

# NEW ENGLAND TRAVEL

▶ THE BEST OF NEW ENGLAND

THE TOP PLACES TO EAT, SHOP, STAY & PLAY

2011



FROM THE  
EDITORS OF

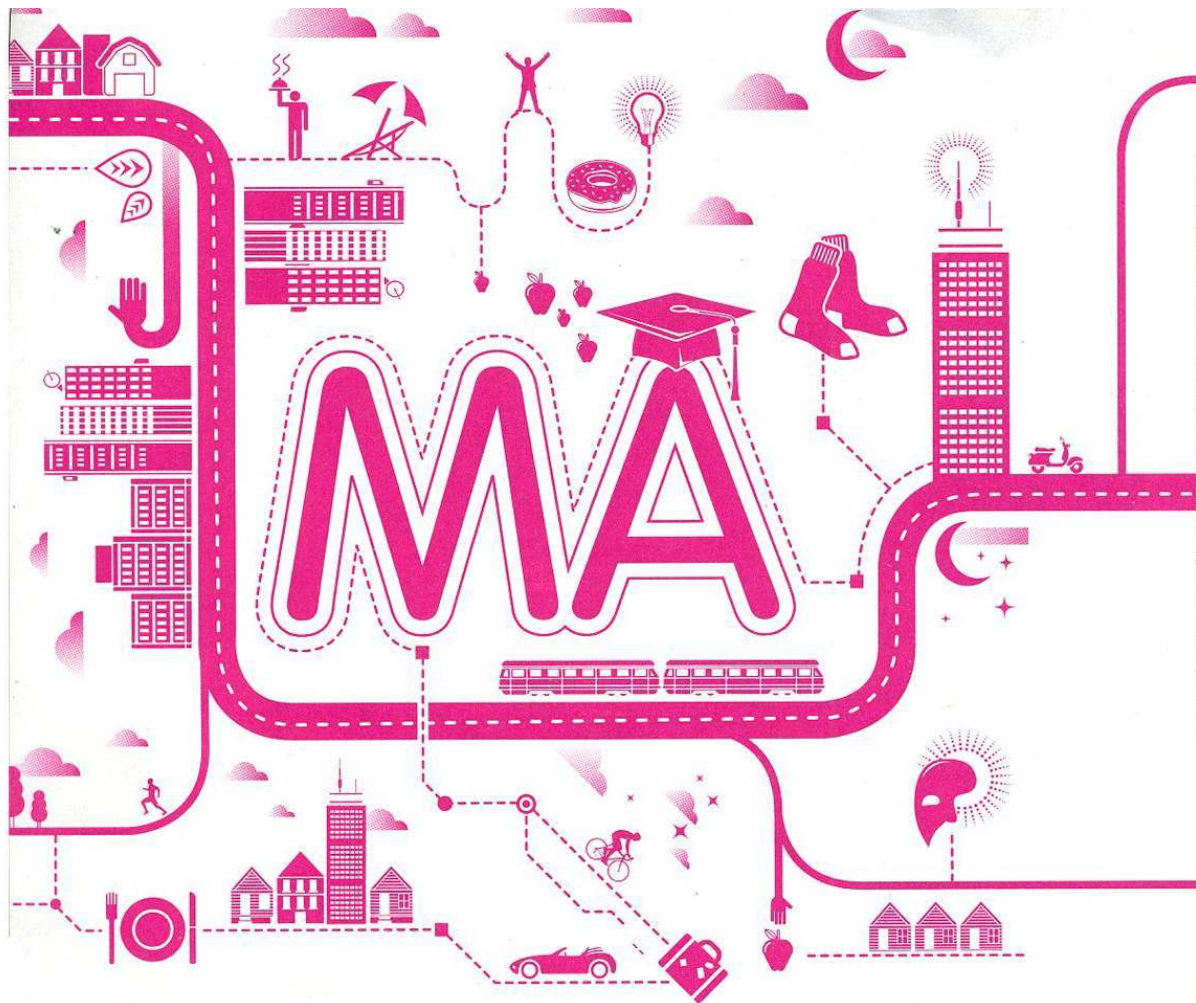
**Boston**

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\$5.99 u.s. [newenglandtravel.com](http://newenglandtravel.com)







## INN [MODERN]

### THE PORCHES INN AT MASS MoCA

► This northern Berkshires spot was converted from row houses formerly occupied by mill workers. The hipster sensibility is unmistakable, though some of the original down-home charms are retained by breakfast service that arrives in lunch pails and souvenir auto-touring plates on the walls. There are also plenty of modern comforts, including down duvets and a swanky lobby bar. Outside, guests enjoy a year-round heated pool, a bonfire pit, and a forest gazebo complete with wireless Internet. And the mill next door? It's now the celebrated Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. // 231 RIVER ST., NORTH ADAMS, 413-664-0400, PORCHES.COM. ☎ ☎ ☎

## LODGING

### B & B [CITY]

#### THE CHARLES STREET INN

► Walk through a narrow door into one of the cavernous rooms at this nine-room Victorian-themed inn, light a fire, and you'd swear you were staying at a country retreat, not a B & B in the heart of downtown Boston. But despite rich period furnishings and the general air of quietude, all the excitement of Charles Street and Boston Common is just steps from the front door. // 94 CHARLES ST., BOSTON, 877-772-8900, CHARLESSTREETINN.COM. ☎ ☎ ☎



### HOTEL [GENERAL EXCELLENCE]

## FOUR SEASONS

► After all these years, Boston's premier hotel property manages to exude classic New England style while still keeping up with the times. The unflappable service and prime location overlooking the Public Garden inspire fierce loyalty to this local institution, which completed a total makeover in 2008. Flat-screen TVs and marble-topped dressers have replaced timeworn furniture and outdated décor, making for a style that's anything but fusty.

// 200 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, 617-338-4400, FOURSEASONS.COM/BOSTON. ☎ ☎ ☎

## RESORT [SPA]

### CHATHAM BARS INN

► If Fitzgerald had created Jay Gatsby today, he might have installed his protagonist at the Chatham Bars Inn. The 1914 hotel's foyer alone, with its polished floors and columns, is irreproachably classy. Still a place where old New England summers, the property encompasses 25 acres, four restaurants, a spa, and more than 210 guest rooms and cottages (a handful of which sit on bluffs overlooking the Atlantic). // 297 SHORE RD., CHATHAM, 508-945-0096, CHATHAMBARSINN.COM. ☎ ☎ ☎



## BEST OF NEW ENGLAND

## LODGING

RESORT  
[FAMILY]

## OCEAN EDGE RESORT AND GOLF CLUB

►► This place proves summer after summer that “family vacation” isn’t an oxymoron. The mid-Cape institution has hit upon a formula that every (supposedly) family-friendly resort should copy: three-bedroom suites to maximize personal space; kitchens, so you can avoid public mealtime meltdowns; and in-suite washer-dryers. Ocean Edge also hosts beachside campfires, barbecues, and ice cream socials, plus one different day camp for kids each week. You may even find time to hit the resort’s Nicklaus Design golf course or get a facial in the spa before the tots notice you’re gone. // 2907 MAIN ST., BREWSTER, 508-896-9000, OCEANEDGE.COM. ☎☎☎

RESORT  
[ROMANTIC]

## BLANTYRE

►► Take a sprawling English-style country house, fill it with dark wood and period antiques, and plop it down in the middle of a secluded area in the bucolic Berkshire Hills, and you have a place that could inspire even the

most jaded lovers to recitations of poetry. But it’s the flawless service here that really puts this hotel over the top. Whether you want 24-hour in-room dining, a “hydrolifting” facial at the Potting Shed Spa, or a rare vintage from Blantyre’s peerless wine cellar, staffers deliver it with élan. // 16 BLANTYRE RD., LENOX, 413-637-3556, BLANTYRE.COM. ☎☎☎

RESORT  
[SEASIDE]

## THE WAUWINET

►► As if the mesmerizing elegance of this Relais & Châteaux property—with its top-notch restaurant (and wine list with 1,400 selections), luxury spa, two private beaches, and “no-children-under-12” policy—weren’t enough, the Wauwinet is also situated in one of the most glorious spots on Nantucket: nine miles from civilization on the island’s north-eastern tip. The folks here have thought of every detail to make your stay as romantic as possible, down to the 400-thread-count Pratesi linens, the hot buttered popcorn and DVDs delivered to your door, and the couples’ massages. You may never leave the resort, let alone your room. 120 WAUWINET RD., NANTUCKET, 508-228-0145, WAUWINET.COM. ☎☎☎

## DINING

## LUNCH

## HOT DOG ANNIE’S

►► It’s hard to place the exact ingredients that make up the house signature sauce—an addictive barbecue-onion mixture that has led generations to this off-the-beaten-track hot dog stand with its siren call. What is clear is that it tastes damn good on a hot dog, especially on the small and skinny, slightly crunchy ones grilled up without ceremony at this shack behind Worcester’s airport. Order three dogs for less than five bucks, and ask for some extra sauce to take home. // 244 PAXTON ST., LEICESTER, 508-892-9059. ☎

DRINKS  
[AT SUNSET]

## THE CHART ROOM

►► Sure, it’s a scene out of a Vineyard Vines catalog, but the views of the setting sun from the Chart Room’s lawn mercifully eclipse all the beautiful people in their Nantucket reds

(and make it worth the wait for a gin and tonic). Grab an Adirondack chair and while away the afternoon watching boats motor into the marina. You’ll be glad you got there early. // ONE SHIPYARD LN., CATAUMET, 508-563-5350, CHARTROOMCATAUMET.COM. ☎☎

SEAFOOD  
[CASUAL]

## THE BACK EDDY

►► There’s simply no better place to take in a sunset than the deck of the Eddy—preferably with a PBR or a ‘gansett in hand, and a bowl of smoky clam chowder or the signature stuffed clams on the table. And when the blues are running in Nantucket Sound, you can forget about ordering anything else. Everything is freshly sourced and cooked with minimum pretension, making the meals here the stuff of vacation memories. ONE BRIDGE RD., WESTPORT, 508-636-6500, THEBACKEDDY.COM. ☎☎

## WINE LIST

## AMERICAN SEASONS

►► Unless you’ve spent some time really exploring Napa, you’re not likely to recognize many of the 500-plus bottles on American Seasons’ wine list. Which suits us just fine. Sommelier Orla Murphy-LaScola does the homework for us: She spends the off-season traveling out West, meeting with small-production winemakers—Dumol, Pax, Araujo, Owen Roe—and developing rare partnerships that allow her to secure wines not often served on the East Coast. Her finds are sublime—as is the fare that accompanies them. // 80 CENTER ST., NANTUCKET, 508-228-7111, AMERICANSEASONS.COM.

## SHOPPING

## HOME ACCESSORIES

## LEKKER UNIQUE HOME FURNISHINGS

►► Owner and founder Natalie Carpenter sought to create a store that harnessed the artistic energy of the South End; her foresight and discerning eye for Scandinavian design quickly catapulted the shop to success. Thanks to wares such as textured Pols Potten glasses and fired-clay Chris Stiles figurines, Lekker is still the city leader in outstanding contemporary décor. // 1317 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON, 617-542-6464, LEKKERHOME.COM.