLING ABOUT MILLERTON
Sporting a string of shops as Main Street curves up the hill, Millerton has become a favorite collecting haunt. Start at Hunter Bee—named for owners Kent Hunter and Jonathan Bee, who discovered Millerton over weekends at a family Berkshire getaway. The intimate, inviting shop carries everything from American country to industrial pieces, “with quirky folk art and the occasional found object thrown in for interest.”

Then work your way to Montage, opened in 2015 by the owners of long-running Jennings & Rohn Antiques in Woodbury, Conn., with a greater focus on mid-century and country furniture.

At the top of Main sits the Millerton Antiques Center, which has 35 dealers on two jam-packed floors.

Also nearby on Route 22: North Elm Home offers design services along with new and vintage furnishings, accessories, and local handicrafts in a warm, weathered barn. Further up the road, The Old Mill of Irondale is filled with country dining tables, chairs, chests, hutches, and all the rest in a lovely red building along a bubbling brook.

HITTING THE LITCHFIELD HILLS
Woodbury is one of the best-known antiquing areas in New England, with more than 40 distinctive dealers specializing in quality furniture, decorative arts, rugs, porcelain, paintings, textiles, ceramics, and other historic artifacts.

Since 1992, Jeffrey Tillou has been wooing designers and well-heeled clients to his historic townhouse-cum-shop on the Litchfield town green, specializing in fine Americana furniture and art from the 18th and early 19th centuries, as well as European furniture and original art. Explore all three stories for unique items—pewter sconces, zinc garden statues, carved painted eagles, Windsor chairs, old weathervanes, and animal portraits.

Black Squirrel Antiques, in picturesque Lakeville, Conn., is a more recent addition. There you are likely to be greeted with a wave by Tom Emerick who, with Joni Beveridge, purchased the white clapboard house—which had been turned into a doctors’ office—six years ago. “We saw the listing online and said, ‘it’s perfect!’” So they moved their antique business up from Naples, Florida—a return of sorts to the region, having launched in Saugerties decades prior.

Beveridge has seen a spike in younger clients who are buying antiques—namely tables, chairs, mirrors, lamps, clocks, and artwork. “They are drawn to the area by all the beautiful old homes and want to decorate them, partially at least, in the period to bring out the best features.” (She also sells “a lot of jewelry.”)

What sets their business apart from others, in their estimation, is that they tend to buy less-than-perfect items that other dealers pass by. A carpenter by trade, Emerick relishes fixing their finds and has all the requisite (vintage) tools.

“I feel like I am saving stuff and think of antique dealers as the original recyclers.” He also admits to buying things that are guaranteed never to sell. “An antique shop should be full of antiques, not just the stuff that sells.”

<< Scan the code for the Vintage Resource Guide, Calendar of Antique Fairs and Festivals, and more online.
Clockwise from top left: Judy Collins at Tanglewood, September 3rd; Hubbard Street Dance Chicago at Jacob's Pillow, the week of August 8; Dracula at Berkshire Theatre Group, through August; Auguste Rodin's *The Thinker* at The Clark Art Institute, through September 18.
music

the hills are alive . . .

As we emerge from our pandemic cocoons in search of cultural nectar, the sweet music of the Berkshires is here to slake our pent-up thirst.

TANGLEWOOD | This Mecca of Music, summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, has continued to lead the charge back to public performance. With its sprawling grounds and beautifully maintained outdoor venues, Tanglewood managed to sidestep the most perilous Coronavirus conditions and put on concerts even at the height of the pandemic. Continuing its ambitious and exuberant 2022 season, the month of August will kick off on the 2nd with Tanglewood on Parade, an annual day of family fun featuring music from the BSO, Boston Pops, and TMC Orchestra, led by world-renowned conductors like John Williams, and culminating in a dazzling display of fireworks.

As part of Tanglewood’s Recital Series, the Danish String Quartet will be bringing Schubert’s String Quartet No. 15 to audiences on August 3rd. On the 5th, BSO Assistant Conductor Earl Lee makes his BSO debut, joined by virtuosic piano twins Christina and Michelle Naughton in their Tanglewood debuts as they perform Francis Poulenc’s impish neoclassical Concerto for Two Pianos, American composer Brian Raphael Nabors’ exciting and rhapsodic Pulse, and Felix Mendelssohn’s intensely romantic Symphony No. 3, his last completed symphony.
On August 6th, Grammy-winning conductor JoAnn Falletta is joined by world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell, performing Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s beloved Violin Concerto as well as the symphonic poems Fountains of Rome and Pines of Rome by Ottorino Respighi. Opening the concert is the Puerto Rican composer Roberto Sierra’s Fandangos, a bold, experimental piece which blends a classical approach with elements of Afro-Caribbean, South American, Central American, and Spanish musical traditions.

August 12th sees the Tanglewood debut of French violist Antoine Tamestit. This final concert of the Emanuel Ax-curated Pathways from Prague series explores chamber music by three Czech composers. Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma play works for cello and piano by Leoš Janáček—his rhapsodic, three-movement Fairy Tale—and Vítězslava Kaprálová, who, though she died in 1940 at age 25, had an outsized impact on Czech music.

Ma’s work is never done, and he returns on the 14th to the Koussevitzsky Music Shed, joining Romanian conductor Cristian Măcelaru for Edward Elgar’s Cello Concerto, one of the English composer’s final works, in part a profoundly lyrical meditation on a world in turmoil after the devastation of World War I. Also featuring music by Anna Clyne, Claude Debussy, and Romanian composer Georges Enescu, considered one of the 20th-century’s greatest musicians.

On August 21st, Dima Slobodeniouk conducts Unsuk Chin, Max Bruch, and Brahms featuring the great violinist Itzhak Perlman, who famously performed the unforgettable theme from Schindler’s List among his many other accomplishments.

The 2022 season closes with a salvo of iconic performers, including a concert with Judy Collins and Richard Thompson on September 3rd, an appearance by Van Morrison and his band on the 4th, and a spectacular finale featuring former (and forever) Beatle Ringo Starr and his All-Starr Band on September 5th. Truly a blockbuster summer to be had on the Tanglewood campus, if you keep your ears open.

MASS MoCA | The North Adams haven for contemporary art offers a panoply of musical experiences in addition to its numerous exhibitions now on display. Scottish electro-pop trio Chvrches brings its delicate, synth-bathed, richly melodic sound to Courtyard D on August 5th. On the 13th, Courtney Barnett’s boutique-touring festival Here And There comes to Joe’s Field, where this rotating line-up will feature Barnett, Lucy Dacus, Men I Trust, Faye Webster, Bartees Strange, The Beths, and Hana Vu. Innovative, Grammy-winning vocalist ensemble Roomful of Teeth storms the Hunter Center on August 17th, bringing their sheer chops and inspiring creativity back home; the ensemble’s leader Brad Wells is a faculty member at John Williams 90th Birthday Celebration

August 20th, Tanglewood veteran, annual crowd-pleaser and titan of film music John Williams will be honored with a 90th birthday celebration featuring his most beloved works as performed by the BSO, as well as an all-star lineup of exceptional guest artists as they pay tribute to a singular, visionary composer who has profoundly shaped the history of music, both in cinema and beyond.
Terence Blanchard

**Clark Jr., Tanya Tucker**, and many more. The unconventional lineup is stuffed to the gills with guitar wizards and banjo magicians, old-timers, and those on the cutting edge, mixing it up together in a passionate whirlwind of creativity and sound. As the festival organizers like to say, FreshGrass is “great music, uprooted.”

**THE MAHAIWE** | The historic environs of Great Barrington’s premier exhibition space play host to a scintillating lineup of musical events this season: on Friday August 5th, famed singer **Michael Feinstein** pays tribute to the life and works of Judy Garland on the 100th anniversary of her birth. On the 6th, **Dear Erich—a jazz Opera** features members of the NYC Opera cast, accompanied by renowned jazz pianist **Ted Rosenthal** and his trio as they tell a refugee story for our times inspired by letters written in Germany between 1938 and 1941 to the composer’s father. **Mozart** comes to Great Barrington on August 20th, 23rd, and 26th in the form of his roiling, brimstone-flecked masterpiece **Don Giovanni** as performed by the **Berkshire Opera Festival**. Then, legendary jazz guitarist **Pat Metheny** delivers a virtuoso display in his show **Side-Eye**, rolling into Castle Street’s 600-plus-seater on September 3rd. Metheny has garnered 20 Grammy Awards across his artistically diverse career, winning seven of them for seven consecutive albums during one particularly impressive run. In 2015 he was inducted into the Downbeat Hall of Fame as its youngest-ever member, becoming only the fourth guitarist to be included along with Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Wes Montgomery.

**SAINT JAMES PLACE** | Great Barrington is lucky to have a second, more intimate performance space at this beautifully renovated deconsecrated church, where **Stockbridge Sinfonia** presents its 50th anniversary concert on August 14.

**THE FOUNDRY** | West Stockbridge’s flagship musical venue presents a diverse lineup of talent this summer, starting on August 5th with the **Skyla Burrell Band**, a hard-scrabble gaggle of passionate musicians traveling the nation spreading their bluesy gospel. As **Music Monthly** magazine said of lead singer Skyla Burrell, “many women in the blues have great voices and have made their careers singing the blues, but not too many can double it up, slice it, dice it and sacrifice it . . . like Skyla can.”

On Friday August 12th, seven-piece New York band **The Big Takeover** plays new music that is “rooted in and reverent toward the genres and rhythms of Jamaican pop: reggae, rocksteady, ska.” The Big Takeover cross-pollinates traditions like world-music pop botanists, their “deceptively complex arrangements and big hooks” fusing with the quintessence of Motown and the “uptown sophistication of the 21st century retro soul and R&B revival scene.”
Madame Pat Tandy, off-Broadway veteran of musicals like *Good Time Blues* and *Billie*, performs her signature jazz-influenced, Baptist-informed gospel music on August 13th.

Enigmatic group **SONORO** brings its fusion-rich blend of jazz, blues, Latin rhythms and classical elements to West Stockbridge on August 21st. Composer and pianist **Sharon Ruchman** leads this dynamic, 7-strong ensemble as they share works from their new, 5th album *Jumping In*, played across a spectrum of instruments ranging from the flute, saxophone, viola, cello, to bass and percussion.

On the 26th, musical collective **Billy Wylder** shares its bold vision with audiences ready (or not) for a hyper-innovative sound inspired by “African rhythms, art-rock textures, expansive guitars, violins, synths, and drum machines,” featuring **Avi Salloway** (*Bombino*/Hey Mama/Avi & Celia) and a coterie of visionary artists who have performed across five continents including concerts at Coachella, Newport Folk Festival, New Orleans Jazz Fest, Montreal Jazz Fest, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center. Critically-acclaimed, internationally renowned pianist and veteran of Jazz at Lincoln Center **Yoko Miwa** comes to The Foundry on the 27th, joined by the other members of her dynamic trio: **Scott Goulding** on drums and **Will Slater** on bass, both prized players the world over.

**WAIT, THERE’S MORE!** | Also serenading the Berkshires this season . . . the **Guthrie Center** will offer its weekly Thursday **Hootenany** in addition to its **2022 Troubadour Series** featuring **Tom Chapin**, **Lucy Kaplansky**, **Vance Gilbert**, **Seth Glier**, the group **Urban Renewal**, **Nora Brown** with **Stephanie Coleman**, and finally **Tony Trischka** on October 8th.

Calling itself “the newest concert venue in the Berkshires,” **Bousquet Mountain’s Summer Music Series** provides a platform for a rich assortment of acts including **Ali McGuirk** and the **BTUs**, the **Bousquet Folk Festival** featuring **The Wolff Sisters**, **Benjamin Jaffe**, **Sean Rowe** and **Eavesdrop**, as well as **Billy Keane** and **Taylor Ashton** on August 18th.

The great “Berkshire Cottages” also offer musical treats. **Edith Wharton’s The Mount** offers **Concerts in the Dell** every Thursday at 6 p.m. until August 18th, an exciting lineup of live music—ranging from globally inspired jazz to indie blues—in a beautiful outdoor setting. This August features **Heard World Jazz** and **Pamela Means Jazz Project**. And **Chesterwood**, the historic home, studio and gardens of sculptor William Chester French, presents an evening of chamber music on August 17th as part of its **Arts Alive!** series.

**Barrington Stage Company** in Pittsfield offers a continuing lineup of musical events alongside its theatrical program, including **Andy Karl and Orfeh**, a powerhouse Broadway couple singing their way through an eclectic mix of pop, rock, rhythm & blues, and show tunes. Also visiting BSC this season are award-winning actor/singer/songwriter **Grace McLean** and renowned composers **Irene Sankoff** and **David Hein**, creators of **Come from Away**.

Chatham’s **PS21** presents **Global Music: DakhaBrakha**, with the Ukrainian group performing a live soundtrack for to Oleksandr Dovzhenko's 1930 film *Earth*. In September and October, **Clarion Concerts** will sponsor appearances by the **Harlem String Quartet** and the **Borromeo String Quartet**. The **Back Porch** music series continues at **Hancock Shaker Village**, and local favorite **The Egremont Barn** is always offering a cool, relaxed blend of food, beer, cocktails, open mic nights, comedy specials, and a wide array of musical acts.
the dance world comes to the Berkshires

JACOB’S PILLOW | In August, this iconic haven for dance offers four weeks of comprehensive and inspiring work, including lectures, classes, workshops, and presentations across its 225-acre slice of Becket woodlands. The week of August 1 features four exciting groups: Les Ballet Afrik shows off company founder Omari Wiles’ passion for West African, Afrobeat, House, and Vogue schools of movement; Alonzo King LINES Ballet offers what the L.A. Times calls “the most sophisticated modernism in classical dance”; Indigenous Enterprise, a Native American and Canadian collective, brings its explosively jubilant dance and colorful regalia to the Henry J. Leir Outdoor Stage; and, in its Pillow debut, the all-female ensemble Soles of Duende Percussive Trio celebrates connections between the cultures and styles of tap, flamenco, and kathak. And on the 5th, the School at Jacob’s Pillow performs in the genre of Musical Theatre.

The week of August 8, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, founded in 1977 by dancer and choreographer Lou Conte and now helmed by new artistic director Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, continues its four-decade-long partnership with Jacob’s Pillow.
Liz Lerman bewitches and bedazzles from the 10th to the 13th with *Wicked Bodies*, which explores how our bodies become sources of evil and power—from fairy tales to government policies. And Dance Heginbotham, a group celebrated for its vibrant athleticism, humor, theatricality, and commitment to collaboration, comes to Becket August 12-16.

The week of August 15 is especially full. The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, founded in Denver in 1970 by master teacher, choreographer, and cultural ambassador Robinson, will inhabit the Ted Shawn Theatre, August 17-21. On the 17th, catch a performance by Vanessa Sanchez & La Mezcla, a polyrhythmic, multidisciplinary San Francisco-based dance and music ensemble rooted in Chicana, Latina, and Indigenous traditions and social justice. On the 18th, Hustle at the Pillow, featuring dance champions Abdiel and Kristine Bendul, celebrates the Hustle, a pre-Disco dance style that originated in 1970's New York City. East Coast Styles on the 19th features a thrilling lineup of performers making their Pillow debut, including Breakfast Club (New York), Bmore Than Dance (Baltimore), and Beat Ya Feet (D.C.). And the School at Jacob’s Pillow presents “Dance Theatre: Afro-Latin Immersion.”

The Miami City Ballet enthralls from August 24-28 with a selection of works, with the Ladies of Hip-Hop Dance Collective giving them a run for their money on the 24th. Boston Dance Theater presents works of socio-political relevance on the 25th. Black Disabled choreographer, producer, and educator Kayla Hamilton makes her Pillow debut on the 26th. And, on Saturday, the 27th, internationally recognized choreographer Yin Yue and her YYDC company present a program that draws from Chinese classical and folk dance, ballet as well as contemporary dance vocabulary.

Over in Chatham, N.Y., young and spunky PS21 | Performance Spaces for the 21st Century was described as follows by the New York Times: “A beautiful, reconfigurable indoor-outdoor space that appears to have landed like an exotic bird in the midst of a 100-acre former apple orchard in this tiny Hudson Valley town. It’s not the first place you would expect to encounter cutting-edge performance, yet PS21 offers little else.”

In its 2022 season, PS21 continues to rise to the challenge of innovation and community engagement. The Mark Morris Dance Group brings its signature moves on August 3rd in the works “Pacific,” “Jenn and Spencer,” and “Grand Duo,” with continuing events and performances throughout the month as part of its artists’ residency with the Chatham not-for-profit. On August 6th, Jamal Jackson Dance Company will premiere a new work entitled 846, a retelling of Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring* that reflects upon our “everyday” filled with love, loss, appropriation, fear, and judgment. Through September, PS21 offers Movement Without Borders—movement workshops which feature visiting artists, as well as free afternoon performances tailored for kids and families.
Perhaps nowhere outside of Manhattan is there more passion, excitement, and activity devoted to the art of performance than in the Berkshires. Dive into the proscenium this summer—it sure beats watching Hamlet on Zoom.

Shakespeare & Company | The storied Lenox grounds of this Berkshires cultural mainstay host a characteristically diverse selection of shows, with the Bard’s classic comedy Much Ado About Nothing delighting audiences through August 14th, directed by Kelly Galvin and starring Gregory Boover, Nigel Gore, and Tamara Hickey among other Company favorites. Through September 4th, the powerhouse talents of Shakespeare & Co. artistic director Allyn Burrows are matched with those of the great Jonathan Epstein in Lee Blessing’s A Walk in the Woods, which sees these titans go head-to-head as dueling Russian and American negotiators. Through August 28th, ‘ranney’ and Kevin Craig West star in Hymn, an emotional two-hander that depicts a pair of strangers who meet at a funeral and have to deal with profound and unexpected challenges. The Bard is back on August 19th through September 18th for director Alice Reagan’s rip-roaring interpretation of Measure for Measure, the classic story of hidden identity, moral reckoning and abuse of power that speaks eloquently to the extremities and quandaries of our time. Finally, running from September 23 to October 30 in the Elayne Bernstein Theatre and directed by Raz Golden, Golden Leaf Ragtime Blues explores prejudice and humanism through a dynamic blend of storytelling and music, confronting its characters and the audience with the challenge of truly seeing others for the content of their character.

Berkshire Theatre Group | Yet another jewel in the Berkshires’ theatrical crown, BTG shares thrilling productions with the public from its two stages, with *Songs for a New World*, the first musical from Tony Award-winner Jason Robert Brown (*Parade, Bridges of Madison County*) at the Unicorn Theatre in Stockbridge until August 20. At The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, spread your wings and polish your coffins for the arrival of *Dracula* on August 11th, directed by David Auburn and dramatized by Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderston, based on Bram Stoker’s legendary novel. Back at the Unicorn, brace yourself for the unequalled wit and acerbic insights of Edward Albee in his play *Seascape*, described by the *New York Times* as “the most exquisitely written” of the *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolf*e author’s works, directed by Eric Hill and running from September 29th to October 23rd.

Barrington Stage Company | With a new artistic director and in-theatre anti-viral precautions that rival the top-flight hospital next door, BSC is hitting the ground running in 2022, continuing a diverse and fully-loaded season of shows which includes a world premiere of *The Supadupa Kid*. Based on the novel by Ty Allan Jackson and directed by NJ Agwuna, Jackson’s text is made to come alive on stage in this brand-new play featuring one of the first-ever teenage Black superheroes in America. The late, great Stephen Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music* sends in the clowns from August 6th-28th, directed by longtime former artistic director Julianne Boyd. From the 11th to the 14th of August, witness a *Celebration of Black Voices*, a salute to local artists which will feature an adult talent show, cash prizes and a Community Gospel Concert. Samuel Becket’s iconic portrait of existential crisis *Waiting for Godot* comes to the St. Germain Stage from August 19 to September 4, directed by Joe Calarco. On September 21st, another World Premiere, *All of Me* by Laura Winters, tells the never-before-staged story of two wheelchair-using young people navigating love, romance and identity in the modern world.

The Mac-Haydn Theatre Company | Tucked into the hilly warrens of Chatham, N.Y., this bold and dynamic gem of a company is turning out a cornucopia of staged works this season. Winner of three Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 2010, *Next to Normal* by Brian Yorkey is a “powerhouse musical with a thrilling rock score” about the very intense lives we often lead in private, playing from August 4th to 14th and directed by John Saunders. Based on the film of the same title, *The Full Monty* bares all from August 18th to September 4th, followed by another production inspired by cinema in the form of *Xanadu*, a staged adaptation of the cult 1980 movie musical. On September 9th, the extraordinary popular *Forever Plaid* brings its signature Barbershop blend and infectious spirit to Chatham, followed by three limited events in September/October: *A Call to Places*, an exploration of travel and global community through music as performed...
by Gabe Belyeu, To Sondheim, With Love featuring performances of the master's great works by Meredith Lustig, and finally Major Arcana: The Next Draw which takes the audience on an illuminating, immersive, cabaret-esque journey through the Tarot, with performances on September 23rd and 30th and again on October 1st.

ALSO ON STAGE THIS SEASON . . .

Jim Frangione’s Great Barrington Public Theater continues its lively season with the East Coast premiere of Things I know to be True, a new play that “goes straight to the heart of family love, truth and bonding, and exemplifies the power of transformative theater,” from August 4th to 14th at the Daniel Arts Center on the campus of Simon’s Rock College. Written by award-winning playwright Andrew Bovell, it is directed by Judy Braha, who helmed GB Public’s 2021 hit Mr. Fullerton.

PS21 steps outside the black box, presenting Farm Fatale, “a theater of post-apocalyptic deceleration” by French director and visual artist Philippe Quesne, as well as C’est pas là, c’est par là (It’s Not That Way, It’s This Way), an outdoor participatory theater installation by Compagnie Galmae and Juhyung Lee, a South Korean street artist based in France.

The Chester Theatre Company concludes its season with the August 11th world premiere of To the Moon and Back, a play by Darcy Parker Bruce about a father and daughter with a history as murky as the dark side of the moon.

Don’t miss the Williamstown Theatre Festival, running through August 14th with two new late-season productions. We Are Continuous, a world premiere of a WTF commission written by Harrison David Rivers and directed by Tyler Thomas, runs August 2-14 and explores what happens to the bond between mother and son when a life-changing secret comes to light. For six performances August 3-6, Just For Us, performed by Alex Edelman, takes the audience through hilarious anecdotes from Alex Edelman’s life—his Olympian brother AJ, an unconventional holiday season, and a gorilla that can do sign language—but at its center is an astonishing and frighteningly relevant story of anti-Semitism and white nationalism.

MASS MoCA continues to astonish, this time with Aun los Gallos Lloran (Even Roosters Cry), a performance-activation of Mexican artist Armando Cortés’ own installation on view in the exhibition Ceramics in the Expanded Field, on September 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

In addition to several play readings, Kristen van Ginhoven’s WAM (short for Where Art and Activism Meet) will present Cadillac Crew, written by Tori Sampson, directed by Taneisha Duggan and featuring MaConnia Chesser, at the Tina Packer Playhouse on the campus of Shakespeare & Company this fall. Focused on the story of four female civil rights activists in the 1960’s, the play asks what happens when Black women refuse to be written out of history.

If you’ve “never been in love before,” head down to the Sharon Playhouse for Guys and Dolls until August 14th. From August 27th to September 11th, experience the unique comedy-whodunit Shear Madness: Sharon’s Hilarious Whodunit!, which made the New York Times “helpless with laughter”. Then, from October 7th to 16th, A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry famously tells the gripping, heart-wrenching story of three generations within an African American family living on Chicago’s South Side.
visual arts feasts for the eyes, both indoors and out

Bask in the open spaces of MASS MoCA or wander the elegant grounds of The Clark, or pop into a boutique gallery in Great Barrington. Whatever your path, be assured that there's a universe of art and design to discover this season and into next.

MASS MoCA | The industrial-chic, converted-factory citadel for contemporary art and design in North Adams charges into the latter half of 2022 with a blockbuster rollout. Enter the mind-spaces of artist Michael Oatman in his show All Utopias Fell, comprised of three unique works: an immersive technodream world set in a repurposed Airstream trailer, a laboratory-library-hermitage constructed within MoCA’s Boiler House, and a massive field of solar panels which generates 3 percent of the power consumed by the museum. Marc Swanson’s multimedia work A Memorial to Ice at the Dead Deer Disco explores the emotional turmoil of the AIDS crisis while drawing inspiration from the dioramas found in natural history museums as well as Hudson River School painter Thomas Cole’s (1801–1848) writings on the negative effects of development in the Catskills region. (A companion exhibition will go on view July 16 – November 27, 2022, at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, NY.)

Inspired by J.G. Ballard’s 1981 novel Hello America, which depicts an energy crisis in the late 20th century that leaves America all but abandoned, Boston-based artist Joe Wardwell presents an epic wall drawing which interweaves themes from the novel with contemporary issues in a striking, monumental work titled Hello America: 40 Hits from the 50 States. Mid-20th-century sculptor Joseph Beuys’ astonishing work Lightning with Stag in its Glare is on display now, on loan from the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Musician and sound artist Ryan Olson joins producer and fellow sound artist Seth Rosetter to transform the stairs and basement of MASS MoCA’s Building 10 into a musical instrument—Allovers is “played” using stimuli from the surrounding environs, from “snippets of conversation and footfalls, to the rattle of carts and deliberate acts of musical intervention.” Julianne Swartz brilliantly employs the human voice as her primary medium for the work In Harmonicity, The Tonal Walkway, which started with a chart she found in a 19th-century music pedagogy system called the “Tonic Sol-Fa’ School, developed by John Curwen, which assigned “mental effects” to the seven tones of the diatonic scale. North Adams local Mary Lum presents her playful and thought-provoking work Assembly.
visual arts
find more at berkshirescalendar.com

Lorem Ipsum), the monumental painting having been inspired by the meaningless text that graphic designers and typesetters use as placeholders for actual text, and which was originally drawn from Cicero’s writings on ethics. In The Metabolic Studio/Optics Division’s work Hoosic: Beyond the Place, artists Lauren Bon, Richard Nielsen, and Tristan Duke spent a week at MASS MoCA using their Liminal Camera—a moveable, monumental camera built from a repurposed shipping container—to create a series of portraits of B6: The Robert W. Wilson Building.

Renowned watercolor artist Barbara Ernst Prey paints a monumental work for MASS MoCA’s expansion, titled Building 6 Portrait: Interior, setting a new benchmark for the size and scale of watercolor works on paper, among the most unforgiving combination of any painterly media. In Us, figures from artist Jarvis Rockwell’s massive collection of toys and figurines interact and organize themselves on glass panels, soaring over visitors’ heads in the historic light well of the newly renovated B6: Robert W. Wilson Building. Spencer Finch’s light-based work Cosmic Latte features over 150 specially fabricated LED fixtures suspended from the ceiling over an expanse of the 80-foot-long gallery in which it is displayed. Jenny Holzer’s concise, enigmatic writings infiltrate public life and consciousness through everyday objects such as T-shirts, posters, LED signs, and benches, as well as paintings and sculpture. A cross section of these objects is included in her new installation. In Gamaliel Rodriguez’s large-scale works on paper, La Travesía/Le Voyage, imagine landscapes inspired by the two-fold character of his native Puerto Rico, which the artist recently described as a mix of “beauty and chaos.”

In S-334473, the ingenious engineering of artist Sarah Oppenheimer creates precise instruments for manipulating our built environment, altering our frame of spatial reference, displacing our experience of inside and out and inverting our sense of what is near and far. In March 2020, Los Angeles-based artist Richard Nielsen began painting portraits of people in their COVID-19 face masks—This is Not a Gag includes his first set of 49 paintings. Ceramics in the Expanded Field brings together a group of eight artists who are changing the way we think of clay, while Ways to Baffle the Wind features new and recent work by French-Moroccan artist Yto Barrada which includes sculpture, textile, films, and games. With her installation Forever in Your Debt, the artist kelli rae adams has crafted hundreds of wheel-thrown vessels, sized to collectively hold the average individual student debt—$37,000—in the form of coins. Glenn Kaino: In the Light of a Shadow spans the entirety of MASS MoCA’s signature football-field sized Building 5 gallery with an immersive installation that explores the power of collective action in forging a more just world. See MASS MoCA’s full list of exhibits at massmoca.org.

THE CLARK | Williamstown’s palatially minimalist sanctuary for art and design will, through September 18th, continue to display a marquee retrospective of works by the legendary sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), focusing on the role America had in the Frenchman’s life and career. The show, titled Rodin in the United States: Confronting the Modern, includes drawings, plaster casts, sketches, and bronze castings of The Thinker, initially named The Poet, as well as Rodin’s infamously controversial rendering of the great literary figure Honoré de Balzac. Closing October 10, José Guadalupe Posada: Symbols, Skeletons and Satire is a new exhibition of works by the 19th and early 20th century Mexican artist beloved for his illustrations that encompass political upheavals, religious subjects, ballads, children’s books and games and many other aspects of Mexican culture and history. Closing October 16th, Tauba Auerbach and Yuji Agematsu: Meander showcases the artists’ two careers across parallel galleries, exploring the fascinating contrast between Auerbach’s large-format, infrared imaging-infused experimental vision and Agematsu’s found-material, hand-made, gem-like sculptural universes.
THE WILLIAMS COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

Be careful lest you nick yourself on the cutting edge at Williams College’s finely appointed museum and exhibition space, which provides a platform for the work of students and alumnae as well as outside artists. In the annual exhibition *Searching for Sticky Voids*, 19 members of the Williams Senior Studio Seminar have created a group show that “entraps and extends perception.” The works “enter into sticky voids: areas of inquiry that resist easy answers and stable meaning.” A companion piece to senior Kailyn Gibson’s Art History honors thesis, *Working in Desire: The Political Economy of Black Feminine Labor* is an eight-work installation exploring, as Gibson writes, “Black female productivity—as illustrated through the figure that I identify as the laboring Black Venus icon—(which) sustained the political economy of plantations emerging in the ‘New World’ during the eighteenth century.” On display through August 21st. Through December 4th, *Frantz Zéphirin: Selected Works* offers a selection of ten paintings by the Haitian-born artist Frantz Zéphirin (b. 1968). Together they offer a glimpse into the mystical and spiritual nature of Haiti, the artist’s delicate, detailed vignettes giving viewers the opportunity to wander among the loa (Haitian Vodou spirits). In the exhibition *Remixing the Hall: WCMA’s Collection in Perpetual Transition*, works from the museum’s permanent collection have been selected by a team of dedicated curators to “highlight multivalent correspondences between form and meaning in art.” This considered, diverse presentation will be on view until December 22nd.

What’s in the galleries? Berkshires County boasts a treasure trove of smaller fine arts galleries. In many cases, you can walk out holding your very own piece of culture without going toe-to-toe with a docent. In Great Barrington, Bernay Fine Art hosts *Color Play: Work by Audrey Stone and Dana Piazza*, running from August 19th to September 18th. Lauren Clark Fine Art hosts a rotating series of artists, many of them local, at her gallery on Main Street which also offers high-end custom framing, decorative objects and jewelry. In Stockbridge, Schantz Galleries, a museum-like collection of contemporary glass art, an exhibition of Dale Chihuly, featuring his intricate glasswork will open on August 6th and run through September 18th, followed by a show of the artist Bertil Vallien’s work from September 22nd to October 16th.

Back in Great Barrington, the Carrie Chen Gallery on Railroad Street will present *The Meaning of Memory: John Hersey, John Richard Hersey Jr. and Cannon Hersey* from August 6th to September 25th. This show will include artifacts of the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist John Hersey, large scale paintings by his son John R. Hersey Jr., and the photography, silkscreens, and textile artwork of his grandson, Cannon Hersey. Cannon’s artwork is a continuing reminder of his grandfather’s legacy in many different forms—in texture, emotion, and compassion, and John R. Hersey Jr.’s painting is about the freedom of self-expression. This show is the first time that works of three generations of the Hersey family are exhibited together. The opening day of the show marks the 77th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing.
BENNINGTON MUSEUM | Parks & Recreation explores the origins and history of Vermont’s State Parks through an artistic lens. The show presents a selection of works, including Sanford Gifford’s painting of the view from atop Mt. Mansfield. The museum will present the show in two parts: the first, through November 6, will showcase the historical story of Parks and Recreation and the second, through December 31, will be featured in an adjacent gallery, with contemporary works depicting Vermont’s State Parks. Until December 21st, celebrate the centennial of Bennington Potters founder David Gil, with David Gil Turns 100. Highly regarded for his line of functional dinnerware, in the 1970s Gil created a line of decorative platters and sculptural faces that he referred to as “Artware.” 

NBOSS at the Museum, through November 11, marks the 25th anniversary of the North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show. In addition to sculptures by over 40 artists scattered throughout the village of North Bennington, an additional 25+ artists will display their work on the Museum’s 10-acre property in Old Bennington. Through December 31st, Perspectives: The Story of Bennington Through Maps tells the rich and varied history of Bennington County through maps and land surveys, from its Abenaki and Mohican roots to the colonization period to the farmers and landowners of the Victorian era and beyond.

THE NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM | This season at the international headquarters for all things Rockwell, take a deep dive from September 2 to January 7 into the master’s oeuvre with Norman Rockwell Drawings, 1914-1976, which offers a penetrating glimpse into the draftsmanship of his abidingly influential work. Through October 30, Imprinted: Illustrating Race examines the role of published images in shaping attitudes toward race and culture. On view will be more than 300 artworks and objects of widely circulated illustrated imagery, produced from the late eighteenth century to today, which have influenced public perception about race in the United States. Concurrent to the Imprinted exhibition, In Our Lifetime: Paintings from the Pandemic by Kadir Nelson will be on view June 11th through October 30th, featuring recent, and never before exhibited publicly, works by Kadir Nelson, accomplished award-winning illustrator, painter, and author, considered one of the most celebrated visual commentators of our time. And, running through September 4th, celebrate the Lincoln Memorial Centennial Exhibition: The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated, an exhibition created in collaboration with nearby Chesterwood to honor the Lincoln Memorial’s centennial in May 2022. The show features work by illustrators and artists who have incorporated the Lincoln Memorial into their work as a symbolic element.

SculptureNow is back again this year at The Mount through October 19, with an extremely attractive show of sculpture, positioned effectively around the grounds of this charming property. Entrance to the grounds, and to SculptureNow, is free, and artist-guided tours are available for a small charge, on August 21, September 18 and October 16. Information is available at sculpturenow.org. The lush, verdant grounds of Edith Wharton’s world-famous home also host a number of play readings, talks, music performances and other events throughout the summer and fall, visit edithwharton.org for a comprehensive list.

George Rickey, Two Open Triangles at Naumkeag.
Olana, Thomas Cole House, and the Hudson River Skywalk

By Jamie Larson

The Olana State Historic Site, located just outside Hudson, New York, and the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, across the Hudson River in Catskill, live in perpetual conversation with each other. The best way to engage in the dialogue between Olana, the home of Hudson River School of painting master Frederic Church, and that of Church’s teacher and mentor Thomas Cole, is to visit them both. That’s easy enough to do, given the sites are conveniently—and intentionally—connected by the scenic Hudson River Skywalk that spans the Rip Van Winkle Bridge.

Church and Cole are the most enduring names associated with the Hudson River School of painting, which proliferated through the 1800s. Their landscape paintings of the valley, as well as the many other locations they traveled to around the globe, captivated audiences at the time by infusing hyper-realistic depictions of the natural world with emotion and meaning.

Cole’s home, where he lived from 1833 to 1848, and contemporary studio form a handsome and engaging repository for his paintings and ephemera. Across the river, through the second half of the 19th century, his famous pupil Church built himself a grand mansion—pulling architectural inspiration from his travels to the Middle East. The house and grounds at Olana are certainly more attention-grabbing but the Cole House has its own understated appeal.

To experience the homes, studios, and landscapes of these two sites is to tangibly enter an ongoing discussion about the relationship between historic and contemporary art, environmental preservation, and numerous other topics of consequence. A nice long excursion also provides the opportunity to hike trails with gob-smacking views and sample farm-fresh offerings at some of the Hudson Valley’s best restaurants on either shore.
THE LOGISTICS

OLANA STATE HISTORIC SITE
5720 NY-9G
Hudson, NY 12534
olana.org  |  518-751-0344

The 250-acre park is open for free every day from 8 a.m. to sunset. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times.

The house is open for tours Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Self-guided tours of the home are only available Friday through Sunday.

THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
218 Spring Street
Catskill, NY 12414
thomascole.org  |  518-943-7465

The grounds are open every day for free from dawn to dusk.

The Thomas Cole House is open Thursday through Tuesday from 9:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last entry at 4 p.m.). Advance tickets are recommended but not required.
PANORAMIC PRELUDE

Start at the Cole National Historic Site in the morning and take a tour of the modest (by comparison) house. To gaze at the mountains from the wrap-around porch is worth the price of admission alone—and the best way to gain an appreciation for the artist's inspiration.

Serendipitously, for Berkshire art lovers, the contemporary exhibit now on display throughout Cole's home—*A Memorial to Ice at the Dead Dear Disco*, by Marc Swanson—is a companion piece to Swanson's massive gallery exhibition currently installed at MASS MoCA.

According to Swanson, the works exist as both "memorial and monument," aligning climate change with the AIDS crisis. Swanson is interested in the fact that we seem to be “living in the ruins of our future, mourning a world that will no longer exist as we know it, resulting from the impending loss and inevitable impact of climate change, alongside the inability to control or change this outcome.” For Swanson, nature and the disco have been the two places he always associated with freedom. His work views these time-honored spaces through the lens of loss and fear.

The MASS MoCA exhibit allows Swanson to contextualize his sculptural statement in a grand way. In the intimate chambers of Cole's living quarters, the bedazzled and distorted natural forms take on new character and meaning.

“It was a challenge to pivot from MASS MoCA, where I could do absolutely anything, to the Cole House,” said Swanson, who lives lives nearby and names Cole as a primary inspiration for his current work. “In a domestic interior, people will view the sculptures in a different way. It's a real honor because it's Thomas Cole's space. I'm working with his energy.”

Swanson—who walked to Cole's modest grave, just down the street from the historic site, to commune with the painter—says he's always connected with the darker themes of death and man's destructive power, which resonate from Cole's work more than any other of his Hudson River School contemporaries. The inexplicable notion that man can simultaneously love and destroy nature is examined in the work of both Cole and Swanson.

“I've recently seen my work described as ‘beautiful and soul crushing,’” Swanson said. “But I think you have to be able to move through these difficult things to be able to address them. We attempt to address climate change through science and policy. This is my attempt to create a place to deal with it emotionally, spiritually, artistically.”

After seeing the interplay of Swanson's sculptures with Cole's painting and quarters, head to the New Studio across the yard, which is usually used as a gallery space for notable rotating exhibitions. This year, Franklin Kelly, Chief Curator and Curator of American Paintings at the National Gallery of Art, has done an incredible amount of research and labor to revert the studio back to what it would have looked like in 1848, at the time of Cole's passing. The exhibition uses the original artifacts and paintings that would have been there at the time. Construction on the New Studio was completed just 14 months before Cole's death at the age of just 47. While he didn't have much time to settle in, the exhibit provides a temporal window into the artist's methods and perspective at that pivotal moment.

By the time you've finished meandering through Cole's garden, old studio, and gift shop, it'll be lunchtime. Stroll down the hill into the village of Catskill, where New York Restaurant has been exciting folks with Polish-American fare, Creekside has pleasant outdoor dining on the water and an approachable...
During his stint as commissioner of Central Park, Church worked and colleagues in the growing movement to create public parks. Turns out these two distant cousins, who grew up together in Hartford, Connecticut, eventually became peers with Olmsted. Hence the By this point, the young man met with Olmsted Parks to highlight the story of Church's relationship with Olmsted, and both men were key voices in the call to preserve Niagara Falls.

“We are really trying to foreground the landscape offerings at Olana this year, and Church's role in preserving natural spaces,” said Dr. Sean Sawyer, President of the Olana Partnership, adding that Church's Niagra helped the 19th century public understand why the falls had to be saved from human development. “The painting is his most iconic. It holds an incredible magnetism.”

While touring the absurdly beautiful home of Church is a must, exploring the miles of trails at Olana—by foot or by electric vehicle tour—is an equally rewarding experience. Church specifically designed the trail network to avail himself and visitors of specific sweeping vistas of the river, the Catskills, and east toward the Berkshires, as well as other more intimate views.

“At both Olana and the Thomas Cole House, we see these artist places as different from other historic sites,” Sawyer said. “They are connections between the natural world and the life we live.”

Meander the trails on your own or take the extremely popular 60-minute, one-mile guided landscape tour. Those with mobility issues (or lazy children) may want to sign up for the 30- or 60-minute electric vehicle tours, which also allow you to see as much as possible in a shorter amount of time.

After a long day on your feet, you've earned an evening on the town. The diverse selection of voguish restaurants in Hudson truly offers something for everyone. BackBar, Swoon Kitchenbar, Kitty's, W.M. Farmer and Sons, and Hudson Food Studio are just a few highlights of the city's embarrassment of gastronomic riches. For those looking to keep their creative juices flowing, Lil' Deb's Oasis is a colorful, queer celebration of visual and culinary artistry. The restaurant's glamorous tropical comfort food has been nominated for a James Beard award and is now preserved in Lil' Deb's first cookbook, Please Wait to Be Tasted.

No one will blame you, however, if you feel like avoiding the hustle and parking of Hudson. If that's the case, on the way back east, try Iron & Grass, a few minutes from Olana up Route 9. This steak house has an innovative menu that elevates protein and produce from local farms and a cult following for its holistic, thoughtful, and delicious mission. Or, hit Zinnia's Dinette, an upscale Craryville fish shack that's surprising everyone with its flowery, humble, and delicious food.

The above itinerary is but one way to appreciate a daytrip to Olana and the Thomas Cole House. For example, if you are physically inclined, you can easily make an entire day of hiking: Begin by hoofing the trails at Olana, then take the Skywalk to the Cole House and back again. (It's also easy to enjoy most of the map piecemeal.)

Because no matter what side of the river you start on—and however you decide to break up the adventure—you will behold thought-provoking art and fabled scenery and join in the vital conversations that live eternally in these monuments. And you'll get to eat really well, too.
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