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DESTINATIONS

What's New in Newport, Rhode Island This Summer—and the Just-Opened Museum You Need to Check Out

From waterfront fun to a brand new sailing museum, there's never been a better time to visit southern New England's most iconic summer colony.

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After an unseasonably chilly spring in the northeast, summer is finally here—so it's time to cast off, raise our sails, and let the season carry us where it will. For most of us who put up with New England winters so we can make the most of New England's glorious summers, that means a weekend or day trip (at least) to [Newport](#)—the land of Vanderbilt mansions, family-friendly beaches, and, of course, sailing.

Maybe it's the pandemic-spurred interest in destinations within driving distance, or maybe it's all the **showing off** Newport has been doing since HBO's *The Gilded Age* debuted earlier this year—but there simply has never been a better time to visit this iconic New England summer colony. Here are all the best new things to do in Newport, by way of hotels, restaurants, and goings-on this summer in the City by the Sea. Anchors, aweigh!



Outdoor dining on The Lawn at Castle Hill Inn
Castle Hill Inn



The Dining Room at The Vanderbilt, Auberge
Resorts The Ingalls

Where to stay in Newport this summer

New for this summer, Stoneacre Hospitality ventures into the hotel biz with **Chart House Inn**, an intimate new spot nestled in the neighborhood just a few easy blocks from the main drag of town. If you want something surrounded by historical homes, parks, and museums within walking distance, this is where to look. Originally built in 1880, the cozy inn houses just seven guest rooms and suites, so it feels less like a hotel and more like a fabulous friend's summer house—look for reservations starting in July.

Of course, a trip to Newport also presents an opportunity to splurge on grander hotel stays, as well. Just a few blocks away from the new Chart House Inn, opt for a more luxurious experience at **The Vanderbilt, Auberge Resorts** Collection, which just renovated all 33 of its elegant, spacious rooms.

Further down Aquidneck Island, just outside of town, the iconic [Castle Hill Inn](#) will offer a “Gilded Age Experience Package” inspired by the popular HBO series: It includes a two-night stay with breakfast, a welcome amenity, tasting-menu experience for two at the dining room, and two tickets to one of the Newport Preservation Society mansions that directly inspired the series—and in some instances, served as backdrops for filming. Gilded glamor not quite your thing? The hotel is also offering two “Summer Asado Dinners” this summer, on August 3rd and August 17th, consisting of four courses of Argentine *asado* barbecue served al fresco —and based on what we know of Castle Hill executive chef Lou Rossi’s fantastic eye for flavor, those dinners are going to be culinary events not to be missed.



A Stoneacre Picnics cheese plate Stoneacre Picnics



Picnics at The Elms can be booked for exclusive use of the mansion's lawn and marble gazebo Stoneacre Picnics

New places to eat in Newport this summer

Speaking of food in Newport this summer, buzzy “freestyle Italian” spot [Giusto](#) has a new chef de cuisine: Kyle Palmer, of Cara (at [The Chanler at Cliff Walk](#)). This summer Giusto is launching an *aperitivo* hour, starting at 2:00 P.M. on Mondays-Fridays, with drinks and snacks on offer before regularly scheduled dinner service begins at 4:30. If you’re looking for a great place for a cocktail, biodynamic wine, and beautifully prepared Italian shared plates, this is the spot to see and be seen. (Speaking of The Chanler, the hotel resumes its popular [picnic service](#) this summer.)

Elsewhere in picnic news, [Stoneacre Picnics](#) is launching a partnership with the Preservation Society to offer a truly luxe experience at [The Elms Estate](#). You and seven of your closest friends can book exclusive use of the mansion's majestic glass and marble gazebo for a bucolic afternoon picnic that will set you back \$1,800—but can you really put a price on living out your *Gilded Age* fantasies?

For something a little more democratic, check out [La Vecina Taqueria](#), overlooking Eisenhower Park. What started as a popular Mexican ghost kitchen during the pandemic has expanded into a full-fledged restaurant in its own right. And in a town that can sometimes skew a little on the fancy side, it's nice to know there's a great spot for tacos and margaritas close by, too.



Yachts readied for the Newport-Bermuda Race, which returns to Newport this year after a four-year hiatus [Bermuda Tourism Authority](#)

What to see and do in Newport this summer

The big news for this summer is the opening of the [Sailing Museum](#), an ode to Newport's deep roots in the maritime world as well as its connections to America's Cup racing, the Navy, and so much more. If you're *really* into sailing, you might consider visiting Newport on June 17 when the famed [Newport Bermuda Race](#), the world's oldest regularly scheduled ocean race (dating back to 1960), returns to Newport after a four-year hiatus. That weekend, the harbor will certainly be filled with boats, spectators, and unforgettable energy.

In fact, most weekends in Newport this summer will be filled with unforgettable energy. In other news about quintessential Newport events that are back on after a few years of interruption, the [Newport Jazz](#), [Newport Folk](#), and [Newport Classical Music Festivals](#) are all back on this summer, too.