

Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report[®]

SEPTEMBER 2014 | OUR 36TH YEAR

AndrewHarper.com

TRAVELING THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF TRULY ENCHANTING PLACES

IN THE NEWS

Manhattan Park Hyatt

LOCATED DIRECTLY OPPOSITE Carnegie Hall on 57th Street and just three blocks from the Four Seasons, its direct competitor, the new **Park Hyatt New York** opened on August 19. The 210-room property occupies the first 25 floors of a 90-story tower. Deluxe rooms are generous for Manhattan, ranging from 495 to 680 square feet, and feature stone floors, contemporary art and marble baths with walk-in rainfall showers. Amenities include an American grill, *The Back Room at One57*, and an indoor pool with underwater speakers that play music from Carnegie Hall. Personally, I enjoy the refined minimalism of the Park Hyatt aesthetic, and I am very much looking forward to a stay.

NEWYORK.PARK.HYATT.COM

CHARMING INNS, REGIONAL CUISINE AND HISTORIC SITES

Touring New York's Hudson Valley



NEW YORK MAY BE A TEEMING METROPOLIS, BUT IT IS ALSO A GATEWAY TO THE TRANQUIL Hudson Valley, with its orchards, vineyards, fine restaurants and stately homes that have afforded escape to some of the great names in American history — Rockefeller, Vanderbilt and Roosevelt among them. Nowadays, there are also several delightful hotels that offer comfort and hospitality, if not always the last word in luxury.

Stretching 315 miles north from New York Harbor to its source in the Adirondacks, the Hudson saw its role as a trade artery magnified with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. This connected the river to the Great Lakes, ensuring that New York eclipsed Philadelphia as the largest city on the Eastern Seaboard. But the economic tide ebbed, and during the 20th century, the Hudson Valley fell into decline. Fortunately, the past few years have seen a tremendous renewal spurred by relatively inexpensive real estate, a revived agricultural base

— stimulated in part by the farmers' markets of New York City — and the appeal of the river itself, now cleansed of industrial pollution.

We set off from Manhattan on a summer morning and headed to Westchester County. I had long wanted to see Kykuit, the Rockefeller estate in Sleepy Hollow, not only for its architecture and gardens but also for the art collection assembled over several generations that contains sculptures by Picasso, Henry Moore and Alexander Calder.

This Issue

Best of the Hudson Valley

New inns and hotels reflect the region's renewal

Charms of Pantelleria

Italy's secret island

Sailing in the Grenadines

From St. Vincent to PSV

Online This Month

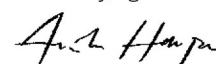
Read more about my travels in the Hudson Valley, including its historic houses; and also about the best cooking school in Sicily and villa rentals on Mustique in the Grenadines.

For personalized trip-planning assistance, call (800) 375-4685 or email reservations@andrewharper.com.

AndrewHarper.com | For comments and inquiries concerning *The Hideaway Report*, please email aharper@andrewharper.com.

Wherever Next?

AMONG THE QUESTIONS I am asked most frequently is, "Where is the next new place?" The other day, while contemplating my travel schedule for the coming winter, I found myself struggling to arrive at an answer. Twenty years ago, countries joined the world of luxury travel with convenient regularity. But when I spin the globe in my office nowadays, "new" places are conspicuous by their absence. Last year, the Republic of the Congo looked promising, thanks to a new jungle gorilla camp. But the Ebola outbreak has scuppered that trip for a while. And with 20,000-foot mountains and a fascinating Andean culture, Bolivia is a place that *ought* to have Harper-worthy properties. But none has yet appeared. So in 2015, it looks as though I shall have to content myself with countries that I have previously visited, but which have rapidly burgeoning profiles: Mozambique, for instance, with its 1,500 miles of glorious white-sand beaches. And maybe Cambodia, where there are new hotels, as well as a new Aqua riverboat on the Mekong. And I suppose I'd better head back to French Polynesia to check out the fancy new resort on Tetiaroa, the island once owned by Marlon Brando. Not too shabby, I guess.



Website Exclusives

Find additional stories, my trip videos and more photography throughout the month on our website. Look for these symbols in print and visit *The Hideaway Report* at AndrewHarper.com.

📷 = slideshow 📺 = video
🔍 = additional stories



My favorite view over the verdant acres at Old Stone Farm PHOTO BY ANDREW HARPER

From My Notebook

Singita Boulders Renewed

For the past 17 years, **Singita Boulders Lodge** in South Africa's Sabi Sand Game Reserve has been one of my favorite wildlife lodges. Its design was inspired by the weathered boulders that litter the banks of the Sand River. The interior featured an imaginative mix of natural materials — petrified trees, slabs of local stone — and contemporary African art. Now, in a major refurbishment, guest areas, including the new *Copper Bar*, have been brought closer to the river, and two of the 12 suites have been redesigned for families.

Far-flung India

Some of the most exotic areas of India have few hotels and inadequate infrastructure. Now, **The Ultimate Travelling Camp** provides luxurious tented accommodations in Ladakh, high in the Himalayas; in Awadh, a region of central northern India that includes Dudhwa National Park (home to rhino and tiger); and in Nagaland, a tribal area in the far northeast renowned for its colorful festivals and abundant birdlife. The individually designed tents come with en suite baths and dedicated butlers. Camps can be customized for private groups of friends.

Biking Through Chile's Winelands

Since 1966, **Butterfield & Robinson** has dominated the market in upscale biking trips. The company established its reputation on quiet country roads in Italy and France, but nowadays, it offers journeys around the globe. An itinerary for 2015 that caught my eye features the wine country of central Chile, and includes a stay at the spectacular new *Viña Vik* hotel and vineyard (a sister property to my recommended *Estancia Vik* and *Playa Vik* in Uruguay). I am strongly tempted to make a reservation, though I trust that the route goes through, rather than over, the Andes!

Farm-to-Table

Set amid 113 acres of meadows and woodlands, **Winvian** is an idiosyncratic retreat in Connecticut's idyllic Litchfield Hills. Aside from the 18th-century main house, the property comprises 18 extraordinary architect-designed cottages, including one that contains the fuselage of a Sikorsky Coast Guard helicopter! Innovations at the whimsical resort include a new farm, with a two-acre vegetable and berry garden, four greenhouses and an apiary, plus sheep, pigs and 60 hens. Henceforth, chef Chris Eddy's organic kitchen should be well-supplied.

TRAVEL OFFICE NEWS

Villa Vacations Around the World

MANY SUBSCRIBERS SEEM UNAWARE that the Andrew Harper Travel Office has expertise not just with hotels, but also with many of the world's finest villas. Our dedicated team vets each property we choose to represent, ensuring that only homes of the highest quality are included in our program. Over the years, we have discovered extraordinary houses in locations as varied as Fiji, France, Norway, Napa, Los Cabos, the Caribbean, Kenya and Nantucket. If you are planning a family getaway over the winter holidays, villas in top destinations such as Beaver Creek and Hawaii still have availability. Or if you're traveling with just your spouse, a one-bedroom apartment in the Cheval Phoenix House in London might be just the thing. To see our complete list of vetted villas, go to andrewharper.com and click on "Hotels & Destinations."

Contact the Travel Office at (800) 375-4685 or reservations@andrewharper.com.

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