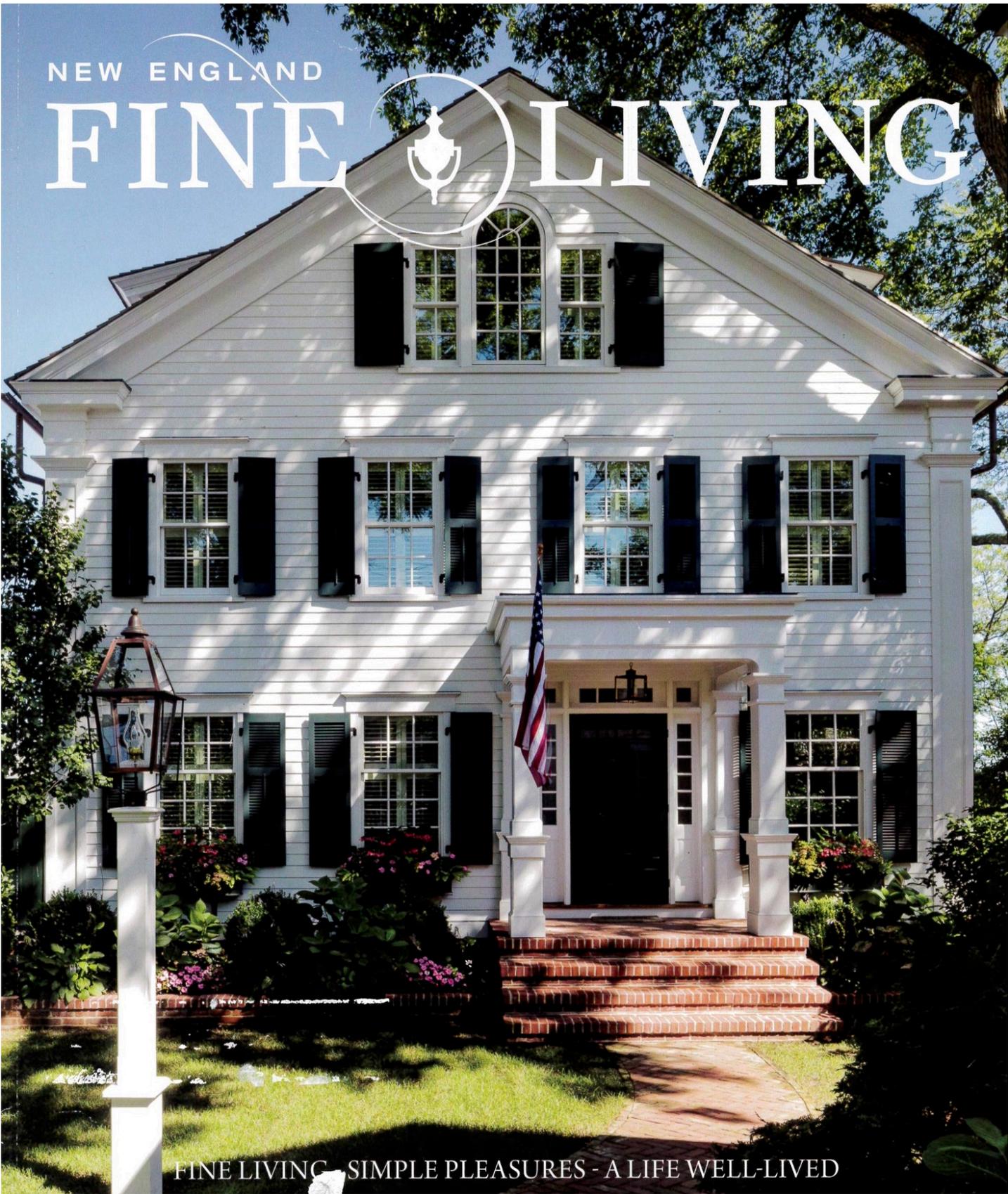


NEW ENGLAND

# FINE LIVING



FINE LIVING - SIMPLE PLEASURES - A LIFE WELL-LIVED

# *An Introduction to* **THE ART OF LIVING** *& Living Well*

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*W*hat began in 1954 as an idea to showcase eight properties that offered elegantly appointed guest rooms and dining, has evolved over the decades into a family of over 520 unique Relais & Chateaux properties.

Properties that belong to the Relais & Chateaux family are a group of independent owners and chefs who have proven themselves by offering an outstanding experience to their guests. When one stays at a Relais & Chateaux property, or dines at one of their restaurants, they can be sure the visit will be memorable since their goal is to enhance a local cultural experience for their guests. The ultimate goal of the Relais & Chateaux innkeeper or chef is to introduce their guests to the “Art of Living” and to share their passion for living well.

I have had the pleasure of staying and dining at several Relais & Chateaux properties in New England, as well as Montpelier Plantation on the island of Nevis in the West Indies. Each property offered a unique experience that exuded the ambiance of their natural and historic surroundings. Chefs prepare many of their meals with locally sourced products, and inn keepers include items crafted at local businesses such as glassware, linens, chocolates, and candles.





## TWIN FARMS

BARNARD, VERMONT

Nestled in the mountains of Vermont, Twin Farms was so named when Nobel Prize-winning novelist Sinclair Lewis and his wife Dorothy Thompson, bought two adjoining farms to create one large property. Once known for its legendary parties hosted by the Sinclairs in the thirties and forties, it is now Vermont's only five-star, all-inclusive resort.

### **Treehouse:**

Inside the main farm house, I noted the perfect blend of traditional country décor along with touches of artistic whimsy. Cocktails of our choice were served from a quaint bar in the living room, and we were given an overview of the property before settling into "Treehouse", our private little haven in the woods.

Placed on the crest of a hill, where trees from the valley behind create the cottage's background, its name became evident once we looked out our back windows. It literally felt as if we were within the treetops.

The interior décor, which I describe as "rustic elegance" made me smile as soon as I passed through the small foyer. Birch logs and twigs adorned the vaulted ceiling, elegant green and white toile draperies and valances flanked each side of the oversized windows, and the king size bed, dressed in fine linens, took center stage with its tall spiral bedposts. Opposite the bed, a seating area was waiting for us to sit and enjoy a glass of wine in front of the large wood-burning fireplace. Off the side of the house is a screened-in porch, where we chose to enjoy a gourmet lunch the next day surrounded by the sounds and sights of the peaceful forest. Delivered by basket, our lunch was set out for us complete with china and glassware and was a far cry from the picnics I enjoyed in my childhood treehouse.

