



TRAVEL

10 Romantic Get-A-Ways



By Richard Levy

Time for a romantic getaway for just the two of you? Whether you prefer sitting beside a country lake, an urban oasis or lounging on a tropical beach, we have ten great suggestions for your next vacation:

1. Le Petite Hotel, Montreal:

Le Petite Hotel is housed in 19th-century buildings and located in the historic, charming city center of Old Montreal, Quebec, Canada: (877) 530-0360. Visiting Montreal is like a quick trip to France. Though French is the city's official language, albeit with a distinctly Québécois accent, the city is bi-lingual and everyone does speak English. Explore the Old Quarter for fantastic French food or use the public Bixi bikes to ride along the canal and go antiquing. On Friday and Saturday nights, head for Deux Pierrots, - a rocking cabaret and sports bar located at 104 Rue Saint-Paul East, in the old city. Be sure to make advance reservations as this place fills up quickly. I promise, you will have a great time even if you don't understand a word of French. Porter Air from Newark offers service on par with private airlines. Alternatively, it is a ten and a half hour ride by Amtrak or a six and a half hour drive. Don't forget your passport as a driver's license no longer suffices to cross the border. 877.530.0360 PetiteHotelMontreal.com.

2. Mayflower Grace, Washington, CT. (Formerly Mayflower Inn & Spa), Washington, CT

This quaint Yankee Inn is nestled in the tiny town of Washington near the Western edge of Connecticut, roughly a two-hour drive from Westchester. Couples adore the spacious guest rooms appointed in classic New England style, including spectacular four-poster canopied beds with plump goose feather pillows. Some rooms have fireplaces and deep soaking tubs. Their spa is spectacular in every way, offering a wide range of massages and great yoga classes. Trance-like new age music plays in the background as you sink into plush white lounges chairs, and veg out while sipping rejuvenating exotic teas.

The hotel also features an acclaimed restaurant, Muse, serving American cuisine and New England specialties. If you prefer a more casual atmosphere, you can dine on delectable pub fare at the adjacent taproom. (860) 868-9466 MayflowerGrace.com

3. Strawberry Hill Hotel, Jamaica



Strawberry Hill Hotel, Jamaica

Hidden away in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica, W. I. The Strawberry Hill Hotel is a romantic garden-of-Eden gem. The luxurious accommodations include a fabulous restaurant, a spa and an infinity pool with amazing views of Kingston. The suites and studios at Strawberry Hill are in charming villas with porches overlooking the surrounding gardens and mountains. All accommodations have attractive island décor, a minibar and free Wi-Fi. Some units feature a sitting area with a sofa and cable TV. The resort's restaurant serves a range of fine Jamaican cuisine along with a lighter menu to complement guests' spa treatments. Brunch is served on Sundays. There is also a stylish bar with panoramic views. Surrounded by gardens and exotic plants, The Living Spa offers hydrotherapy, stress-relief and beauty treatments. You can practice yoga on the deck. Kingston and the nearest beaches are thirty-five minutes away by car. Air Jamaica has the most flights, but also check out Jet Blue. (800) 232-4972. StrawberryHillHotel.com

4. Canyon Ranch, Lenox, MA

Canyon Ranch in Lenox is an All-Inclusive Health Resort & Luxury Spa, where joy is in the air and good health is contagious. Discover the exhilaration of a visit to one of the world's premier health resorts, fabulous in every beautiful New England season, a lovely scenic two and a half hour drive from Westchester. Canoe on the lake in



Canyon Ranch Resort & Spa, Lenox MA Photo c. Canyon Ranch

the summer or spend a few hours cross-country skiing in the winter. Re-energize with a choice of more than 40 fitness classes offered daily and savor nutritious gourmet spa cuisine. Enjoy unhurried consults with physicians, nutritionists, exercise physiologists and other specialists. (877) 620-5515 CanyonRanch.com/Massachusetts

5. The Brazilian Court Hotel & Beach Club, Palm Beach, FL



The Brazilian Court Hotel Palm Beach FL. Photo c. The Brazilian Court Hotel

This Hotel features the first-class, highly personalized services and amenities you'd expect from an elegant Palm Beach hotel. The Concierge staff work around the clock, catering to your every need. Delight in the al-fresco dining options featuring the French-American cuisine of award-winning, New York-based Chef, Daniel Boulud. Soothe and renew your senses with beauty and spa services at Frédéric Fekkai's Salon & Spa, or enjoy spa services in the comfort of your hotel suite. Enjoy the intimate pool and lovely garden piazza as you sun outside: it's the perfect combination of complete comfort and luxury. This is the just the right destination for a romantic, sun-filled escape, offering luxurious accommodations, extraordinary service, a lushly landscaped historic setting, and the high style only Palm Beach can offer. (561) 655-7743 BrazilianCourt.com

6. Hotel Le Toiny, St. Bart's

A 5-Star tropical resort paradise overlooking the Caribbean Sea, this hotel consists of fifteen fully detached colonial style luxury villa suites sitting on the hills of St. Barthelemy, in the heart of a lush seventeen acre palm grove bordered by Toiny Beach. Designed as an intimate refuge, guests can relax in their private infinity pool, enjoy a workout in the Fitness facility, treat themselves to a massage at the Serenity Spa Cottage, and then shop in the hotel's boutique. Critically acclaimed Restaurant Le Gaiac is known for its creative Chefs and culinary artistry, blending French and local cuisine. Hotel Le Toiny is a secluded, romantic destination for aficionados of chic, sexy, luxury boutique hotel experiences - considered by many to be the most discrete and elite accommodation experience in St Barthelemy, and indeed the entire Caribbean. American Airlines has the most non-stop flights. Check out their special package deals. (800) 680-0832 LeToinyHotel.com

7. Twin Farms Resort & Spa, VT

Located on a three hundred acre estate once owned by novelist Sinclair Lewis, this boutique hotel is intimate and expensive. Twin Farms Resort can host up to sixty people. While away your time with idyllic hikes through the rolling hills and meadows. The resort is a four-hour drive from Westchester; small planes fly into Burlington, ninety minutes away (Twin Farms will send a car). And there's a helicopter pad, of course. The white-steeped town of Woodstock is approximately fifteen minutes away, in the unlikely event that you want to leave the grounds. Although the miles of meadows, mountains, and lakefront are evidence you're in central Vermont, this isn't your typical Yankee inn: Bill Gates's architect designed the cottages; master glassblower Simon Pearce made the stemware; Lichtenstein, Hockney, and Twombly created the art. If the most stylish eccentric you know built a New England retreat, it might look like this one. (802) 234-9999 TwinFarms.com

8. Gansevoort Playa Imbert, Dominican Republic

You'll find your personal piece of tropical paradise at the Gansvoort



Gansevoort Playa Imbert Pool at Night

Playa Imbert, located in the midst of a lush tropical landscape. Deep-sea coral lies beneath crystal clear water and a coveted private beach is filled with soft golden sand. Experience bliss in a modern and sophisticated setting enhanced by impeccable service twenty-four/seven. Adventure seekers and serenity enthusiasts will enjoy a vast array of activities and exclusive offerings, where your wishes become reality. The hotel features 48 suites of one and two-bedroom lofts; three-bedroom apartments with private plunge pools and spacious terraces as well as four-bedroom penthouses. Each penthouse offers a private rooftop Jacuzzi. Floor-to-ceiling windows seamlessly blend the outdoors with the indoors offering dramatic seascapes from every room, while modern interiors provide understated opulence with amenities like state-of-the-art kitchens, walk-in showers, custom bathtubs and natural stone finishes. Check out Jet Blue's special Get-A-Way packages before you book a flight. (855) 201-7819 GansevoortHotelGroup.com/Gansevoort-dominican-republic

9. Peter Island Resort, British V. I.

Imagine, a romantic get-a-way on your own private island. From the moment you arrive at the marina, following a twenty-minute boat ride from neighboring Tortola Island, you'll quickly realize that Peter Island Resort & Spa is "no typical beach holiday." Guests can access the entire 1800 acres island, of which only 300 acres are developed. Hike through untouched forests or take to the sea in a chartered boat. Beachfront suites and spectacular hillside villas provide access to secluded stretches of sand, once home to the Caribbean's most colorful characters, from Christopher

Continued on page 9



TRAVEL

10 Romantic Get-A-Ways

Continued from page 8

Columbus to the pirate Bluebeard. Beachfront Junior Suites offer direct access to the beach along with a two-person Jacuzzi tub overlook-



A Villa at Peter Island, British West Indies Photo c. Peter Island

ing Deadman's Beach. Relax at the word-class spa, offering traditional and Ayurvedic treatments. American Airlines has the most flights to the British Virgin Islands. (800) 895-6097 PetersIsland.com

10. The Pierre, Hotel, NYC

Manhattan's luxurious, perfect romantic NYC hide-a-way on 5th Avenue overlooks Central Park. The Pierre continues to set the highest standards for elegance and unrivalled hospitality. Stroll through the park, take a rowboat out on the lake, ride the old historic Carousel, have cocktails at The Boat House, and a spectacular dinner at Jean-Georges restaurant, just across the park.... and don't reveal to anyone your romantic get-a-way is in New York. (646) 798-2950 TajHotels.com/Pierre

For other "Romantic Get-A-Ways" check out SecretEscapes.com and Jet Blue "Get-A-Ways" for the best deals on the dates you are considering. For even greater value, consider a mid-week get-a-way which is less expensive. Here's wishing you a very memorable romantic get-away, or as Nicholas Sparks said, "Romance is thinking about your significant other, when you are supposed to be thinking about something else".

LOCAL ECONOMY

Yonkers Is Going Hollywood

By Mary Keon

The Yonkers Film Office is a busy place: film days are up 61% since Mayor Spano began an aggressive outreach to production companies three years ago. The campaign has been successful, bringing \$250,000 in new revenue to the city, according to Christina Gilmartin, Director of Communications. In an effort to make the city more "film friendly," the Mayor has eliminated film permit fees for the use of city property and created a new website (film.yonkers.com) to assist location scouts and producers with "one stop shopping," fast tracking any necessary permits and coordinating city services to expedite the process. "All of us at Law and Order SVU want to express our deepest gratitude. I have never had such a positive experience filming in a town in 23 years," reads a producer's testimonial on the website.

Typically, the city only receives 1-2 weeks of notice prior to a film shoot, said Gilmartin. Melissa Goldberg, Director of the Film Yonkers Office, serves as the liaison for location scouts. The fourth largest city in the state, Yonkers encompasses an area of 20.3 square miles so there are plenty of sites to choose from. Yonkers offers great vistas of the Palisades, the Hudson River and streets lined with a variety of architectural styles. Proximity to Manhattan makes it easy for actors and production companies based in the city to shoot here and go home at night.

Yonkers City Hall and the

Courtroom appear often on Law and Order SVU. The ceremonial courtroom at City Hall is a popular backdrop and has appeared in commercials for Dr. Pepper, and one for Sprint starring Kevin Durant, as well as in many TV shows and movies. Martha Stewart recently wrote an editorial piece about Untermyer Garden in her Martha Stewart Living Magazine, noted Gilmartin, and the Garden is also featured in the wedding scene for Ricki and the Flash, directed by Jonathan Demme, which will be released in August of 2015. The film stars Meryl Streep as a rocker, her daughter Mamie Gummer, Kevin Klein, Rick Springfield and Audra McDonald.

As a result of the burgeoning Yonkers Film industry, the city now boasts a sound stage on Tuckahoe Road and an annual Film Festival. Look closely at popular shows and you just might recognize a familiar Yonkers neighborhood, park or public building. The Yonkers Hudson Line Train Station has been featured in Boardwalk Empire and Van der Donck Park was the setting of a recent episode of Black List.

Other productions that have filmed in Yonkers include the movies: Still Alice starring Academy Award winner Julianne Moore; Adderall Diaries starring James Franco, Amber Heard and Christian Slater; God's Pocket, the late Philip Seymour Hoffman's last film; A Most Violent Year starring Oscar Issac; and the HBO mini-series Show Me A Hero, also starring Oscar



Nucky Thompson beads for Chicago in a scene from Boardwalk Empire

Issac. TV shows filmed here include The Following, Elementary and Gotham.

Yonkers Stage/Greenwich Productions is just 20 minutes from Manhattan, offering the fully decked 32,000 sq. ft. soundstage, a 30,000 sq. ft. annex, dressing rooms, parking, storage, cold storage, shop space for set construction, an easy access drive-in stage, Reel Snow and production offices. A long list of movies have filmed here, including: Wall Street Two directed by Oliver Stone, starring Michael Douglas; The Bounty, starring Jennifer Aniston; Taking Woodstock directed by Ang Lee; Notorius Big produced by Sean Coombs, Doubt, starring Meryl Streep; The Number 13 starring Mickey

Rourke; I Am Legend starring Will Smith; American Gangster directed by Ridley Scott starring Russell Crowe; My Super Ex-Girlfriend. Directed by Ivan Reitman starring Uma Thurman; Freedomland directed by Joe Roth starring Samuel L. Jackson and Julianne Moore; Hitch Starring Will Smith; The Manchurian Candidate directed by Jonathan Demme starring Denzel Washington; Mona Lisa Smile starring Julia Roberts; Maid in Manhattan starring Jennifer Lopez; Riding in Cars with Boys directed by Penny Marshall starring Drew Barrymore; Rollerball directed by John McTiernan starring Chris Klein; Finding Forester directed by Gus van Zandt starring Sean Connery and The Thomas Crowne Affair starring Peirce Brosnan and Rene Russo.

Sometimes, a casting call goes out to the home team: the majority of the extras for the HBO film Show Me A Hero were all Yonkers residents, said Gilmartin. Yonkers residents also appeared as extras in God's Pocket.

As residents become increasingly blasé about walking round movie shoots while going about their daily errands, the Film Office continues their efforts to grow this industry and build revenue for the city. "The Mayor's Office of Film and Photography wants production companies to know that the city "is committed to helping assure the success of your shoot and providing for a quality production experience," said Gilmartin.



A Production Crew films in Yonker's Larkin Plaza