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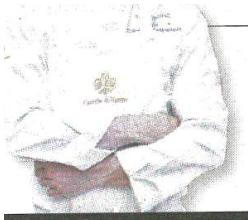

Travel

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST FALL GETAWAYS

LIFT YOUR SPIRITS

Make the most of autumn weekends with these accessible escapes

By ERIN LINDHOLM

U-PICK orchards, fall foliage in all its glory, cranberry bogs and, yes, plenty of pumpkin spice, too. If back-to-school season has you itching to get out of town, look no further than these regional retreats.

Hudson Valley

Only a couple of hours north of New York City, the Hudson Valley's abundant seasonal offerings make for easy day trips or can be combined for a fun-filled weekend escape. Hunter Mountain's Oktoberfest (Sept. 22 to Oct. 14) is one of the region's best and on select weekends showcases locally made ciders and wines, too. Another option: Pair an afternoon of apple-picking at Soon Orchards in New Hampton with a cider tasting at the on-site Orchard Hill Cider Mill, which on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons hosts a pop-up event with live music and light bites in a new event space and bar.

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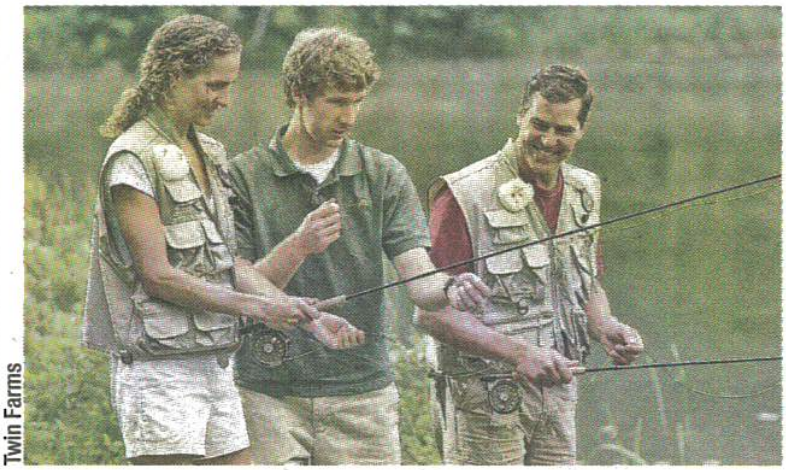
◀ Montclair, NJ

Earlier this year, makeup artist Bobbi Brown (left) and husband Steven Plofker opened the George Inn in a renovated 1902 landmark building in Montclair, NJ, a suburb and college town that feels just far enough removed from the city to be a good break (from $279; *TheGeorgeMontclair.com*). In addition to a chic design ethos with a British flair, all 32 rooms come with a list of "Bobbi & Steven's Faves" — local breakfast joints, coffee shops, parks, fitness studios, restaurants, salons, boutiques, even recs for dog- walkers and groomers. A relative newcomer to Montclair, eatery Laurel & Sage makes for a great date night — as does pairing a show at the Wellmont Theater with a pre- or post-show tipple at Pharmacie Liquor Bar. For an impromptu getaway, what more could you ask for, really?



Twin Farms

▲ Barnard, Vt.

Set on 300 acres in the heart of Vermont, not far from the ski resorts of the Green Mountains, there is perhaps no destination better for all of your foliage fantasies than Twin Farms (from $1,800 with a three-night minimum; *TwinFarms.com*). The all-inclusive (and ultra-luxurious) resort can arrange endless activities, from cycling and fly-fishing to outdoor painting classes and private picnics surrounded by trees aflame. The culinary team leads classes showcasing estate-grown and foraged ingredients and other locally sourced goods. The results are as scrumptious as the views.

Greenport, NY

Celebrate the North Fork's abundant fruits of the vine. Lieb Cellars hosts its annual harvest party on Sept. 23, as well as live music most weekends, and autumnal Leaf Pile Ale will soon start pouring at the Greenport Harbor Brewery. Meanwhile, sweet potato and pumpkin return to the menu at Sang Lee Farms, while locally grown figs, foraged mushrooms and Peconic Bay scallops are just a few of the gems at the North Fork Table & Inn. Set on the Greenport waterfront, the Sound View hotel (from $195; *SoundViewGreenport.com*) is ideally situated for Long Island exploration.

Nantucket, Mass.

As summer vacationers and seasonal residents conclude their exoduses, Nantucket's population drops from 80,000 to roughly 10,000, which is reason enough to consider booking a getaway to one of New England's most charming islands. After all, JetBlue offers direct flights (from $277 round-trip) through October. The island's annual Cranberry Festival returns Oct. 6; the locally grown berries are a celebrated seasonal treat, as is only-available-in-fall pumpkin spice ice cream at the Juice Bar. All five properties of Nantucket Island Resorts (from $175; *NantucketIslandResorts.com*) remain open through October and include family- and pet-friendly accommodations, as well as a marina for those arriving by boat.