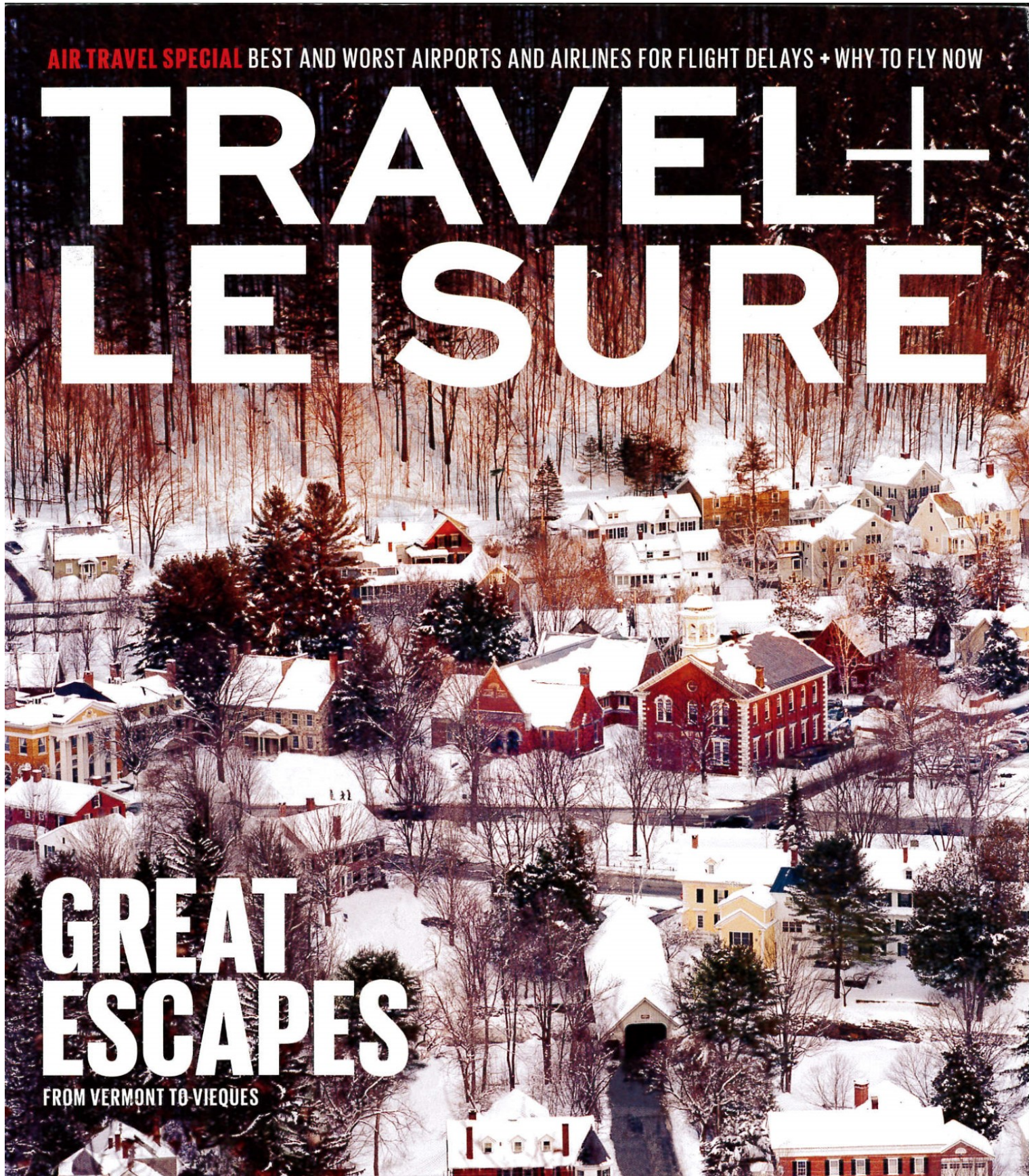


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# TRAVEL+ LEISURE

## GREAT ESCAPES

FROM VERMONT TO VIEQUES







## VERMONT, INSIDE OUT

In the village of Woodstock, cold is not so much a hardship as it is an excuse for good food, warm fires, and restorative (read: bracing) jaunts in the snow. Meg Lukens Noonan bundles up.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANDREW ROWAT

## GUIDE TO WOODSTOCK

### STAY

**Blue Horse Inn**  
Woodstock;  
thebluehorseinn.com. \$\$

**506 On The River Inn**  
Woodstock; ontheriver  
woodstock.com. \$\$

**Twin Farms** Barnard;  
twinfarms.com. \$\$\$\$

**Woodstock Inn & Resort** Woodstock;  
woodstockinn.com. \$\$

**Woodstocker Inn**  
Woodstock;  
woodstockervt.com. \$\$

### EAT

**Cloudland Farm**  
1101 Cloudland Rd.,  
North Pomfret;  
cloudlandfarm.com. \$\$\$

**Mon Vert Café**  
67 Central St., Woodstock;  
monvertcafe.com. \$

**Simon Pearce**  
1760 Quechee Main St.,  
Quechee; simonpearce.  
com. \$\$\$

**Worthy Kitchen**  
442 E. Woodstock Rd.,  
Woodstock;  
worthyvermont.com. \$\$

### DO

**Suicide Six** Contact the  
Woodstock Inn & Resort.  
woodstockinn.com.

### SHOP

**Anichini**  
6931 Woodstock Rd.,  
Quechee; anichini.com.

**Collective** 47 Central St.,  
Woodstock; collective-  
theartofcraft.com.

**Elevation Clothing**  
15 Central St., Woodstock;  
elevationclothingvt.com.

**F.H. Gillingham & Sons**  
16 Elm St., Woodstock;  
gillinghams.com.



Open the Google  
app and say  
"Ok Google, show  
me ski resorts near  
Woodstock, Vermont."

Resort, expanded the country club and Nordic ski center (now with 18½ miles of trails), donated the Billings mansion and farm to the National Park Service, and even funded the burying of power lines in order to preserve the downtown's 19th-century look.

But Woodstock is not frozen in time. In the past five years, there have been a series of openings and upgrades, most with a decidedly contemporary twist. The Woodstock Inn & Resort, after renovating all 142 rooms, unveiled a \$10 million spa with 10 treatment rooms and a vaulted-ceiling Great Room filled with natural light. Just off the village green, the Blue Horse Inn opened in an 1831 brick Federal Greek Revival house with 10 guest rooms done in serene neutrals. Room No. 7, though, is a showstopping departure, with chic black-and-white toile wallpaper and crimson lamps.

Woodstock's newest property, the 506 On The River Inn, debuted in February. Owner Aaren Macksoud grew up in town (his father runs a maple syrup operation on a nearby farm) and married into a hotelier family that also operates properties in Zanzibar, Nairobi, and Berlin. Throughout the 28-room, two-story hotel, spare cream and white interiors are warmed with vintage leather chesterfield sofas and quirky antiques: guests check in at an old drafting table and sip drinks at a massive bar that was salvaged from a monastery.

Some new construction was unplanned. Two iconic covered bridges near Woodstock, one in Taftsville and one in Quechee, were heavily damaged during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Both have since reopened. Also in Quechee, renowned glassmaker and restaurateur Simon Pearce had to rebuild his basement glassblowing studio after it was flooded in the storm. (One upside: the new space has a larger area for visitors to watch the glassmakers at work.) Pearce's consistently excellent restaurant showcases both local producers, including vodka from Quechee's own Vermont Spirits, and the family's Celtic roots. The coarse Ballymaloe brown bread the kitchen serves is Simon's mother's recipe.

Worthy Kitchen, a gastropub that gained an instant following when it opened in 2013 in Woodstock's east end, focuses on craft beers, many Vermont-brewed, and comfort food with a conscience: *steak frites* done with grass-fed beef; maple-bacon chicken wings from free-range birds. If you want to go hyperlocal, head to Cloudland Farm, a working farm four miles up a dirt road that serves BYOB dinners twice a week using its own pasture-raised beef, pork, and chicken in a beamed dining hall built from pine harvested from the property.

**T**he cold wind finally drove me back down Mount Tom. In town, I warmed up with a maple latte and a cranberry scone at the snug Mon Vert Café, then browsed a few shops: the 128-year-old F.H. Gillingham & Sons general store, selling everything from guitars to goat's-milk soap; Elevation, which carries Vermont-made Ibex merino-wool outdoor clothing; and Collective, an artisan-owned craft gallery where Rachel Kahn's intricate hand-knit hats caught my eye.

Then, I was off to Twin Farms, 10 miles to the north. At the all-inclusive hideaway on the hilly former estate of writer Sinclair Lewis, guests play hard by day (skating, sledding, snowshoeing, downhill and cross-country skiing—all equipment provided), then recover in luxurious "cottages," where no request made to the crack staff is too small. My home for the night was the Studio, a contemporary-art-themed stone cottage filled with museum-worthy pieces by Stella, Hockney, Lichtenstein, and others. I had an hour or so of daylight left, so I bundled up again and took off on the cross-country ski trails that loop around the wooded 300-acre property, past other cottages and the private five-trail Alpine ski hill.

Dinner in the main house was a parade of artfully composed dishes: potato confit and boar canapés; mushroom soup with truffle foam; short ribs with golden beets, salsify, and sweet-potato purée—each paired with wines from the 26,000-bottle cellar.

After dinner, I walked back to my cottage under a three-quarter moon. The snow squeaked beneath my boots. Once inside, I noticed that the living room fireplace had been neatly prepped with kindling and logs. I lit the fire with a single match. Then I flopped down on the sofa, full, tired, happy—spunk thoroughly renewed. +

Meg Lukens Noonan lives in New Hampshire and is the author of *The Coat Route: Craft, Luxury, & Obsession on the Trail of a \$50,000 Coat* (Spiegel & Grau).





Inside the Treehouse  
cottage at Twin Farms.