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PERFECT PRODUCTS
FOR KITCHEN AND BATH





RIVER DANCE

This time of year the area around the waterside town of Hudson, New York, is hopping with weekenders in search of antiques, autumn leaves, and a stylish stay

In the early 1980s Hudson, New York, with its boarded-up storefronts and shadowy side streets, was nowhere you wanted to be after dark. Fast-forward 30 years and the town, two hours north of Manhattan and now gentrified in the best sense of the word, is all but unrecognizable, a mecca for antiques hunters, contemporary-design aficionados, culture vultures, and gourmands who like their greens just-picked and tasting of *terroir*. While the picturesque corridor between Hudson and Rhinebeck, 25 miles to the south, is a year-round destination, the area is never more alluring than in autumn, when the foliage is most glorious, the apple-picking peaks, the locals start donning their tweeds, and the evening air turns crisp and pungent with wood smoke.

If you're driving up from New York City for the weekend, consider making the restaurant **Market St.** in Rhinebeck your first stop. Designer Sheila Bridges, who has a hobby farm with goats and chickens outside



Clockwise from top: Fall foliage enlivens the landscape near Hudson, New York. Clermont, an 18th-century mansion in Germantown. The bar at Fish & Game, Hudson's newest dining attraction, headed by chef Zakary Pelaccio. Furnishings at Regan & Smith in Hudson.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: PETER AARON/OTTO; PETER ESTERSON; PHILIP & CORRETT; COURTESY OF REGAN & SMITH



Clockwise from top left: The Frank Gehry-designed Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson. Eclectic offerings at the recently opened Hudson boutique Harvey's Counter. The Nantucket Room at the Hudson Merchant House B&B.

Hudson, loves the shoulder-to-shoulder bar scene at this “simple, tasteful Italian restaurant,” as she describes it, with Eames chairs, a communal dining counter, and a wood-burning oven. Her mainstay is the Caprina pizza with goat cheese, pear, and fig-rosemary spread. Leave time before or after to pop a few doors over to the showroom of **Sawkille Co.**, which sells elegant handmade furniture in styles ranging from traditional Shaker to sleek contemporary.

A bit farther north, in Germantown, Bridges always visits **Otto's Market** to pick up lemon ice cream, made using owner Otto Leuschel's mother's recipe, and some of the house-baked scones. It's also the designer's go-to spot to grab picnic provisions for strolls along the 19th-century **Poets' Walk**, a bucolic path through meadows and woods in Annandale-on-Hudson that is now part of a public park. Across the street from Otto's and also owned by Leuschel, **Germantown Variety** is a retro-style country store selling American-made housewares, gardening supplies, and more.

The prime shopping hub is Hudson itself, especially along Warren Street, which hums with visitors on weekends (many places are closed midweek) but retains all the charm of a classic main street. Standbys include **Rural Residence**, purveyors of fine linens and bath accessories, **Sutter Antiques**, specialists in Biedermeier, Empire, and Art Deco furniture, and the shop of midcentury-design maven **Mark**

McDonald. A favorite of decorator Stephen Shadley's is **Vincent Mulford**. “Vince's was one of the first shops in Hudson,” says Shadley, who owns a home in the area. “I never tire of meandering through the beautiful tableaux he creates.”

Hudson also boasts stylish newcomers such as **Fern Handcrafted Furniture**, which uses only sustainable hardwoods, and **Harvey's Counter**, praised by Bridges for its “lovely Imm Living ceramics and decorative hardware.” She also recommends the recently opened **Finch**, for an eclectic mix that includes “perfectly patinated garden ornaments and vintage embroidered pillows,” and **Ecosystem**, a hip boutique offering “casually elegant clothing and gorgeous Adina Mills jewelry.” If it's exceptional jewelry you're after, **Ornamentum Gallery** showcases stunning avant-garde pieces by artists from around the world.

Colin Stair, founder of the auction house **Stair Galleries**, which opened in Hudson in 2001 (and will hold a sale of Asian art

and 20th-century paintings in December), is a fan of **Naga North**, for its Japanese screens and bronzes, and **Regan & Smith**, for French antiques and decorative objects.

Architect and designer Michael Davis runs the must-see gallery **3FortySeven**, focusing on repurposed industrial salvage, midcentury furnishings, and what can only be described as far-flung exotica. “Michael is my new favorite dealer in Hudson,” says decorator Carey Maloney, who has a weekend retreat in Germantown. “I recently bought a 45-foot-long, 14-foot-high façade of a Rajastani house from him. It's made of wrought iron and carved stone and wood, and I'm installing it against the silk-velvet walls of a grand New York City living room.”

This fall will see the opening of **BackBar**, a farm-to-table bistro within 3FortySeven featuring a menu of local beers and cider, small-batch liquors, and ice cream by the popular **Hudson Gelato**, which operates carts in Hudson during the milder months. “They should be called the Gelato Kings!” →



says actress and filmmaker Rainer Judd, who has a house near town.

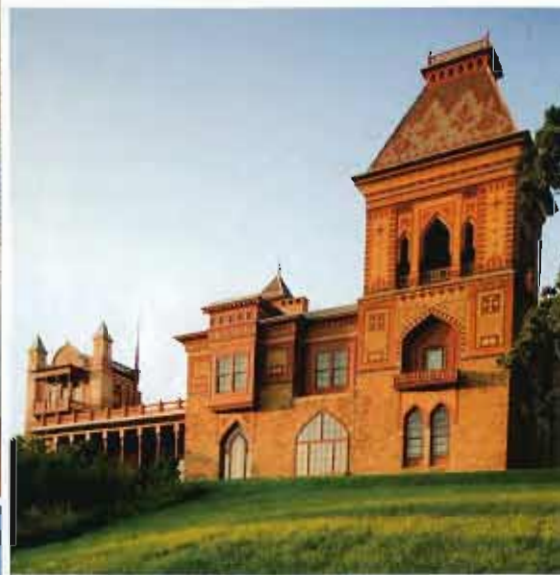
Indeed, Hudson's food scene is becoming a draw all on its own, with acclaimed restaurants like **Swoon Kitchenbar**—where chef Jeffrey Gimmel's regional, seasonal cuisine earned a James Beard nomination last year—being joined by new hot spots. The most buzzed about is chef Zakary Pelaccio's **Fish & Game**, which opened in May in a 19th-century former smithy sensitively renovated by Davis and appointed with tin ceilings, brick walls, leather chesterfields, and walnut tables. Pelaccio, late of Fatty Crab and Fatty 'Cue in New York City, has scuttled the Malaysian influences that made him a star and is cooking in a new, distinctly American idiom, one that jibes jubilantly with his nose-to-tail ethos and his focus on ingredients from within a 40-mile radius. "A client recently took me," says Stair, "and I was blown away by the impeccable service."

Throughout the area there's a multitude of cultural diversions, including, for enthusiasts of historic houses, the



graceful 18th-century estate **Clermont**, in Germantown, and **Olana**, the Persian-style manse of Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church. Be sure to visit Crown Hill on Olana's southwest edge, where trees were cleared this year to restore the Church-designed panoramic views of the home and its 250 wooded acres.

In Annandale-on-Hudson, Bard College's **Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts**, housed within a rippling structure designed by Frank Gehry, presents a robust program of music, dance, and theater. A very different setting, the **Hudson**



From top: One of the Inn at Hudson's elegant rooms. Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church's 19th-century Persian-inflected home, Olana. A pastoral stretch of Poets' Walk, a 19th-century ramble in Annandale-on-Hudson. Architect and designer Michael Davis's Hudson shop, 3FortySeven.

Opera House, New York's oldest theater, stages intimate readings, talks, and concerts. It also produces the annual Winter Walk (this year on December 7), which "brings 20,000 to Hudson for the best window-shopping north of Fifth Avenue," says executive director Gary Schiro.

When it comes to places to stay, Schiro recommends the **Barlow** in Hudson for its "European styling and relaxed city vibe." He also sends visitors to the **Hudson Merchant House**, "a sparkling B&B and the spot for sighting celebrities

like Usher and Katy Perry in their country drag," he notes. For a more traditional atmosphere, Evelyn Trebilcock, Olana's curator, suggests the **Inn at Hudson**, a handsome circa-1900 house with four large guest rooms furnished with antiques. And expected soon is **Hotel Tivoli**, artist Brice Marden's relaunch of the former Madalin Hotel in nearby Tivoli. In addition to a new Mediterranean restaurant, the property will offer 11 rooms featuring art chosen by Marden, plus, he promises, linens with "a higher thread count."

—CHRISTOPHER PETKANAS