

Northeastern Adventures

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









Continued from pg. 111

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

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

The Chanler at Cliff Walk

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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













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

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

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

Meanwhile, the Terrazza Restaurant

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

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

The Ocean House & Weekapaug Inn

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

For those unfamiliar with Watch Hill and Westerly, they are a wee bit shorter of a drive than to that of Newport. For those really looking for a first-class experience, Westerly Airport welcomes private aircraft and is only four miles away, where an attendant will pick you up and whisk you in one of their Mercedes' fleets vehicles right to Ocean House.

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

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

Guest rooms at the Ocean House are Continued on pg. 114