

For a taste of ‘The Gilded Age’ visit these stunning historic mansions

By [Linda Laban](#)

January 24, 2022 | 2:33pm | Updated



Live the lives Cynthia Nixon's (left) and Christine Baranski (right) play in "The Gilded Age."
Alison Cohen Rosa

“Downton Abbey” devotees have alarms primed for Julian Fellowes’ new series “The Gilded Age,” debuting on HBO today.

This time, Fellowes’ drama is set around late 19th-century New York, a time and place when the excesses of the newly minted, self-appointed upper class of industrial and financial moguls, who built massive empires during the mid-19th century industrial revolution, was on full display in lavish retreats built with no thought of expense.

Nowhere was Gilded Age excess greater than in Newport, RI, where America’s wealthiest built grand “summer cottages” along Bellevue Avenue, which is still lined with spectacular late-1800s mansions.

In fact, the HBO series includes the Breakers, Marble House, the Elms, Rosecliff, Chateau-sur-Mer and Hunter House in various scenes. But best off all, many of these glitzy getaways from the show are open to the public.

When it comes to Gilded Age roots and current day exclusivity and luxury, the Chanler at Cliff Walk (TheChanler.com) is it. Built in 1865 for New York Congressman John Winthrop Chanler and his wife Margaret Astor Ward, famous guests included poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Pres. Theodore Roosevelt.



Rooms at the Chanler go from \$615 a night.

Handout

The location on Newport's famous Cliff Walk overlooking the Atlantic Ocean isn't to be sniffed at, and the 20 unique rooms — the Renaissance Room has a sunken tub — are designed for full-on cossetting, including an aromatherapy bath service. Just call and a perfectly hot, fragrantly therapeutic bath is drawn at your pleasure. Room rates from \$615 per night.