

#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

1,000
PLACES
TO SEE

The Statue of Liberty is depicted in a light green color, positioned centrally behind the word 'TO' in the title. Her right arm is raised, holding the torch, which is integrated into the top of the number '0' in '1,000'.

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IN THE
UNITED STATES
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BEFORE
YOU DIE[®]

by **PATRICIA SCHULTZ**
AUTHOR OF THE BESTSELLING *1,000 PLACES TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE[®]*

*Darkness Visible***WATERFIRE**

Providence, Rhode Island

Sometimes the simplest things can be the most moving—a tossed pebble that transforms a lake into kinetic sculpture, birdsong in an otherwise silent evening. That's the essence of *WaterFire*, Barnaby Evans's long-running art

installation that traces a path of nighttime firelight along Providence's three downtown rivers. First erected in 1994 and now presented about 10–15 times annually, the work incorporates over 80 floating wood-fire braziers, illuminating two-thirds of a mile of downtown walkways and parks and using a simple, repeated device to provoke and frame the mind's associations, changing the way we look at our surroundings. On the one hand, the firelight calls to mind certain historical and nostalgic associations—Greek myth, warm fireplaces, and the city as it looked before electricity. On the other, the work's creation of an unnatural harmony between two opposing elements provides a psychic nudge that can widen our perceptions.

For the optimal experience, spend some time walking its full length (seeing it by boat is a recommended option) and keeping all your senses attuned. Watch the black-clad volunteers in the fire-tender boats keeping the braziers lit, like a silent Greek chorus. Listen to the music, which incorporates spiritually rich

traditions from around the world. Breathe in the wood smoke, watch the shadows, and gaze into the faces of other people strolling around you who have been drawn out into the night to be part of this new kind of performance art.

WHERE: downtown, between Providence Place and the Crawford Street Bridge. Tel 401-273-1155; waterfire.org. **When:** 10–15 times between early May and early Nov, from sundown till past midnight. Partial lightings at Christmastime.



WaterFire blazes on the Woonasquatucket, Moshassuck, and Providence rivers.

*Raising the Luxury Inn to an Art Form***TWIN FARMS**

Barnard, Vermont

Secluded amid 300 stunning acres of woodlands and expansive meadows, this former Colonial-era farmhouse—a wedding gift from Nobel Prize-winning novelist Sinclair Lewis in 1928—is one of America's most luxurious

and enchanting resort inns. A masterpiece by one of the nineties' most famous interior decorators, Jed Johnson, Twin Farms' magically exuberant design encompasses a \$5 million art collection that includes paintings by Roy Lichtenstein and Milton Avery. All 20 accommodations (rooms, suites, and 10 secluded cottages) blend the impeccable with the magical—and with rates (up to \$2,750 a night for



The Aviary, a 1,100-square-foot bilevel cottage with floor-to-ceiling windows, is a minimalist masterpiece.

the most expensive cottage) that might equal the GNP of some small countries.

Twin Farms gets its name from Sinclair Lewis, author of *Babbitt* (1922) and *Elmer Gantry* (1927). Lewis and his wife, journalist Dorothy Thompson, loved the property for its “sweeping lawns, run-down orchards and delicious air.” When the two divorced in 1942 (amicably, it seems), they simply moved into separate farmhouses on the grounds, hence the name.

In the early 1970s, the Twigg-Smith family, owners of the Contemporary Museum in Honolulu, bought the main house as a vacation getaway, and when their time spent there began to dwindle, they created instead an exclusive and luxurious country estate. Dine on Maine lobster with truffled fava bean puree in spring; grilled Angus tenderloin over a bacon cheddar potato tart with braised wild morels in fall; and for dessert on a snowy night, chocolate caramel pannacotta with a white chocolate-sambuca profiterole. The service is clairvoyant, the meals endlessly inventive, and the 26,000-bottle wine cellar tantalizing in its breadth and depth.

WHERE: 8 miles north of Woodstock. Tel 802-234-9999; twinfarms.com. **Cost:** from \$1,450, includes meals. **BEST TIME:** late Sept–early Oct for foliage.

A Rural State's Cosmopolitan City

BURLINGTON

Vermont

Known for its left-of-center politics, and famous for its battle to keep Wal-Mart away, Burlington is Vermont's biggest city, which is to say, not very big—just 42,000 people. Many are former students who never left this cosmopolitan college town, with its lively music and food scenes and splendid location on the shores of Lake Champlain, backed by the majestic Adirondacks to the west.

Burlington was first settled by independent-minded folks like Ethan Allen and his brother, Ira, of Green Mountain Boys fame. It rose to prominence as a major port after the opening

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—NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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entry, what you need to know about how and when to visit.



PATRICIA SCHULTZ

is the author of the international bestseller *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*.

A veteran travel journalist, she’s written for Frommer’s, Berlitz, and Access guides, as well as *Condé Nast Traveler*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Travel Weekly*. Her home base is in New York City (see pp. 166–200). She is available for select speaking engagements. Contact speakersbureau@workman.com.

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