

will be rewarded handsomely:



FOR THE L'ESPALIER TEAM'S FINE DINING GUIDE
Go to the video on explorenewengland.com.

Home Hill French Inn and Restaurant

The road to Home Hill winds over hill and dale, rewarding the visitor with the sight of a beautiful restored late-18th-century house set among trees. Inside, the feeling is more rural France than New Hampshire. Victoria and Stéphane du Roure — she's the chef, he's the manager — infuse the formal dining room with its delicate china and crystal chandeliers with a very French sense of graciousness. The cuisine highlights luxurious ingredients and exquisite presentation. Pan-seared Hudson Valley foie gras, rich and silky, is matched to sunchoke and a winter fruit "cigar." Victoria du Roure does a play on surf and turf by searing sea scallops and serving them on a bed of oxtail ragout accompanied by root vegetables. And hearty rosemary and juniper-scented venison with slightly sweet parsnip puree, cranberry chutney, and butternut squash tortellini can banish any thought of windchill factors.

"We've really put together an amazing team," says du Roure in a phone interview, telling of her chef de cuisine Paula Snow and sous chef Guillaume Hanner. Although winter can present a challenge, du Roure says local farms provide meats and game. Recently, a lower-priced bistro menu has been added along with Sunday brunch. "We've gotten quite busy in the season," she says, "and even in the off-season."

*Home Hill, 703 River Road, Plainfield, N.H.
603-675-6165. www.homehillinn.com. Tasting
menus, \$59-\$69, bistro entrees, \$16-\$18.*

Rye Airfield

If it's got wheels, it's at the Rye Airfield on New Hampshire's sea-coast. On the site of a former hangar, BMX bikers, in-line skaters, and skateboarders take off inside a cavernous 50,000-square-foot skate park and BMX track. The mostly adolescent males in street clothes grind rails, flip, and do aerial tricks as moms in mini-vans bring children in after school for two-hour-45-minute sessions.

There are those performing incredible feats of athleticism as well as newbies with helmets and elbow and knee pads (required) taking spills off quarter pipes, ramps, and bowls. The street riding area is massive with hips, ledges, and other elements for flight. Each sectioned-off area has beginner, intermediate, and advanced courses. It's all about the vert (vertical), so to get a true appreciation of what these athletes do, stand atop the 12-foot-high vert ramp. Vert becomes vertigo. Parents can watch from upstairs in a secluded lounge

complete with Wi-Fi and TV as junior wheels round the concrete clover pool. The Airfield has clinics, camps, and hosts birthday parties. Parents can skate, too. Old Guys Night, for those 30 and over, is Wednesday.

*Rye Airfield, Route 1, Rye, N.H.
603-964-2800. www.ryearfield.com. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3-9 p.m., Wednesday noon-9, Saturday 9-9, Sunday 9-6.
Weekday nonmember \$12 a session (2 hours, 45 minutes), \$30 all day. Memberships, multiday passes, clinics, camps, specials, and rentals available.*

Kart Trak

Bobby Labonte, Danica Patrick, and even old-school Mario Andretti wannabes get the vicarious thrill of it all on the concrete track at Kart Trak in Windsor Locks, Conn. Forget about those mini-golf, soft-serve ice cream circuits of summer, this all-season facility has racers hitting speeds up to 35 miles per hour as they make

The Currier Museum of Art

The Currier welcomes its first exhibit devoted to Latin American art. "Voces y Visiones: Highlights from El Museo del Barrio's Permanent Collection" (March 10-June 26), an internationally touring show from the Manhattan museum, makes its last stop in Manchester, N.H. The works range from pre-Columbian artifacts of the Caribbean's Taino culture to contemporary Latino voices.

"The majority of the show is from the late 20th century in all media and represents 15 countries," said assistant curator Sharon Atkins in a telephone interview. "It's a great way to focus on the contributions of Latin American countries and cultures, because in New England there's no museum dedicated to Latin art and our permanent collection doesn't include Latin art."

Installation will be a challenge. "The 130 works represent over 200 physical objects," she said. "One of the largest pieces is Pepón Osorio's double bed with interactive elements such as finials that spin and play music."

In addition to the permanent collection, the special exhibit on view through Feb. 20 is the 58th annual juried exhibit of paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, and photography by New Hampshire Art Association members.

Currier Museum of Art, 201 Myrtle Way, Manchester, N.H. 603-669-6144. www.currier.org. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday 11-8, Saturday 10-5 (free 10-1). \$7, seniors and students \$6, under 18 free.

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