

Pursuits

Food & Drinks

The Eight Top Upstate New York Hotels to Escape to This Summer

Skip the Hamptons and head north of the city, where properties are awash in boutique bath products and farm-chic hospitality.

Upstate New York hotels didn't used to be places travelers went in search of a luxury farm-chic experience.

Then a few years ago, pioneers like vintage-feeling hotel the Maker arrived in Hudson, followed by Wildflower Farms, Auberge Resorts Collection's first New York property, in Gardiner. They offered visitors a place for stylish stays at rates often exceeding \$1,000 per night—proof that New Yorkers weren't just looking for a relaxed Hamptons alternative. These travelers wanted stylish stays with boutique bath products and serious food and beverage options, and they were willing to pay for it.

Now that trend is gathering steam but with the addition of more affordable options. New properties with notable design and culinary programs are flooding upstate. A prime example is the Henson in a former boarding house in Hensonville in a remote corner of the Catskills. Owners Ely and Danielle Franko, who operate the fashionable upstate Hunter Houses Airbnb rental properties, have partnered with Manhattan chefs Jeremiah Stone and Fabián von Hauske Valtierra (Contra, Wildair) to create upscale lodgings with a destination restaurant, Matilda. Former Brooklyn chef-restaurateur Jake Eberle had a similar idea when he took over an old North Branch inn, relaunching it with a restaurant rooted in European-accented American cooking.

New quality lodgings extend as far north as Saratoga Springs, about 40 minutes drive from Albany, where a room at the polished new Brookmere hotel runs at just over \$200 a night.

Still more properties are arriving by summer. In June, the Six Bells Countryside Inn—from the Wing founder Audrey Gelman—will open in Rosendale, offering an immersive country experience that's an extension of the Six Bells Brooklyn homeware shop. The inn will double as a showroom, with products like quilts, ruffled pillows and various ceramics for sale.

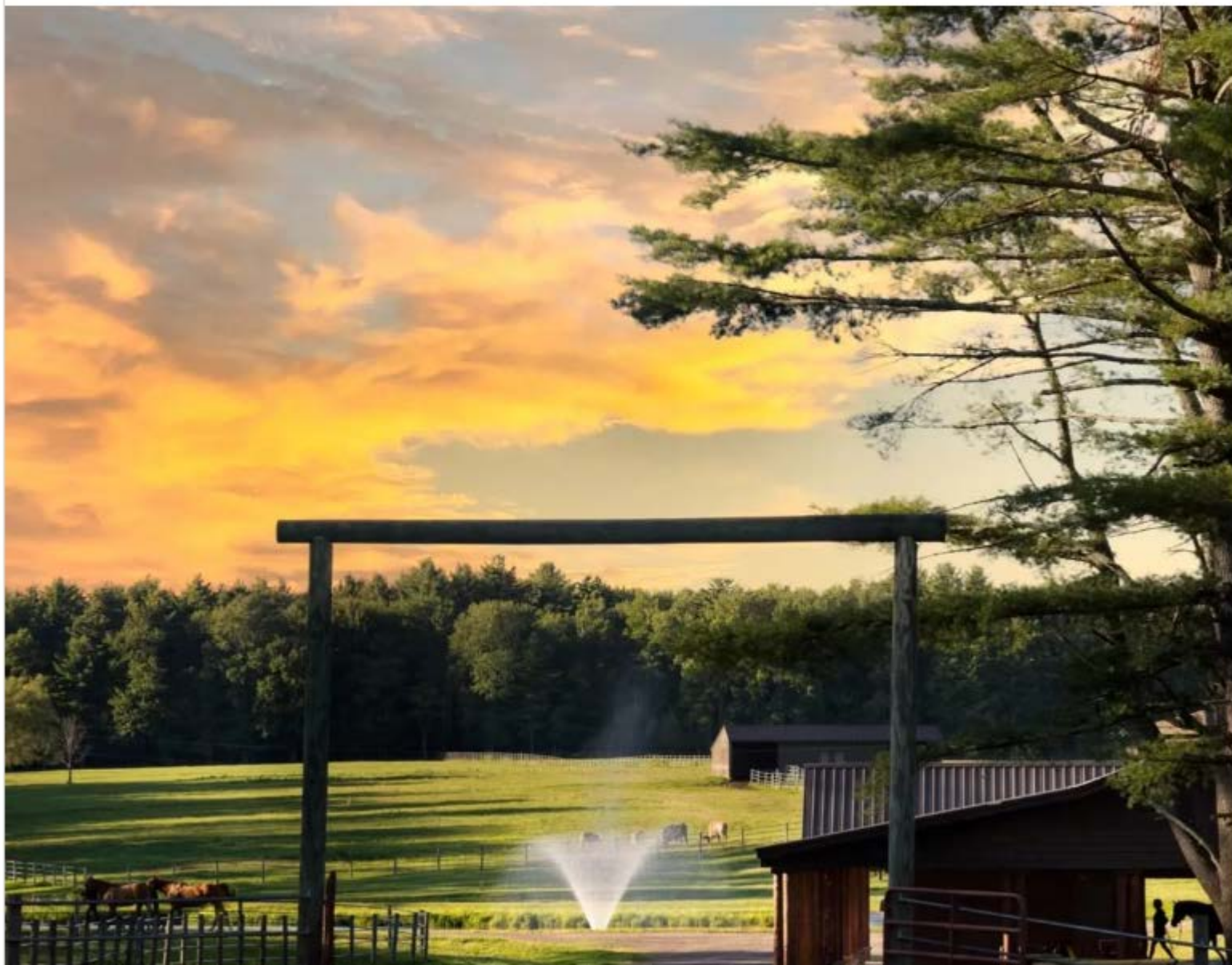
Whether you do or don't need a footed fruit bowl, here are eight new and forthcoming boutique properties that tap into the area's rural romance from design to dish.

Coming Soon



driftwoodranchny
White Lake, NY

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Driftwood Ranch Resort, White Lake

Opening in April, this exclusive four-suite log cabin retreat on 200 acres in the Sullivan Catskills is the property of Steve Dubrovsky, an architect, designer and three-time Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association circuit champion. His working horse and cattle ranch will offer guests immersive experiences like feeding longhorn cattle and trail-riding under the guidance of seasoned cowboys and cowgirls. The Montana-style cabins, built with hand-hewn beams and stone, feature custom wood beds and unique design elements: The Museum Suite has life-size animal photos from a Rochester Museum of Science & Nature exhibit. Breakfast and lunch are served in a communal gathering space called the Bunk House, with meals from local chef Craig Duffy. For dinner, guests are encouraged to

visit nearby Chatwal Lodge's Rustic Grill, known for seasonal American plates, including a dry-aged pork chop with figs, and barrel-aged Negronis. *Suites start at \$1,000 and include breakfast and lunch*



northbranchinn
The North Branch Inn

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The North Branch Inn, North Branch

Before he became an innkeeper, Eberle was the chef-owner of the popular Greenpoint bistro Le Fond. Now he and his wife, Caroline, operate the North Branch Inn in the western Catskills. Set on 7 acres, the mint-green property is composed of three buildings, the oldest dating to 1868. Rooms have a modern farmhouse feel, some with claw foot tubs, and all are adorned with local vintage finds.

In the main house, the 40-seat restaurant and bar has rustic dishes that are made from local products and change daily. Guests can choose a four-course, \$58 menu or order dishes à la carte, such as lion's mane mushroom salad with sunchoke chips or the chicken served three ways: roasted breast, tomato-chile sauce braised leg and smoked chicken sausage. Pair alongside a western European or New York state wine. Pro tip: Ask for the nightly off-menu specials, which include an excellent steak frites. *Rooms start at \$185 and include breakfast*