

Rest Your Head

— Compiled by Virginia Citrano —

Many Vermont accommodations are personal visions of hospitality, born of innkeepers who came to the state for a vacation — and found a vocation instead. More than a few have carried their own passion for cooking into their inn's kitchen, or have hired top-flight chefs who share their appreciation of the state's farm bounty. Here are some to consider:

Barrows House

Here is a quintessential Vermont inn, updated with a heated outdoor pool and tennis courts. Bring your own bike to explore the countryside, or borrow one of theirs. Barrows has 25 rooms and suites spread throughout several buildings, plus three cottages. Route 30, Dorset, 800-639-1620, barrowshouse.com

Basin Harbor Club

This family-friendly resort blends boating and fishing on Lake Champlain with championship golf. Accommodations include 77 freestanding cottages and 13 rooms in the Harbor Homestead, which has been housing travelers since 1791. 4800 Basin Harbor Rd., Vergennes, 800-622-4000, basinharbor.com

Capitol Plaza Hotel & Conference Center

If business takes you to the capital of Vermont, park your bags here: You'll be just steps from the statehouse. Its 14,000 square feet of meeting space are wired for high-speed Internet access. 100 State St., Montpelier, 802-223-5252, capitolplaza.com

The Equinox Resort & Spa

Luxurious rooms, fine dining, world-class skiing and golf, and the acclaimed Avanyu Spa, are located on a 2,300-acre resort that traces its roots to a tavern opened in 1769. The Marsh Tavern is now one of three elegant restaurants at the 183-room property. 3567 Main St., Route 7A, Manchester Village, 866-346-7625, equinox.rockresorts.com

The Governor's Inn

Co-owner Cathy Kubec runs hands-on cooking seminars in this 1890 inn, which was, as the name indicates, once the residence of Vermont's head of government. The theme for the spring classes is cooking for entertaining. Eight rooms, with plenty of Victorian detail throughout. 86 Main St., Ludlow, 800-468-3766, thegovernorsinn.com

The Inn at Sawmill Farm

Here, it's not a bad thing to get taken out to the Wood Shed, one of two private cottages on the property. Orvis-certified fly fishing and canoeing on the Battenkill River are among the recreational highlights. 7 Crosstown Rd., West Dover, 802-464-8131, theinnatsawmillfarm.com



The Equinox Resort & Spa

COURTESY OF THE EQUINOX RESORT & SPA

Marriott Courtyard Burlington Harbor

Opening in February, the city's first new hotel in 30 years is a marvel of eco-friendly design and engineering. The lake-front property uses nontoxic cleaning products, and its ventilation system draws in fresh Vermont air and circulates it to all rooms. Every guest room has a high-definition television. 25 Cherry St., Burlington, 802-864-4700, marriott.com/property/propertypage/BTVDT

Rabbit Hill Inn

A picture-postcard Vermont setting shares attention with the chef, who's a veteran of the popular Portland, Maine, restaurant scene. The rooms are romantic and the on-premises pub doubles as a game room with an extensive collection of Stave puzzles. 48 Lower Waterford Rd., Lower Waterford, 800-762-8669, rabbithillinn.com

Topnotch Resort and Spa

Though located in Vermont's northern tier, Topnotch is a four-season destination. Suites, guest rooms, and individually owned resort homes with an acclaimed tennis program and spa. There is also an equestrian center, with guided English and Western trail rides. 4000 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 800-451-8686, topnotchresort.com

Trapp Family Lodge

The family immortalized in *The Sound of Music* has operated an inn at this location since 1950. The current 93-room resort was opened in 1983, and remains a top destination for cross-country skiers. 700 Trapp Hill Rd., Stowe, 800-826-7000, trappfamily.com

Twin Farms

Stunningly elegant rooms and cottages sit on a 300-acre estate with its own spa, Out of the Woods. It's not for the faint of wallet: Room rates, which include all meals, start at \$1,050 per night and increase to \$2,700. 425 Royalton Tpke., Barnard, 800-894-6327, twinfarms.com