

— The 19 Most Anticipated Luxury Hotels Opening in 2025

Why the next generation of ultra-luxury properties is prioritizing authenticity over opulence.

By [Paul Jebara](#)

SPRING (March - May 2025)

Belden House & Mews, Litchfield, Connecticut



31 North Street, Litchfield, Connecticut 06759

Litchfield's first serious luxury entry makes clever use of architectural diversity from the team behind Troutbeck in the Hudson Valley: an 1888 mansion, 1960s modernist structure and 1891 firehouse combine for 31 distinct rooms. The resulting boutique hotel brings metropolitan-grade amenities—seasonal outdoor pool, lawn club, serious spa program—to one of New England's most preserved historic towns. For weekenders from New York and Boston, this offers a sybaritic country escape that doesn't sacrifice urban comforts.



Belden House & Mews. Courtesy of Belden House & Mews

VOGUE

The 26 Most Anticipated Hotel Openings of 2025

BY ELISE TAYLOR

January 1, 2025

Belden House & Mews, Litchfield (March 2025)



Courtesy of Belden House & Mews

Opening in the heart of Litchfield town is the Belden House & Mews, a five-star and full-service hotel housed across an 1888 mansion, a 1960 modernist structure, and the historic 1891 Litchfield Firehouse. In addition to its 31 guest rooms, the country retreat will also boast a seasonal outdoor pool, lawn club, and a spa.



The Best Romantic Getaways in New England for Every Kind of Couple

BY BOUTAYNA CHOKRANE AND ELISE TAYLOR

January 1, 2025

Romance is a concept as complicated as the couples who define it. Yet one thing is certain: some of the most romantic getaways are in charming New England, from quaint Kennebunkport's annual celebration of love to Newport's romantic hotels. Craving a staycation rendezvous in Boston? Or a cozy retreat in Woodstock, Vermont? Whatever the mood calls for, New England has it, and these curated itineraries are sure to set hearts racing.

Here, find 9 destinations that make for the most romantic getaways in New England.

Litchfield County, Connecticut

In 2021, *Vogue* called Litchfield County, Connecticut “the perfect weekend getaway.” Almost four years later, it's somehow only gotten better: this September, boutique hotel The Abner opened right in Litchfield town, and come March, they will be joined by the Belden House & Mews. The highly anticipated property will span three buildings—an 1888 mansion, a 1960s modernist structure, and the old Litchfield Firehouse. For those looking for a country retreat, the bucolic Mayflower Inn in Washington is set upon 58 acres and includes walking trails and a world-class spa.

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The Best Places to Go in the US in 2025

For evolving food scenes, remarkable wildlife viewing, and small towns with a whole lot of soul.

BY SHANNON MCMAHON AND ARATI MENON

December 16, 2024

Litchfield County, Connecticut

Go for: a design renaissance that's powering a boutique hotel boom

The [Harvard Five](#) may have placed New Canaan, Connecticut, on the design map, but Litchfield, in the state's bucolic northeastern corner, has its own modernist legacy. Drive through the postcard-perfect New England county and you'll see, amid its Federal and Colonial homes, a smattering of midcentury modern gems that bear the mark of famed architect Marcel Breuer. He isn't the only one; there are also homes and buildings by Richard Neutra and John Johansen, and in nearby Roxbury lived sculptor Alexander Calder. Decades later, Litchfield County is now in the gentle(r) throes of a renaissance underscored by a slew of new design-led stays. In Litchfield town the old courthouse on the Green (that's brimming with shops and cafés) has been refashioned into contemporary-art-filled boutique hotel [The Abner](#). Earlier this summer the rustic-modern [Lost Fox Inn](#) opened in a 1740s tavern from the folks behind Mt. Temper's Foxfire Mountain House, and come March, Hudson Valley favorite [Troutbeck](#) will unveil sibling property [Belden House & Mews](#) in a Colonial Revival estate reimaged by local-owned Champalimaud Design. These fresh stays join nearby stalwarts like [Mayflower Inn](#), with its beloved spa and sun-drenched Garden Room, and Relais & Châteaux's [Winvian Farm](#).

And while you could make a weekend of wandering through Litchfield town—pop into [Milton Market](#), a chic home goods and gifts store (think vintage transferware and block-printed linens)—you'll do well to venture out. In nearby Bantam, tucked into a factory warehouse packed with artist studios, is [Dumais Made](#), a ceramics and lighting studio founded by Charles Dumais (spot his lamps at the Abner hotel) with his husband Kevin—Charles also doubles as local guide extraordinaire. Grab an ice cream from nearby [Arethusa Creamery](#) or coffee and



salted chocolate chip cookie from **Krafted Brew Lab**. Then venture to New Preston, where temptations lie by way of **Eleish Van Breems**, a new design store with midcentury treasures like Bruno Mathsson loungers; **Plain Goods**' curated mix of homeware, clothing, and art; and **Pergola**, a home and garden store with eye-watering Japanese ceramics. Get lunch at retro-styled diner **Smithy Cafe**, then drive to Falls Village, where **Marché**, a new shop featuring antiques sourced from **France** as well as local craft, is a big draw. As evening falls, head to the newly opened **Pink House**, where the chef (formerly of The Finch in Brooklyn) spins out elegantly plated dishes alongside spiffy cocktails. Or **Community Table**, where the ingredients are locally sourced, the vibe is spirited, and the chances of running into cool, artistic (even famous) locals are high. Litchfield has always had those. — *Arati Menon*



A Historic Estate Is Transformed Into Belden House & Mews

Champalimaud Design ushers the Connecticut property into its next chapter with a timeless renovation

Words by: Stephanie Chen



Renderings courtesy of Belden House & Mews

[Belden House & Mews](#) is gearing up to open in Litchfield, Connecticut this March.

[Champalimaud Design](#) reimagined the historic property, which spans a revived 1888 mansion, a 1960 modernist structure, and the 1891 Litchfield Firehouse. It now houses 31 guestrooms and suites, a dining room and bar, a restorative bathhouse, as well as a seasonal outdoor pool and lawn club.



A refresh by Champalimaud Design



The Living Room

Guests are welcomed through an expansive front porch and central reception area grounded by a striking fireplace.

On the first level, the Living Room features original, curved bay windows and a seating area that flows into the hotel's restaurant, the Dining Room, which is defined by warm lighting and rich textures.

The Library, lined with historic Litchfield ephemera and selected tomes, doubles as a private dining space. Meanwhile, the Belden House & Mews' verdant jewel-box bar offers coffee and tea by day and craft spirits and inspired cocktails by night.

Guestrooms at Belden House & Mews

Guestrooms in Belden House feature unique floor plans that echo the home's historic framework and preserved details. Ten guestrooms boast views to Litchfield's architectural treasures and offer a mix of fireplaces, balconies, and soaking tubs.





A renovated guestroom

The remaining 21 guestrooms and suites are located at the Mews, the modernist three-wing structure set apart from Belden House. The accommodations are spacious and serene, and rendered in a palette of saturated yellows, reds, and blues.

Also situated within the Mews is the Bathhouse, the property's wellness escape that comprises fitness equipment and a wet area circuit: a dry sauna, salt scrub, steam room, and a 225-gallon Japanese Ofuro tub for hydrotherapies and cold plunges.

The Firehouse, a designated National Historic Landmark structure, is slated to debut as an event and meeting space later this year.

"Fire and history erased its once numerous predecessors," explains Anthony Champalimaud, owner of Belden House & Mews. "For too long Litchfield has been without its guest house, one which reflects the curiosity, temperament, refinement, eccentricities, ambitions and values of this exceptional place. We aspire to welcome our guests into a residence restored—a home, as it once was—principled in our approach to hospitality, lacking pretense and prescription.

"It is a natural sister to Troutbeck, sharing in its values and aspirations to be both the destination in and of itself, but moreover, to enable and encourage the rediscovery and enjoyment of inspiring surroundings," he adds.





Wet room at the Bathhouse



Dining Room





Penthouse suite



A green-toned bar



FATHOM



2025 Hot Hotel Preview, Part 1

The haul from the USA, Caribbean, Latin America, and Canada.

PAVIA + JERALYN

The United States

Belden House and Mews

Litchfield, Connecticut

Litchfield County is one of those IYKYK destinations — historic, fancy, cultural, discreet. If new hotels are any indication of a destination's growing popularity, the cat is out of the bag, as interesting hoteliers plant their flags. Auberge Resorts led the way years ago when it acquired [Mayflower Inn](#); Salt Hotels [opened The Abner last fall](#). This spring brings Belden, a three-acre compound in the center of town from the team behind Fathom Favorite [Troutbeck](#) in the Hudson Valley. Once again, Champalimaud designed ten rooms and the restaurant located in the 1888 Victorian Belden house, as well as the 21 rooms in the 1959 Modernist Mews building, which is also home to the Bathhouse spa and wellness center. *(March)*



The 76 Most-Anticipated Hotel Openings of 2025

WORDS BY: ALIA AKKAM, STEPHANIE CHEN, KATIE KERVIN, AND ALISSA PONCHIONE

2025 U.S. hotel openings

- **Belden House & Mews**, Litchfield, Connecticut



Belden House & Mews, Litchfield, Connecticut

From the owners of Hudson Valley, New York hotel Troutbeck and New York firm Champalimaud Design comes the first full-service hotel to arrive in picturesque Litchfield in over a century. Slated to open in March, the three-acre Belden House & Mews estate unites the restored 1888 Belden mansion, the separate modernist three-wing Mews, and the historic 1891 Litchfield Firehouse, expected to arrive mid-year. The 31 guestrooms lean into period details, offering features like fireplaces, private balconies, and soaking tubs.

Architecture Firm: PBDW Architects, New York | **Design Firm:** Champalimaud Design, New York | **Owner + Operator:** Dutchfield



Couples and besties: These 12 brand-new hotels, resorts are calling you to visit in 2025

Beth Luberecki FamilyVacationist.com

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7. Belden House & Mews

Litchfield, Connecticut

Opening March 2025



Just imagine curling up with a good book here. *Belden House & Mews*

A 19th-century mansion and midcentury-modern property will come together to create a unique stay at [Belden House & Mews](#). The New England hotel will offer 31 guest rooms, some with a historic bent and others with modern flair, along with butler and valet service for guests. Head to The Dining Room for seasonal local cuisine or the jewel box-like Bar at Belden for coffee and tea in the morning and cocktails and mocktails in the evening. The Bathhouse wellness facility will feature treatment rooms; fitness equipment and classes; steam, sauna, and hydrotherapy areas; and a seasonal heated 50-foot outdoor pool. When it's cold outside, there will be no better spot than the property's cozy library.

Litchfield County named one of 'Best Places to Go in the U.S. in 2025' by Condé Nast Traveler

By **Abby Weiss**, Staff writer

Dec 17, 2024



Litchfield County made the publication's list of ["The Best Places to Go in the U.S. in 2025,"](#) which was posted Dec. 16. Condé Nast's [Shannon McMahon](#), the senior editor of destinations and [Arati Menon](#), the global digital director, listed 11 destinations in the United States for their nature explorations, food scenes, cultural immersions, small towns and other features.

The authors suggested travelers check out Litchfield County for "a design renaissance that's powering a boutique hotel boom." Menon highlighted the area's "modernist legacy."

This year, the [old granite courthouse on the Town Green in Litchfield](#) was [refashioned](#) into a boutique hotel, [The Abner](#), but the town preserved much of existing Romanesque Revival-style structure. Another Litchfield boutique hotel, [The Lost Fox Inn](#), [opened in a 1740s tavern](#) this summer. The [Belden House & Mews hotel](#) is set to open a colonial revival mansion and estate in the village center in March 2025, Menon wrote.



LITCHFIELD WELCOMES FIRST FULL-SERVICE HOTEL IN 100 YEARS

Posted by Nichapa Ratchanathamchai | Dec 16, 2024 | Hotel Openings | 0 🗨️ | ★★★★★



Opening March 2025, Belden House & Mews is a stylish, design-forward full-service hotel at the heart of Litchfield, Ct. — the first of its kind in over a century; a remarkable three-acre assemblage just steps from the Litchfield Green, reviving Litchfield's much deserved, and often closely guarded destination status. Situated atop the Litchfield Hills, amongst the finest examples of early American architecture and with a remarkable collection of modernist works by Marcel Breuer and Eliot Noyes, Belden embodies the varied and understated richness of this vibrant and sometimes overlooked epicenter of American history, modernism, education, art and natural recreation.



Belden House is conceived by the team which owns and operates Troutbeck, the widely acclaimed Hudson Valley estate hotel in Amenia, NY. In collaboration with Champalimaud Design, PBDW Architects, Reed+Hilderbrand landscape architects and Dumais Made lighting, Belden reinvestigates the 1888 Dr. Charles Belden mansion, “The Mews” — a c. 1960 modernist addition to the estate — and binds them together with the historic c.1891 Litchfield Firehouse. The property offers butler and valet service across 31 gorgeously appointed guest rooms and suites, a locally driven dining room, bar, along with a restorative bathhouse, treatments and fitness, in addition to a seasonal outdoor pool and lawn club.

“Fire and history erased its once numerous predecessors. For too long Litchfield has been without its guest house, one which reflects the curiosity, temperament, refinement, eccentricities, ambitions and values of this exceptional place. We aspire to welcome our guests into a residence restored — a home, as it once was — principled in our approach to hospitality, lacking pretense and prescription. It is a natural sister to Troutbeck, sharing in its values and aspirations to be both the destination in and of itself, but moreover, to enable and encourage the rediscovery and enjoyment of inspiring surroundings.” — Anthony Champalimaud, Owner



Overnight and dining guests arrive to **Belden House** on North Street, stepping across the expansive front porch into a central reception, beckoned-in by an enormous fireplace, from which to the left is the Living Room — with its original and curved bay windows, window seats, fireplace, and soft seating. Restored to its original arrangement, the Living Room flows into the Dining Room where again banquets, warm lighting, a fireplace and elegantly lit tables set the tone — comfortably chic for which to dress up or, dress down. The sequence culminates in the verdant jewel-box of the bar, into



which streams natural light, offering coffees and teas in the morning, turning to regional craft spirits, classically inspired cocktails, mocktails, beer and wine. With a seasonally driven culinary program overseen by Connecticut native, Chef Tyler Heckman (New York City's El Quijote, Ferris, Le Turtle) Belden House will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner daily and by reservation only. The cozy, textured Library, lined with books and Litchfield historic ephemera, may double as a private dining room for up to 12 guests.

Of the total 31 guestrooms on offer, 10 are located within the original 1888 Belden home. Averaging 400 square feet, each unique floorplan echoes the home's historic framework and carefully preserved details. All guestrooms enjoy views to Litchfield's architectural treasures — or, as a result of its position at higher elevation — across the treetops to surrounding and uninterrupted landscape. Thoroughly to standard, all guestrooms are subtly modernized. At the surface, all enjoy expansive bathrooms stocked with Wildsmith products, radiant heated floors, fiber internet, desk, comfortable seating and exceptional linens. Available amongst them are suites and guestrooms with fireplaces, balconies and soaking tubs, one of which is fully accessible.

The three-bedroom Penthouse (all ensuite, sleeping 6) offers an experience unique to Belden — an area totaling 2,100 square feet. Accessible via a single key to the third floor, the Penthouse offers a bountiful private living room, dining room, and roof-top terrace, with comfortable seating on which to catch the sun, breeze and unobstructed views of the Litchfield Hills to the horizon. The kitchenette is serviced discreetly and directly from Chef's kitchen via a dumbwaiter. Here, as with all guestrooms at Belden, butler service is available 16 hours per day.

The Mews, the modernist three-wing structure set apart from the Belden home, contains 21 guestrooms and suites averaging 430 sq ft. Seven Mews rooms are accessible via their private, lushly planted terrace gardens. All of them equally spacious and serene, their palette relates to those in Belden House, punctuated with saturated tones — splashes of yellow, red, and blues — and furnished in the modernist vein. Two guest rooms, in addition, have private balconies with westward views over the pool, gardens and Litchfield Hills beyond. The Mews also houses a fully ADA accessible room.

Bathhouse is Belden's wellness offering located within the Mews. Fitness equipment, floor exercise and Pilates are either self-guided or accompanied by private instruction. The wet area at the heart of the Bathhouse can be enjoyed as a circuit: first a dry sauna, a salt scrub and drenching overhead shower, a steam room, followed by a 225-gallon Japanese *Ofuro* tub for hydrotherapies and cold plunges. One of the two available treatment rooms connects directly to the baths.

Featuring Wildsmith Skin, the cruelty-free, high-performance skincare line from United Kingdom, guests may elect to experience a specific facet of the Bathhouse "à la carte" or as a "prix fixe" circuit, building on the propulsive energy of moving between treatments, temperature, and media. Skilled practitioners offer massage, acupuncture, astrology and more. A seasonal outdoor 50-foot pool will



serve as an oasis during the warmer months. Bathhouse services and amenities are available exclusively to Belden guests.

Opening mid-2025, the **Firehouse** overlooks the Litchfield Green on West Street, and offers the ideal backdrop for family gatherings, social events, retreats and meetings. As a “third space” for informal social gathering, a place to work or a quick bite, the Firehouse offers membership and exclusive access to Belden’s incomparable experiences. Constructed in 1891 and designated a National Historic Landmark, Firehouse is connected to Belden by footpath or via its elegant driveway off North Street.

Belden House & Mews is poised to become a perennial, in-town refuge, located a short two-hour drive from Manhattan and walkable to downtown shops, restaurants and cultural resources of the vibrant New England town. Surrounded by thousands of protected wilderness acres and accessible to year-round recreation, it also affords visitors a homebase to explore nearby White Memorial — a 4,000-acre nature preserve that encircles Litchfield, Bantam Lake, Connecticut’s largest natural lake, and Lake Waramaug. Bicycles and electric vehicle charging stations are offered complimentary to guests in residence.

Belden is proud to partner with BMW to provide guests the opportunity to experience the ultimate driving machine. Chauffeur services are available.



Condé Nast Traveler



DESTINATIONS

In Connecticut's Litchfield, Bucolic Charm and Modernist Architecture Beckon

Modernist design, pastoral charm, and new boutique stays—this New England town has it all.

BY ARATI MENON

February 5, 2025

It's hard to imagine a more archetypical New England town than Litchfield, CT. Tucked into the northwestern edge of [Connecticut](#), it's the kind of small town that would inspire a George Durrie landscape or a comfort-television drama, with a village green that's brimming with cafes and shops and streets lined with stately Colonial homes and institutional landmarks (America's first law school, for instance). But tucked behind its pastoral charm and old-world graces, too, are signs of a more modern underpinning: dozens of striking [mid-century modern](#) buildings, designed by some of the era's most prominent architects, including Bauhaus architect Marcel Breuer.





Through the 1960s and '70s, modernist pioneer Marcel Breuer designed homes for some of Litchfield's most affluent folks; Gagarin II, completed in 1974, was the last home he ever built. Courtesy Marcel Breuer Home

Set on a quiet street just south of the Litchfield Green, amid old-growth oak and maple, Gagarin II almost hides in plain sight. The house is owned by Kyra and Robertson Hartnett, who own a wallpaper design company called [Twenty2](#). When they relocated from New York in 2007, the couple knew little of Litchfield's modernist history, let alone imagined they'd eventually own Breuer's very last home, completed in 1974. "For 10 years we would pass it when we dropped our kids off at school," Kyra says. "When we eventually visited the house and saw the incredible expanse of glass and soaring ceilings and butterfly roof, we were dumbfounded." From the back of the house, through an incredible expanse of wild grass, apple trees, and woodland beyond, you see glimpses of another Breuer home: Gagarin I, which is 20 years older, and much larger. "That's where the wild parties happened," says Kyra.

Breuer's early commissions, like Gagarin I, were catalysts for more Modernist design to follow: Architects including Eliot Noyes, Richard Neutra, and John Johansen worked their magic on homes, schools, and libraries. "What makes Litchfield's Modernist history different from other towns that saw similar periods of artistic engagement was that it was a whole zeitgeist: avant-garde folks who created a climate of boundary-pushing," says Kyra. Iconoclastic art flourished as well, under the patronage of the town's affluent. Artist **Richard Calder** lived in nearby Roxbury where he created pivotal work—and also threw legendary ragers.

These days, Litchfield isn't where you'd head for all-night artist blowouts, but there is something of a return to—or perhaps a continuation of—the creative energy that abounded during that period.

Charles Dumais, co-founder of ceramic lighting, furniture and accessories studio **Dumais Made**, has long been influenced by the principles of Modernism. Last Fall, he launched a collection called Modern Bohemia inspired by the area's rich design history. The Dumais studio is squirreled away in an old switch factory in the neighboring borough of Bantam (Litchfield is in fact not just one town but also a link-chain of charming villages). Filled with natural sunlight, high ceilings, and views of the Bantam River, the studio shares the premises with sculptors, perfumers, and tile makers. "The Bantam Factory is a huge part of who we are. It's just us, in a beautiful historic space, in a beautiful historic town, doing honest creative work," says Dumais, who moved to Litchfield in 2020 with husband and co-founder Kevin—one of many New Yorkers who sought out its quiet during the pandemic years.

While Litchfield has always attracted its share of affluent city dwellers, many of them distinguished tastemakers—designers Diane Von Furstenberg and the late Bill Blass, for instance; journalist Anderson Cooper also owns a home here—the pandemic brought in a fresh influx of younger people, like the Dumais, some of whom became full-time residents. No one clocked this more than local Martha Fish, who runs Litchfield's **Milton Market**, a chic home goods store and hosts local maker workshops—with potters, master gilders, and woodworkers—to support and engage the community. "Litchfield has always been imbued with artistic energy, but there is a new contingency of people who birthed themselves in New York and came here to rebirth themselves and find new ways of creative expression—but also actively contribute to our communities," she says.





A guest room at The Abner hotel, tastefully refashioned from the town's old courthouse. Abner Hotel



The Courtroom in the Abner Hotel offers a seasonal, modern-tavern-style menu. Abner Hotel

Where there are new residents, there are also new visitors—and a fresh swell of hotels in the area are rising to meet the demand, most notably in landmark buildings adapted for reuse: **The Abner**, which opened last September, is a 20-room hotel refashioned from the town's old courthouse with a rooftop bar (fittingly called The Verdict) and a standalone restaurant serving modern tavern fare. "Litchfield County stood out as an untapped market—a fresh alternative to the typical **Upstate escapes** offering breathtaking natural beauty and a vibrant, creative community," say Kevin O'Shea and David Bowd, who are behind Provincetown-based Salt Hotels. The building's old bones are on display from the moment you enter the lobby with its double-height ceilings, sweeping staircase, and original millwork. Original elements have been creatively repurposed, like jury boxes turned into banquettes and the judge's bench repurposed as a reception desk.

About a 15-minute drive away is the **Lost Fox Inn**, which opened last summer and comprises a main inn of 10 guest rooms, a restaurant housed in a 1745 building that has long been a fixture of the community, and a former schoolhouse-turned-private cottage. Lost Fox comes from the owners of **Foxfire Mountain House**, in Upstate New York's Mount Temper, and is filled with a moody romanticism that's part-New England cottage, part-French country home—but doesn't skimp on modern luxuries.

Come spring, another Upstate mainstay will introduce a sibling property in Litchfield: **Belden House & Mews**, from the owners of the Hudson Valley estate hotel **Troutbeck**, is getting the finishing touches that will transform a 1888 colonial revival Queen Anne Victorian mansion, completely reimaged by **Champalimaud Design**. Hotelier Anthony Champalimaud, who has spent time in Litchfield County since he was a child—his mother, celebrated architect Alexandra Champalimaud, is a resident—has in the last ten years made it his full-time home. “The thing that's so beguiling about Litchfield is that there's a cosmopolitan sensibility to this bucolic environment... a wonderful tension of revering history and loving reinvention and creativity.”



Lost Fox Inn's restaurant is situated in a circa-1745 building that's long been a community fixture. *Maison Hesper/Lost Fox Inn*



The dining experience at the property features locally-sourced ingredients like fresh seafood and seasonal produce. *Arden Wray/Lost Fox Inn*

It's exactly that juxtaposition that visitors flock to Litchfield for. A weekend here could include everything from hiking through coniferous woodlands to shopping for artisanal wares and swimming in pristine lakes.

"The thing about Litchfield is that its natural landscape is just incredibly beautiful, and yet it's not so rural that you can't step out for a delicious cup of coffee," says Kyra Hartnett. "So it kind of has become a place where you can get it all."

Where to stay

The courtroom drama may be a thing of the past, but the courthouse's antiquity is well-preserved at [The Abner](#) as a contemporary, art-filled boutique hotel. Fans of Mount Temper's Foxfire Mountain House will love the part-bohemian, part-luxe Lost Fox Mountain Inn (the restaurant is a big draw locally, too; highlights on the winter menu include fire-roasted mussels, whole rainbow trout, and sticky toffee pudding); and come March, Hudson Valley favorite [Troutbeck](#) will unveil sibling property [Belden House & Mews](#) in a Colonial Revival estate. These fresh stays join nearby stalwarts like the [Mayflower Inn & Spa](#), [Auberge Resorts Collection](#)—the ultimate bucolic New England getaway with its beloved spa and sun-drenched Garden Room restaurant (whatever you do, don't skip the caesar salad) and Relais & Châteaux's [Winvian Farm](#) that sits pretty on a 113-acre estate.



The rooms at the stately Mayflower Inn & Spa feature canopied beds, bright textiles, and botanical prints. Courtesy Auberge Resorts Collection

Where to shop

While you could make a weekend of wandering through Litchfield town—pop into [Milton Market](#) to browse the best of local designers like wooden utensil carver [Troy Brook Studio](#) and sculptor and gilder [Carol Leskanic](#), and browse through [Jeffrey Tillou](#)'s inventory of 18th- and 19th century furniture and fine arts—you'll do well to venture further out into the county. Don't miss [Dumais Made](#), a ceramics and lighting studio in nearby Bantam; spot his bespoke lighting collection for Belden House when it opens. In New Preston, temptations lie by way of [Eleish Van Breems](#), a new design store with mid-century treasures like Bruno Matthson loungers; [Plain Goods](#)' curated mix of homeware, clothing, and art; and [Pergola](#), a home and garden store with eyewatering Japanese ceramics. Further out in Falls Village, [Marché](#) features antiques sourced from France and local craft, is a big draw.

Things to do in Litchfield, CT

No visit to Lichfield is complete without a visit to [The White Memorial Conservation Center](#), and in particular, the Little Pond Boardwalk, an elevated walkway that allows visitors to experience the wetland environment—delightful, per Dumais, in every season. Fit in a jaunt to [Topsmead State Forest](#) where you can tramp about the extensive grounds surrounding the former summer residence of Edith Morton Chase. Check for tours of her Tudor Revival home and the English-style garden filled with holly, lilac and juniper.

If you lean more modern, check out the [Oliver Wolcott Library](#)'s newer wing, designed by Eliot Noyes, a member of the Harvard Five or The Litchfield High School designed by Marcel Breuer; the Intermediate School next door was designed by John Johansen. A hidden gem in these parts is the [Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy](#) with over 90 species of water birds—including elegant swans and screaming geese but also migratory special guests like the spectacled Eider—housed in a pristine landscape. (Remember to give the birds their space: some have vivid personalities.) Finally, the [Litchfield Jazz Festival](#) is celebrating its 30th anniversary in July 2025 on the bucolic campus of the Franklin Gunn School in Washington—and its artist roster is worth planning around.





Numerous trails and unpaved high-grass meadow lanes are available for walking at Topsmead State Forest, which consists of more than 600 acres of land in eastern Litchfield. *Barry Winiker/Getty*

Where to eat

You'll be spoiled for choice for good food in these parts. On the Litchfield Green, there's **Marketplace Tavern** with an outdoor terrace from where you can watch the summer concerts that the town hosts on the Green featuring local bands. In the town of Bantam, grab an ice-cream or milkshake from **Arethusa Creamery** attached to a small dairy plant in the historic Bantam firehouse; (the owners also run **Arethusa al tavolo**, a complete dairy-to-table experience which showcases products from the dairy)—or coffee and salted chocolate chip cookies from **Krafted Brew Lab**, a haven for coffee purists. In warmer months, don't miss **West Shore Seafood Market** for lobster rolls on picnic tables (and "Amagansett vibes" per Dumais.) Over in New Preston, take a breather from the shopping on **Smithy Cafe's** sun-washed seats, an excellent grilled cheese in hand. As evening falls, head to the newly opened **Pink House** where the chef (formerly of The Finch in Brooklyn) is raising the roof on craft cocktails. Or **Community Table**, where the ingredients are locally sourced, the vibe is spirited, and the chances of running into cool, artistic (even famous) locals are high. Litchfield has always had those.

60 Cold Weather Vacations to Embrace the Winter Chill This Season

These breathtaking destinations offer chills and thrills galore.

BY SEAN SANTIAGO PUBLISHED: JAN 10, 2025



Courtesy Of The Connecticut Office Of Tourism

3

LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Litchfield's many wonderful shops, restaurants, and cultural attractions make it a picture-perfect getaway that won't break the bank. A slew of new hotels—like Belden House, opening in March with interiors by Champalimaud Design, and the new Abner Hotel, which includes 20 thoughtfully-appointed rooms in the town's historic courthouse—provide a great base for planning the next leg of your Connecticut adventure. With four fantastic ski areas, cross country trails, and scenic lakes to take in, you'll be hard-pressed to find a more wondrous winter escape.