



SEE YOU THERE

November **2021**

Happy Thanksgiving! The festivities are about to begin and before you know it 2021 will be behind us. Make sure your last few weeks of the year are great ones.

Last month I featured the 'fall colors' in my newsletter and decided to go experience it for myself. **Part 2 continued from October's edition**



We arrived at a 250 acre Hudson Valley estate hotel, home for centuries to naturalists, poets and romantics.

Troutbeck is something special and is the perfect balance of rustic, deep history with luxury sprinkled in.

The gateway to the upstate cultural and creative corridor, Troutbeck, re-envisioned and carefully updated, is again what it was to so many before us: inspiration, respite, restoration, folly, community, nature and nurture – carrying forward its 250-year legacy of hospitality. Atop a promontory, bounded by the Webatuck river and Dunham creek, under the shade of ancient sycamores planted in 1835, sits the Manor House, the social and historic heart of this place.



The Manor House, Century House, and Garden House together can accommodate up to 86 guests across 36 individually designed guestrooms and suites. Frette linens, fireplaces, soaking tubs. Well-appointed, unpretentious luxury. Some features are a ballroom for 250, a Walled Garden from 1916, a pole barn for seasonal events, two U.S. Open surface tennis courts, an elegant and heated swimming pool, complimentary bicycles for adults and children, numerous and private hammock spots, many with fire pits along the riverside. The Barns, offering wellness services, studio classes, saunas, massage and Technogym fitness. An ever-changing calendar of creative and culinary programming. Troutbeck has served as an enchanting private estate, country inn and tavern since the 1700's and has for centuries, been a favored retreat of distinguished guests important in the arts, letters, matters of policy and social justice. During the time of the estate's first owners, the Benton Family, it played frequent host to Thoreau, Emerson and the naturalist, John Burroughs.

Situated in the heart of upper midtown Manhattan, **The Whitby Hotel** is a celebration of contemporary art and design. It's just two blocks from Central Park and on the doorstep of some of New York's leading restaurants, galleries and museums, including MoMA. It is surrounded by world-class department stores, luxury designer boutiques and Broadway is just a short walk away. There are 86 individually designed bedrooms and suites, each with floor to ceiling windows, many with a private terrace and stunning views of the Manhattan skyline. Interiors have been designed by Kit Kemp in her award-winning modern British style. I just loved my stay here, the rooms are beautiful as I managed to see a couple of different categories and the entire hotel has chic and thoughtful design no matter where you are. The service was warm and efficient and the food and beverages were so good!

I mean really good... so much so that we cancelled our one dinner reservation to experience their restaurant which was a wonderful evening. There is an impressive 30 foot pewter bar, always something interesting to look at. There was a live jazz band and fun atmosphere.

Apart from The Whitby Bar and Restaurant there is also an Orangery, book-lined Drawing Room, private outdoor terrace as well as three beautifully designed private event rooms, a 130 seat state-of-the-art cinema and a fully equipped gym.

Maybe it is a South African/British thing but I am a sucker for a good afternoon tea and I can honestly say this is the first tea I've done in the US that I have enjoyed... ok I'll be honest, I LOVED it! The beautiful china and my oh my, their scones are so good, it is worth a flight across the country to experience it! Having travelled a lot I've become quite picky with hotels and I can honestly say The Whitby is a perfect place to spend your time in Manhattan to stay or dine. I would love to help you experience it and if you book through me I am able to offer things like a room upgrades, hotel credit and free breakfast to name a few.



The Whitby's private screening room!

The state-of-the-art screening room has 130 comfortable leather seats, the most advanced Dolby Atmos technology in sound and projection and the latest digital capabilities including 3D. Definitely a fun perk watching a special film or event here.



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Four Seasons Downtown NY



Perfectly positioned for leisure travelers wanting to explore the surrounding streets of trendy TriBeCa, for families looking to spend a day on the waterfront, and for business travelers in search of enjoyable escapes between business matters. We unfortunately did not get the opportunity to dine at CUT by renowned celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck at the FS but did stop by after dinner and it was lovely!

The health & wellness floor... yes, that is correct, an entire floor dedicated to your fitness and well-being, with a seven-room Spa, a lap pool and a state-of-the-art fitness centre overlooking Downtown. Stunning and hard to believe you're in Manhattan with the sense of tranquility and space.

Our room was very spacious (and not even a suite category) had a lovely walk in/walk through closet area with ample space for long stays and a gorgeous bathroom. We had views of One World Trade Center from the bedroom and bathroom which was quite stunning day and night.



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Spotlight on... Festive

Festive season brings a lot of excitement and often means time off work and time to play.

Make the most of your time off at some beautiful destinations whether that involves a lot of activities like skiing, snow shoeing, dog sledding, snow mobiles or in other destinations, swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, hiking, or just hanging out by the ocean or an infinity pool. I am hoping to see the northern lights if mother nature plays along and enjoy the whole snow and winter experience with fun outdoor activities. Time to think of your 'wish list' and make someday today... life is too short!

A couple of festive ideas:

Stockbridge, MA

Stockbridge might look just like a Norman Rockwell painting—and that's because it is! Each year, the town re-creates the 1967 Rockwell painting, "Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas (Home for Christmas)" during their annual festival. Old-fashioned cars line the main street to re-create the painting, and the public can tour historic homes decorated for the holidays.



New York, NY

It may not be a tiny town, but it's still got all the charm—and it'd be impossible to make a list of the best

Christmas towns in America without including the Big Apple! There's simply no place quite like New York City at Christmastime. With its countless attractions, skating rinks, and shopping opportunities galore, it's an obvious choice for at least one of your family's Christmas trips.



Park City, UT

Why not escape to a literal winter wonderland for Christmas? Park City is a breathtaking place nestled in the mountains. There are tons of Christmas events throughout December such as holiday markets, sleigh rides, and a Christmas Eve torchlight parade, where skiers and snowboarders come down the mountain carrying torches to lead Santa into town.

Franklin, TN

Step back in time at the annual Dickens of a Christmas festival in historic downtown Franklin. The festival, which is in its 35th year, brings characters from A Christmas Carol and Oliver Twist to life throughout its weekend-long festivities. Roam the Victorian Village and try Victorian-era Christmas treats like sugar plums while listening to carolers. Stop for a chat with Jacob Marley or Ebenezer Scrooge before visiting Father Christmas.



North Pole, AK

Bet you never thought you could make a trip to the North Pole! This town may not be the real thing, but it's got the name—and it boasts year-round Christmas spirit. There's also a "Santa Claus house" with live reindeer, a mayor who goes by the name of Santa, and candy cane street lamps. How's that for a winter wonderland?



Leavenworth, WA

On any day of the year, this Bavarian village gives off an Alpine holiday air. But during snowy December, visitors are met with 21 miles of lights along the homes and fences, and can also anticipate handbell concerts, a lively Christkindmarkt, harp music, and a weekly festival with carolers, Gluhwein, and sledding gathered 'round the town's tree.



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