



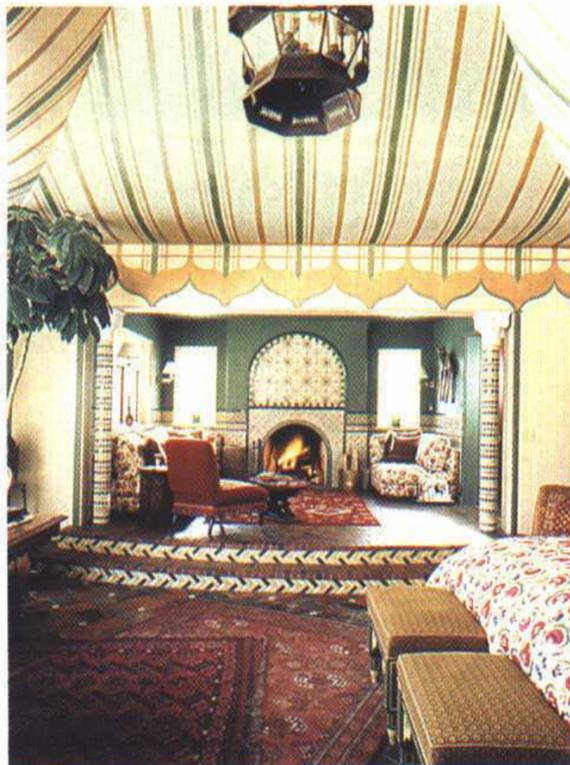
CL RECOMMENDS

Legends of the Fall

Dazzling red and gold leaves herald the arrival of fall, and — especially in New England — are stunning enough to cause a logjam of leaf-peeping tourists. Here are five fantastic places in the country for a room with a supremely colorful view. — LAURA VOGEL

MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE, NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK

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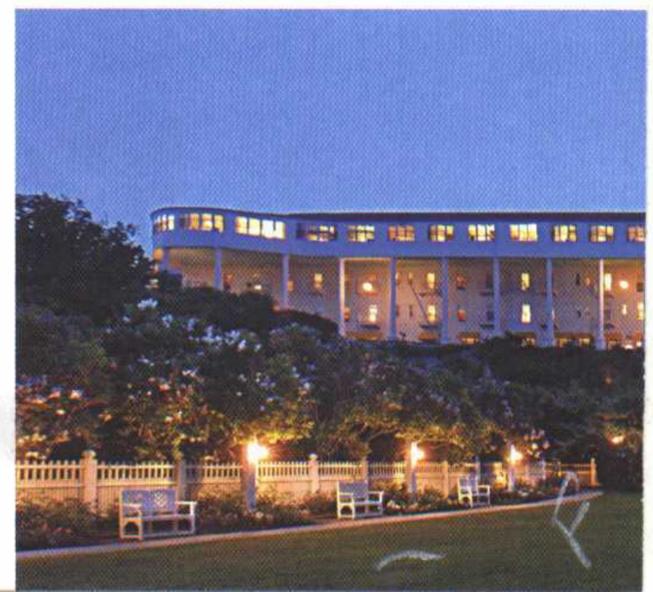
TWIN FARMS, BARNARD, VERMONT

Renowned for the perfection of its service, setting, and seclusion, this pampering 20-accommodation property is modeled on the great English country-house retreats. There are games of croquet on the lawn, drinks by the fire, and wine-and-cheese parties in the main house, but you will probably never want to leave your room. Twin Farms has been awarded with pretty much every high-end accolade possible, but perhaps the most impressive is that the notoriously choosy Zagat

surveyors named it as home to the Best Rooms in the most recent *U.S. Hotels, Resorts & Spas Guide*. And yes, Twin Farms does have a spa, but insiders recommend requesting your services en suite, to have all the more time to enjoy your splendid (huge, art-filled) room. Peak fall color: late September to mid October. From \$1,100 per night (inclusive of breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, all beverages, wine, and unlimited use of all on-site recreational facilities). (802) 234-9999, www.twinfarms.com

Although it's a mere 90 minutes north of the heart of Manhattan, this New York getaway is utterly transporting — and its new 30,000-square-foot spa makes it even more so. The former Quaker lakeside resort dates back to the 1870s, and though today formerly *verboten* things (like fine Burgundies and single-malt Scotches) are now abundant, it retains a warm, family feel. (Indeed, it's still owned by the Smiley family, descendants of the original owners.) Mohonk encompasses 2,200 acres ribboned with hiking trails through a pristine Shawangunk Mountain setting. Peak fall color: October. From \$445 per night. (800) 772-6646, www.mohonk.com

ABOVE: © G. STEVE JORDAN



THE WHEATLEIGH, LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

The grandeur and service of this getaway — set in the middle of the rolling Berkshires — are almost astonishing. It's like stumbling on a Tiffany diamond in a secluded meadow. Elegant Continental service (most of the staff are European) is offered in this 18th-century palace (it was built as a wedding gift for wealthy heiress Georgie Cook by her New York City tycoon father in 1893). Even though it glitters with Gilded Age splendor, the best part about the Wheatleigh is that it's so subtle and elegant that it lacks all pretension — you can truly relax here. And chef Jeffery Thompson is a genius, offering award-winning cuisine that will stir your senses. Peak fall color: mid September through mid October. From \$870 per night. (413) 637-0610, www.wheatleigh.com



THE NOTCHLAND INN, HART'S LOCATION, NEW HAMPSHIRE

This intimate New Hampshire hotel is nestled into a breathtaking gorge in one of the most celebrated maple-foliage locations in the country, the White Mountains. A snug, welcoming inn, this 1860s granite structure boasts a Gustav Stickley Arts and Crafts-style sitting room — ask the innkeepers for a peek at the antique hand-painted area map hidden under the carpet in front of the fireplace — and a stellar five-course dinner served each night in the dining room. If you are homesick for your pets, the beautifully behaved Bernese Mountain Dogs who live at the property will be happy to pay you a visit. Peak fall color: mid September to mid October. From \$255 per night. (800) 866-6131, www.notchland.com

GRAND HOTEL, MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

Set on an undeveloped island reachable only by private plane or ferry (once you arrive, horse-drawn taxi service is available to the resort), this destination is truly an escape. The sprawling, aptly named Grand Hotel boasts rocking-chair-filled porches, 385 rooms (each one is unique), and has been in operation since 1887. Extremely family-friendly, the hotel allows kids 11 and younger to stay and eat at no charge, and plenty of activities exist for them. That's not to say that this is a casual hotel, though — here, guests still dress formally for dinner. Be sure to take your getaway before October 31, when the Grand Hotel closes for the season. Peak fall color: October. From \$440 per night, (full breakfast and five-course dinner included). www.grandhotel.com

