

TOP NEW RESTAURANTS



BELDEN HOUSE AND MEWS

NEW AMERICAN

31 North St., Litchfield
860-337-2099

beldenhouse.com/dine/restaurant
@beldenhouse on Instagram

National recognition from *The New York Times*, *Vogue* and recently, a Michelin Key for being an outstanding hotel, is rolling in for this gem, located on an adjacent street across from Litchfield's Town Green. But what they're doing in the dining room under executive chef Tyler Heckman (formerly of New York City's El Quijote, Lobby Bar at The Hotel Chelsea, Le Turtle and Toro) should be experienced.

Enter the this restored late-1800s colonial revival mansion, walk back to the restaurant and pops of green, plush throws, and pillows await you at each table, or if you're lucky, score one of four or so seats at their "Jewel Box" bar, next to a vintage cheetah lamp, and encounter a stunning, small menu focusing on seasonal, local ingredients and New England coastal seafood. Start with a fruity spin on an old fashioned or negroni while you snack on homemade focaccia with koji fermented salty cultured butter. Move onto a crudo, a creative locally sourced salad, and end with something meaty like Heckman's signature, crispy skin, mid rare, pleasantly funky dry aged duck breast. If you're going for lunch, they're proud of their Belden Burger—a juicy beast topped with nutty Comté, horseradish and tangy Spanish piparra peppers. - ANDREW DOMINICK



The complete list of Experts' Picks for the best restaurants in the state for 2026.

MOST ROMANTIC

Olea

New Haven

The Essex

Old Saybrook

Materia Ristorante

Bantam

Arethusa al Tavolo

Bantam

Belden House

Litchfield

Millwright's Restaurant

Simsbury

Union League Cafe

New Haven

La Plage

Mystic

NEW AMERICAN

The Spread

Norwalk

Match

Norwalk

The Cottage Westport

Westport

The Cottage Greenwich

Greenwich

Belden House

Litchfield

Lost Fox Inn

Litchfield

Community Table Restaurant

New Preston

29 Markle Ct

Bridgeport

Cafe Melba

Milford

OVERALL EXCELLENCE

Lost Fox Inn

Litchfield

Materia Ristorante

Bantam

Belden House

Litchfield