

UP FRONT | VINTAGE HOTELS

Historic Hospitality

Landmark inns and resorts offer nostalgic elegance

By Jen Rose Smith

TREAT YOURSELF TO OLD-FASHIONED comfort on your next visit to New England, where hotels that combine modern luxury and vintage charm offer travelers a chance to step back in time.

RHODE ISLAND

Spring House Hotel

Drinks on the lawn of the Spring House Hotel are a Block Island tradition, and pristine rows of Adirondack chairs tempt passing cyclists and walkers to join the fun. Book one of the main building's 33 guest rooms — each offering sea or island views — to find out why notable figures such as Ulysses S. Grant and Billy Joel have made pilgrimages to this 1852 stunner. If you can tear yourself away, stroll to the island's North Lighthouse for a seaside picnic.

► springhouseblockisland.com



SPRING HOUSE HOTEL

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MASSACHUSETTS

Red Lion Inn

Antique furnishings meet ultrasoft linens in this 1773 Berkshires guesthouse. Its downtown Stockbridge location is ideal for afternoons spent exploring village cafés and country stores. Browse the galleries of the Norman Rockwell Museum: Later in life, the artist called Stockbridge home and included the Red Lion in a 1967 painting.

► redlioninn.com



RED LION INN

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Omni Mount**Washington Resort**

This 1902 grand dame in Bretton Woods has White Mountain views, a storied history and even a royal ghost — lucky guests might glimpse Princess Caroline during afternoon tea in the Princess Room. The Mount Washington Cog Railway runs from a nearby station to the summit of New England's tallest peak.

► omnihotels.com/hotels/bretton-woods-mount-washington



OMNI MOUNT WASHINGTON RESORT

MAINE

Claremont Hotel

Brush up on your croquet skills on the elegant lawns of a coastal beauty that's been a summer getaway since 1884. From cocktails in the boathouse to sailing outings, a stay at the Claremont is pure nostalgia on the "quiet side" of Mount Desert Island, and updated guest rooms feature carefully chosen antique furnishings.

► thclaremonthotel.com



MAINE OFFICE OF TOURISM

CONNECTICUT

Griswold Inn

Fresh salt breezes at the Griswold Inn recall Essex's seafaring history, and this laid-back escape has welcomed sailors and other travelers since 1776. The nearby Connecticut River Museum celebrates the region's shipbuilding and related industries, while the vintage Essex Steam Train and Becky Thatcher riverboat combine to take passengers on a 2.5-hour tour of the Connecticut River Valley. New England-made beds by Leonard's Antiques are right at home in the individually decorated guest rooms.

► griswoldinn.com



CARYN B. DAVIS



THE EQUINOX

VERMONT

The Equinox

Flanked by hiking trails and forests, the Equinox brings updated style to a history-making property in the rolling mountains of Manchester Village. Order a craft brew at the resort's 1769 Marsh Tavern, where Revolutionary-era leaders once formulated battle plans. The atmosphere has relaxed considerably since then: Come here to book a range of treatments at the on-site spa or reel bass out of ponds on the expansive grounds.

► equinoxresort.com