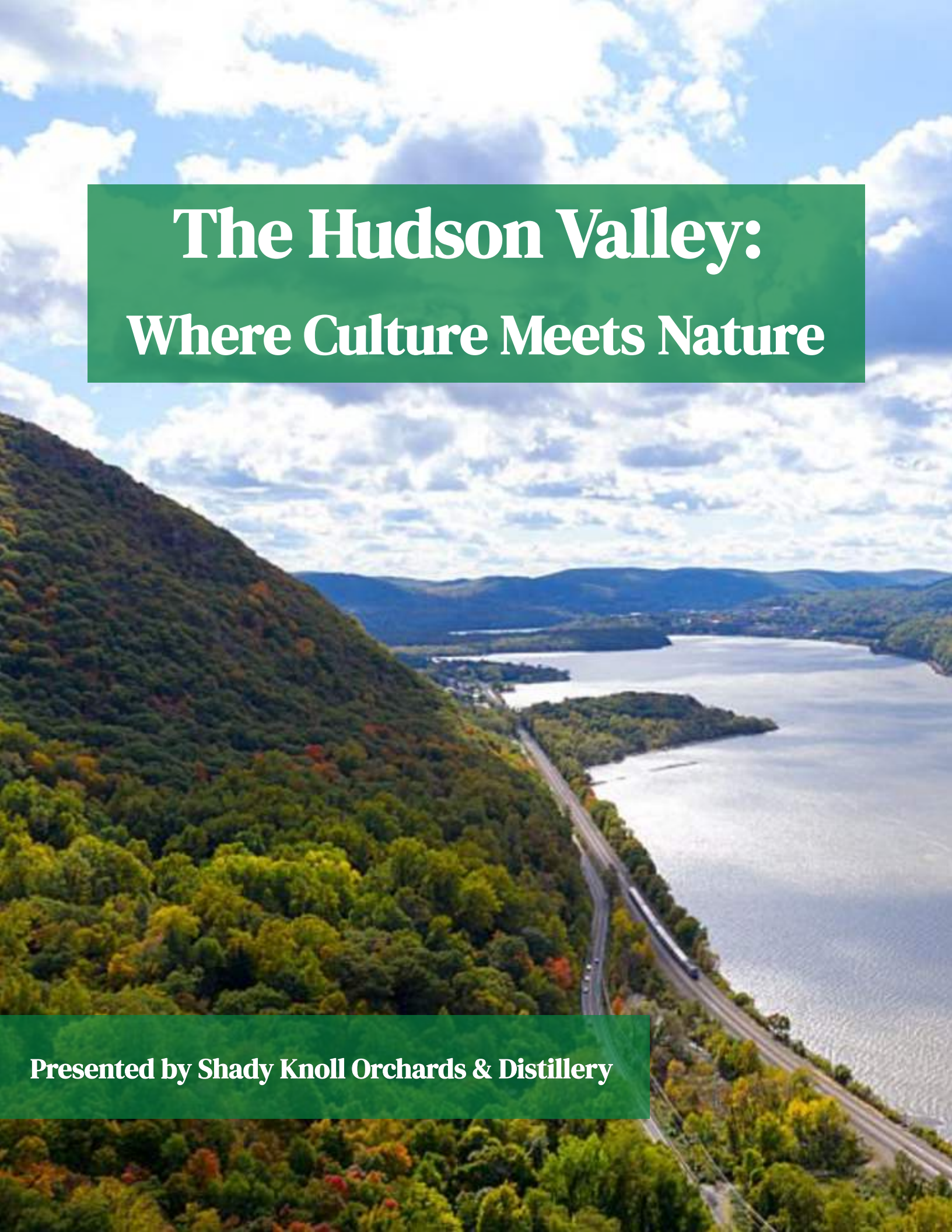




The Hudson Valley: Where Culture Meets Nature

Presented by Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery

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Introduction

Nestled between the Hudson River and the majestic Catskill Mountains, the Hudson Valley is a region steeped in history, natural beauty, and cultural richness. Stretching from just north of New York City to Albany, the state's capital, the Hudson Valley has long been a favored retreat for those seeking a respite from urban life. This picturesque area is known not only for its stunning landscapes and outdoor activities but also for its vibrant agritourism, culinary excellence, and rich tapestry of historical landmarks.

At the heart of the Hudson Valley lies Millbrook, a charming village that exemplifies the region's unique blend of rural tranquility and sophisticated charm. Millbrook is a destination that invites visitors to slow down and savor the pleasures of country living, whether that's through exploring its rolling vineyards, dining at farm-to-table restaurants, or simply enjoying the peaceful ambiance of its inns and bed-and-breakfasts. As you plan your visit to the Hudson Valley, Millbrook should undoubtedly be on your itinerary, particularly if you're looking to experience the best of the area's agritourism offerings.



One of the standout attractions in Millbrook is Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery, a family-owned operation that embodies the farm-to-bottle ethos. Shady Knoll isn't just a distillery; it's an immersive experience that connects visitors to the land and the time-honored processes of crafting fine spirits. Set amidst the rolling hills of the Millbrook countryside, Shady Knoll offers visitors a chance to see first-hand how their high-quality spirits are made, from grain to glass. Whether you're a seasoned connoisseur or a casual enthusiast, a visit to Shady Knoll will deepen your appreciation for the craftsmanship and passion that define this region's agritourism.

While Millbrook serves as a serene escape, the Hudson Valley as a whole offers a diverse array of experiences. The region is home to some of the most renowned wineries and distilleries in New York State, making it a prime destination for tasting tours. Beyond its spirits and wines, the Hudson Valley is a treasure trove of activities, from hiking and exploring the great outdoors to visiting historic estates and modern art museums. Its towns and villages, each with their own distinct character, offer charming accommodations, delightful dining options, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

In this guide, you will find a comprehensive overview of what the Hudson Valley has to offer, with a special focus on Millbrook and its surrounding areas. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or a longer stay, this guide will help you discover the best of the Hudson Valley, ensuring that your visit is as enriching and memorable as possible.



Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery: The Heart of Agritourism in Millbrook

Nestled in the scenic countryside of Millbrook, New York, Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery stands as a shining example of the region's agritourism. This family-owned distillery is more than just a place to sample fine spirits—it's a destination where visitors can immerse themselves in the entire farm-to-bottle process, experiencing firsthand how the land directly influences the final product. Shady Knoll has established itself as a cornerstone of Millbrook's agritourism scene, offering a unique experience that combines the beauty of the Hudson Valley with the craftsmanship of small-batch distilling.

Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery operates with a deep commitment to sustainability and quality. Located on a picturesque farm, the distillery grows its own grains and apples, ensuring that each bottle is a true reflection of the local terroir. This farm-to-bottle approach is central to Shady Knoll's philosophy, allowing them to control every aspect of production, from planting to harvesting to distilling. This not only ensures the highest quality in their products but also minimizes their environmental footprint, a key consideration in their operations.



A standout feature of Shady Knoll is its apple orchard, which plays a crucial role in the distillery's offerings. The orchard is home to over 120 varieties of apple trees, many of which produce heirloom varieties that contribute to the unique flavor profiles of their spirits. The apples harvested here are used to produce a range of products, including their popular apple brandy. This spirit is crafted using traditional methods, with the apples carefully fermented and distilled to create a rich, smooth brandy that captures the essence of the Millbrook landscape. Visitors can stroll through the orchard during their visit, gaining a deeper appreciation for the connection between the land and the spirits produced.

One of the most engaging aspects of Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery is the opportunity for visitors to see the entire distillation process up close. Upon arrival, guests are welcomed into a world where tradition meets innovation. The distillery offers guided tours that take visitors through each step of the process, from the milling of the grains to the fermentation, distillation, and aging of the spirits. The presence of the apple orchard adds an additional layer to the experience, as visitors can learn about the cultivation and harvest of the apples that play such a pivotal role in Shady Knoll's product line.



Shady Knoll is particularly renowned for its rye whiskey, a spirit that has deep roots in American history and is currently experiencing a resurgence in popularity. The distillery's rye whiskey is crafted using traditional methods, focusing on preserving the grain's character and complexity. Aged in new charred American oak barrels and finished in used Portuguese oak barrels, the whiskey develops a rich, robust flavor profile that is both distinctive and reflective of the region's agricultural heritage. Alongside their rye whiskey, Shady Knoll also produces other spirits, including their apple brandy, vodka, and gin, each crafted with the same dedication to quality and taste.

Beyond the spirits themselves, Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery offers an experience that embodies the essence of Millbrook and the broader Hudson Valley. The distillery's location amidst the serene beauty of the Millbrook countryside provides the perfect backdrop for a leisurely visit. Guests are encouraged to take their time, savor the surroundings, and perhaps even enjoy a picnic on the grounds after a tour and tasting. The farm is a working landscape where visitors can see the fields that produce the grains and the orchard that supplies the apples used in the distillery's products, reinforcing the connection between the land and the bottle.



Agritourism is at the heart of Shady Knoll's mission. By opening its doors to the public, Shady Knoll not only showcases its products but also contributes to the local economy and promotes the importance of sustainable agriculture. Visitors who come to Shady Knoll are often inspired to explore other aspects of Millbrook's agritourism offerings, from wine tasting at Millbrook Vineyards & Winery to visiting Millbrook Beef & Dairy and other local farms and markets. This interconnectedness is a key feature of the region, where each visit enriches the overall experience of the Hudson Valley.

In conclusion, Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery is much more than a place to enjoy high-quality spirits; it's a hub of agritourism that invites visitors to engage with the land, learn about the distillation process, and appreciate the craftsmanship that goes into every bottle. Whether you're a seasoned spirits enthusiast or a curious traveler looking to experience the best of Millbrook, a visit to Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery is an essential part of any Hudson Valley itinerary. Here, in the heart of Millbrook, you'll find a perfect blend of tradition, innovation, and natural beauty, making Shady Knoll a true gem in the Hudson Valley's agritourism landscape.

Where to Stay: Hotels and Accommodations in the Hudson Valley

The Hudson Valley is a region of stunning landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture, making it a perfect destination for travelers seeking a mix of relaxation and adventure. Whether you're looking for luxury, charm, or a budget-friendly option, the Hudson Valley offers a diverse range of accommodations that cater to every type of traveler. Among these, Millbrook stands out as an especially inviting stop, with its serene atmosphere and proximity to top attractions like Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery.

Millbrook and Surrounding Areas

The Millbrook Inn



For those seeking a luxurious and intimate experience, The Millbrook Inn is a standout choice. This boutique hotel offers a tranquil escape with its elegant rooms, each uniquely decorated to reflect the charm of the Hudson Valley. Guests can enjoy a peaceful retreat while still being close to the heart of Millbrook, where they can explore local shops, dine at farm-to-table

restaurants, or visit Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery. The inn's serene setting and attention to detail make it a perfect base for exploring the area.

Wing's Castle Bed & Breakfast

For a truly unique stay, Wing's Castle offers an experience unlike any other. This historic and whimsical castle, built by hand from reclaimed materials, provides an enchanting backdrop for your Hudson Valley adventure. Each room is a work of art, filled with eclectic details and antiques. The castle is situated just a short drive from Millbrook, making it a convenient and memorable place to stay while visiting local attractions like Shady Knoll Distillery and the Millbrook Vineyards & Winery.

Millbrook Country House

Millbrook Country House epitomizes a style of country living that is at once sophisticated and relaxed. The gracious grounds, gardens, and a circa 1808 house, with four guest rooms. Its central location makes it easy to explore Millbrook and the surrounding countryside, including the nearby farms, distilleries and wineries and numerous outdoor activities such as golf, tennis, riding, fishing, hunting and sporting clays.

Old Drovers Inn



For a classic early American Inn experience, Old Drovers Inn (built in 1750) specializes in the warmest bed and breakfast hospitality combined with hotel-level services. It is located in nearby Dover Plains, and has a wonderful bar and

dining room.

Wider Hudson Valley

Mohonk Mountain House

For those looking to indulge in a luxurious getaway, Mohonk Mountain House is an iconic destination in the Hudson Valley. Located in New Paltz, this historic resort offers everything from spa treatments to outdoor adventures. The sprawling grounds include a pristine lake, hiking trails, and breathtaking views of the Shawangunk Ridge. Whether you're planning a romantic retreat or a family vacation, Mohonk Mountain House offers an unparalleled experience in the heart of nature.

The Roundhouse in Beacon

For a more modern luxury experience, The Roundhouse in Beacon combines sleek, contemporary design with historic charm. Situated along the Fishkill Creek, this hotel offers stunning views and convenient access to the vibrant arts scene in Beacon. Guests can enjoy upscale dining, explore local galleries, and take in the beauty of the Hudson River. The Roundhouse's blend of modern amenities and historic character makes it a top choice for visitors to the Hudson Valley.

Journey Inn Bed & Breakfast in Hyde Park

Directly across the street from the Vanderbilt Estate and Gardens, the Journey Inn offers spectacular views of the mighty Hudson River and the Catskills. This romantic bed and breakfast is less than two miles from Franklin Roosevelt's home Springwood and the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, and a ten-minute drive to dine at the famous Culinary Institute of America.

Beekman Arms & Delamater Inn

The Beekman Arms, America's oldest continuously operated hotel, is located in the center of the Village of Rhinebeck in the historic Hudson Valley. Pleasantly old fashioned, yet unobtrusively modern, it offers guests charming accommodations in several different buildings, all with private bath, television, telephone, and a decanter of sherry.

Hampton Inn & Suites in Poughkeepsie

For those seeking a budget-friendly option without sacrificing comfort, the Hampton Inn & Suites in Poughkeepsie is a reliable choice. This hotel offers convenient access to many of the Hudson Valley's attractions, including historic sites, shopping, and dining. With comfortable rooms, complimentary breakfast, and a range of amenities, it's an ideal base for exploring the region without breaking the bank.

Whether you're drawn to the luxury of a grand resort, the charm of a boutique inn, or the convenience of a well-located hotel, the Hudson Valley has something for everyone. Each accommodation offers a unique way to experience this beautiful region, with Millbrook providing a particularly inviting base for those looking to explore its rich agritourism offerings, including a visit to Shady Knoll Distillery.

Where to Eat: Dining in Millbrook and the Hudson Valley

The Hudson Valley is a culinary treasure trove, offering an array of dining experiences that highlight the region's rich agricultural heritage, innovative chefs, and farm-to-table ethos. Whether you're exploring the quaint village of Millbrook or venturing to other parts of the valley, you'll find an abundance of eateries that cater to a wide range of tastes and preferences. From casual cafes to fine dining establishments, the Hudson Valley is a food lover's paradise. Here are some top dining spots in Millbrook and the surrounding area that you won't want to miss.

Dining in Millbrook

Canoe Hill

At the heart of Millbrook's dining scene is Canoe Hill, a restaurant that epitomizes the farm-to-table philosophy for which the Hudson Valley is known. Canoe Hill offers a seasonal menu that changes frequently to reflect the freshest local ingredients available. The chefs at Canoe Hill focus on simple yet elegant dishes that showcase the natural flavors of the region. Whether you're enjoying a beautifully prepared farm-fresh salad, a hearty meat dish, or one of their creative desserts, each meal at Canoe Hill is a celebration of the Hudson Valley's bounty. The cozy, rustic ambiance adds to the charm, making it a must-visit for anyone dining in Millbrook.

Café Les Baux

Cafe Les Baux is a classic French bistro located in the heart of the bucolic Village of Millbrook. Chef Herve Bochard's dishes, rooted in the flavors of the Brittany Sea and the land of Provence, are infused with the distinctive taste of France. The menu features classic dishes, an ever-changing list of specials showcasing the bounty of product that can be found locally, as well as an extensive wine list.

Millbrook Café

Enjoy authentic 19th century cooking in a wood fired brick oven and grill at this family owned and operated culinary destination in the heart of Millbrook. It offers fresh seafood, hand-cut beef filets, home-made desserts and many other mouthwatering dishes.

Charlotte's Restaurant

Whether a romantic dinner for two, a festive family gathering, or a birthday celebration, Charlotte's is the perfect place. It prides itself on friendly service, charm and "food that dreams are made of". Guests may choose between the wainscoted dining room, with its mural depicting the four seasons of Dutchess County, and which offers views to the garden; the intimate bar area, with its crackling fire and warm ambiance; or, weather permitting, outside in the perennial garden. The menu at Charlotte's changes seasonally, to make use the freshest local ingredients.

Barbaro

Barbaro is located in the center of downtown historic Millbrook. It exudes warmth and intimacy upon first entering the open dining room. A pizzaiolo pulls piping hot Neapolitan-style pizzas from a wood-fired Pavesi oven, visible from the dining room and a focal point of the restaurant. The space sets the stage for the main event--a menu that features time-honored Italian dishes, from salads to pastas to main dishes, lovingly crafted with local products as well as top-quality Italian imports.

Babette's Kitchen

For a more casual but equally delightful dining experience, Babette's Kitchen is a local favorite in Millbrook. This charming café offers a relaxed atmosphere and a menu filled with comfort food made from locally-sourced ingredients. Whether you're stopping in for breakfast, lunch, or a quick bite, Babette's Kitchen has something to satisfy every craving. Their sandwiches, salads, and baked goods are all made in-house, and the café also offers prepared meals to take home. Babette's is the perfect spot for a leisurely brunch or a coffee break while exploring Millbrook.

The Stissing House



Just a short drive from Millbrook, The Stissing House in Pine Plains is a historic tavern that has been serving the community since the 18th century. Recently revitalized, The Stissing House offers a fine dining experience that blends old-world charm with contemporary cuisine. The menu features locally-sourced ingredients prepared with a

modern twist. Diners can expect a range of dishes, from wood-fired meats to fresh seafood, all expertly crafted and beautifully presented. The warm, inviting atmosphere of The Stissing House makes it an ideal spot for a special night out.

Millbrook Diner

Enjoy a classic American diner experience in the heart of Millbrook. Since 1929 a diner has sat on this spot, with the current edition, a stainless-steel boxcar version, dating from 1952. Order classic diner favorites such as hamburgers, french fries, BLTs etc., but it also offers an extensive menu that includes Greek and Mediterranean specials.

Hudson Valley Culinary Highlights

Blue Hill at Stone Barns

No exploration of Hudson Valley dining would be complete without mentioning Blue Hill at Stone Barns, one of the most renowned farm-to-table restaurants in the country. Located in Pocantico Hills, this Michelin-starred restaurant is situated on a working farm, and the menu is driven entirely by what is fresh and in season. Blue Hill offers a dining experience like no other, where each course is a reflection of the farm's daily harvest. This is a true culinary destination, perfect for those seeking an unforgettable dining experience that showcases the very best of the Hudson Valley.

The Amsterdam in Rhinebeck

Another gem in the Hudson Valley's culinary crown is The Amsterdam in Rhinebeck. This modern American restaurant offers a sophisticated yet relaxed dining experience, with a menu that emphasizes locally-sourced ingredients and innovative dishes. The Amsterdam's farm-to-table approach is evident in every dish, from the fresh, seasonal salads to the expertly cooked meats and seafood. The restaurant's inviting atmosphere, complete with a lovely outdoor patio, makes it a great spot for a leisurely dinner after exploring the nearby attractions.



Hudson Valley Brewery

For those who enjoy pairing their meals with craft beverages, the Hudson Valley Brewery in Beacon offers a unique dining experience. Known for its innovative sour ales and other craft brews, the brewery also serves a selection of casual yet flavorful dishes that complement their beers. Whether you're enjoying a beer flight or digging into one of their hearty sandwiches, the Hudson Valley Brewery provides a laid-back setting that is perfect for a relaxed meal with friends.

Culinary Institute of America

The Culinary Institute of America at Hyde Park has restaurants that provide an array of culinary experiences, from modern French to farm-to-table and from authentic Italian to new global flavors. They are united by their common passion for culinary excellence and their relationship to the world-renowned Culinary Institute of America. Its student-run restaurants include American Bounty, which focuses on seasons and products of the Hudson Valley; the Bocusse Restaurant, which imagines the execution of classic French cuisine through the lens of ultra-modern cooking techniques; Ristorante Caterina de' Medici, a grand Tuscan-style villa is a culinary escape to the world of Italian cuisine; and Post Road Brew House, which offers elevated gastropub fare and CIA's own craft beer selections, in a warm, relaxed, and comfortable setting.

Iron Furnace

Nestled in the heart of Verbank, NY, the Iron Furnace has been the go-to American restaurant in the area for over 13 years. The cozy, family-friendly atmosphere invites you to relax and enjoy a delicious meal crafted from locally sourced ingredients. With options ranging from mouthwatering steaks to crispy chicken wings, there's something for everyone at the Iron Furnace.

The Hudson Valley's dining scene is a reflection of its rich agricultural landscape, with restaurants and cafes that celebrate the region's local produce, meats, and dairy. Whether you're savoring a meal in Millbrook or exploring the broader Hudson Valley, you'll find that the region's commitment to quality and sustainability shines through in every dish. From upscale restaurants to cozy cafes, the Hudson Valley offers a dining experience that is both diverse and delicious, making it a must-visit destination for food lovers.

Things to Do: Activities and Attractions in the Hudson Valley

The Hudson Valley is a region brimming with activities and attractions that cater to all kinds of travelers, whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, a history buff, an art lover, or someone simply looking to unwind. From its breathtaking natural landscapes to its rich cultural heritage, the Hudson Valley offers a diverse range of experiences that make it a perfect destination for both short getaways and extended vacations. Here's a guide to some of the best things to do in the Hudson Valley, with a special focus on Millbrook and its surrounding areas.



Explore the Great Outdoors

The Hudson Valley is renowned for its stunning natural beauty, and there's no shortage of ways to immerse yourself in the great outdoors. One of the most popular activities is hiking, with trails that range from easy walks to challenging climbs, all offering spectacular views.

Minnewaska State Park

Located near New Paltz, Minnewaska State Park Preserve is a must-visit for nature lovers. The park is situated on the dramatic Shawangunk Ridge, offering over 50 miles of trails that wind through rugged terrain, past waterfalls, and around pristine lakes. Popular trails include the Lake Minnewaska Loop, which offers stunning views of the lake and surrounding cliffs, and the more challenging Gertrude's Nose Trail, which provides panoramic views of the Hudson Valley. The park is also a great spot for mountain biking, rock climbing, and in the winter, cross-country skiing.

Innisfree Garden

Closer to Millbrook, Innisfree Garden is a beautifully designed space that blends natural landscapes with Asian-inspired artistry. This 150-acre garden is ideal for a leisurely stroll, with winding paths that take you past serene ponds, lush plantings, and carefully placed sculptures. It's a perfect spot for photography, meditation, or simply enjoying the peaceful surroundings.



Walkway Over the Hudson

For a different kind of outdoor experience, the Walkway Over the Hudson offers a unique way to take in the region's beauty. This pedestrian bridge, which spans the Hudson River between Poughkeepsie and Highland, provides sweeping views of the river and surrounding hills. At 1.28 miles long, it's the world's longest elevated pedestrian bridge, making it a popular destination for walking, jogging, and biking.

Immerse Yourself in History

The Hudson Valley is steeped in history, with numerous landmarks and estates that offer a glimpse into the past.

Vanderbilt Mansion

Located in Hyde Park, the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site is a stunning example of Gilded Age opulence. This grand estate was the home of Frederick Vanderbilt, and today, visitors can tour the mansion's lavish interiors, explore the beautifully landscaped gardens, and learn about the lives of the Vanderbilt family. The estate also offers sweeping views of the Hudson River, making it a picturesque spot for a visit.



Washington's Headquarters



In Newburgh, Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site is another significant historical landmark. This was the first publicly owned historic site in the United States and served as General George Washington's headquarters during the final years of the Revolutionary War. The site includes the original 18th-century

house, a museum, and beautiful grounds overlooking the Hudson River.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Home

This National Historic Site was the home to the 32nd and longest-serving president of the United States. Franklin D. Roosevelt returned to Hyde Park often, drawing on this place to renew his spirit during times of personal and political crisis. Explore the Roosevelt saga in the homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the exhibits at the nation's first Presidential Library, and over a thousand acres of gardens and trails.



Art and Culture

The Hudson Valley is a haven for art and culture enthusiasts, with a variety of museums, galleries, and performance spaces to explore.

Storm King Art Center

One of the most remarkable cultural attractions in the Hudson Valley is the Storm King Art Center. Located in Mountainville, this outdoor sculpture park spans over 500 acres and features large-scale works by some of the world's most renowned contemporary artists. The sculptures are thoughtfully integrated into the landscape, creating a harmonious blend of art and nature. Visitors can spend hours wandering the grounds, taking in the monumental sculptures and the surrounding natural beauty.



Dia Beacon Galleries

Another cultural gem is Dia, located in the town of Beacon. Housed in a former Nabisco box-printing factory, this museum of contemporary art features works from the 1960s to the present. The spacious galleries, filled with natural light, showcase large-scale installations, sculptures, and paintings by artists such as Richard Serra, Louise Bourgeois, and Dan Flavin. Dia is a must-visit for anyone interested in modern and contemporary art.

Wine and Distillery Tours

The Hudson Valley is also known for its thriving wine and spirits industry, making it a great destination for tasting tours.

Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery

In Millbrook, Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery offers a unique farm-to-bottle experience that's not to be missed. This family-owned distillery produces high-quality spirits using grains and apples grown on their own farm. Visitors can tour the distillery, learn about the distillation process, and sample their range of products, including rye whiskey, single barrel rye whiskey, four grain whiskey, apple brandy and pommeau. The distillery's location in the scenic Millbrook countryside makes it a perfect stop on any Hudson Valley itinerary.



Tenmile Distillery

Tenmile Distillery is a small, independent distillery in in Wassaic that is located in a 100-year-old barn. It produces American single malt whiskey, gin and vodka, and offers tours and tastings on its beautiful farm. Tenmile Distillery is owned by the owner of Millbrook Vineyards & Winery.

Hillrock Estate Distillery

Hillrock Estate Distillery is located in Ancram. It produces hand-crafted spirits made with its own grain that is floor malted, distilled, aged and bottled on its farm. Hillrock Distillery overlooks rolling barley fields and the distant Berkshire Mountains, and is a great place to visit for tours and tastings.



Klocke Estate Distillery

This is a new soil-to-glass brandy distillery, farm and culinary destination set on one-hundred and sixty acres of farmland in Claverack. It has vineyards and apple orchards that it uses to make brandy and vermouth. Klocke offers tours and tastings, and also has a beautiful restaurant for lunches and dinners.

Millbrook Vineyards & Winery

Also in Millbrook, Millbrook Vineyards & Winery is one of the region's premier wineries. The vineyard offers tours and tastings, where visitors can sample a variety of wines, including their award-winning Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Franc. The winery's beautiful grounds, complete with a pond and vineyards stretching into the distance, provide a serene setting for enjoying a glass of wine.

Shopping and Local Markets

The Hudson Valley is home to a vibrant community of artisans, farmers, and makers, and there are plenty of opportunities to shop for local goods.

Millbrook Farmers Market

The Millbrook Farmers Market is a great place to experience the local flavors of the Hudson Valley. Held every Saturday from May through October, the market features fresh produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses, and artisanal products from local vendors. It's a perfect spot to pick up picnic supplies or to sample some of the region's finest foods.

Rhinebeck Farmers Market

Another excellent market is the Rhinebeck Farmers Market, held on Sundays. This market is known for its wide selection of local produce, meats, dairy, and specialty foods. In addition to food vendors, you'll find crafts, flowers, and more, making it a fun destination for both shopping and socializing.



The Hudson Valley offers an endless array of activities and attractions that cater to every interest. Whether you're hiking through the region's natural beauty, exploring its rich history, immersing yourself in art and culture, or sampling local wines and spirits, there's something for everyone in this diverse and dynamic region. Millbrook, with its blend of natural charm and agritourism, provides an ideal base for discovering all that the Hudson Valley has to offer.

Practical Information

When planning a trip to the Hudson Valley, a little practical knowledge can go a long way in ensuring a smooth and enjoyable visit. From transportation options to seasonal tips and local resources, here's everything you need to know to make the most of your time in this beautiful region.

Getting Around

Transportation Options

The Hudson Valley is well-connected by a variety of transportation options, making it accessible whether you're arriving by car, train, or even bicycle. For many visitors, driving is the most convenient way to explore the region, as it offers the flexibility to visit multiple towns, vineyards, and scenic spots at your own pace. Major highways like the Taconic State Parkway and Interstate 87 (the New York State Thruway) run through the valley, making it easy to navigate by car.



If you prefer not to drive, the Metro-North Railroad's Hudson Line provides frequent train service from New York City to several towns in the valley, including Beacon, Poughkeepsie, and Hudson. Amtrak also offers service to stations in Rhinecliff, Hudson, and Albany. Once you arrive by train, local car rental services or car services such as Morningstar Car Service are available, or you can use ride-sharing apps like Uber and Lyft to get around.



For those who enjoy cycling, the Hudson Valley offers numerous bike-friendly routes, including the Empire State Trail, which runs from New York City all the way to Canada, passing through the heart of the valley. Cycling is a great way to experience the region's natural beauty at a leisurely pace.

Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging

Parking is generally easy to find throughout the Hudson Valley, particularly in smaller towns like Millbrook. Many attractions, including state parks and historical sites, have dedicated parking areas. If you're driving an electric vehicle (EV), you'll find a growing number of charging stations across the region, especially near major attractions and in larger towns. It's a good idea to check ahead for charging locations if you're planning a road trip in an EV.

Seasonal Considerations

The Hudson Valley is a year-round destination, with each season offering its own unique appeal. However, it's important to be prepared for the weather and plan accordingly.

Spring and Summer

Spring and summer are popular times to visit, with warm weather, blooming flowers, and lush greenery making it ideal for outdoor activities like hiking, picnicking, and exploring gardens. If you're visiting in the summer, be sure to pack sunscreen, hats, and lightweight clothing, as temperatures can occasionally reach into the 80s and 90s (Fahrenheit). It's also a good idea to bring insect repellent for outdoor activities.

Fall

Fall is perhaps the most iconic season in the Hudson Valley when the foliage turns vibrant shades of red, orange, and gold. This is the peak season for visitors, so expect larger crowds at popular attractions. If you're planning to visit during the fall, make accommodation reservations well in advance and consider bringing layers, as temperatures can vary widely during the day.



Winter

Winter in the Hudson Valley is quieter but no less beautiful, with snowy landscapes offering opportunities for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and cozy fireside retreats. Be sure to pack warm clothing, including hats, gloves, and boots, as temperatures often drop below freezing. Some attractions may have limited hours or be closed during the winter months, so check ahead if you're planning a specific activity.

Local Resources

Visitor Centers

The Hudson Valley has several visitor centers that can provide maps, brochures, and helpful advice for making the most of your trip. Key locations include the Hudson Valley Welcome Center at the Woodbury Common Premium Outlets and the Dutchess County Tourism office in Poughkeepsie. These centers offer a wealth of information on local attractions, events, and services.

Emergency Services

It's always good to be prepared, so take note of local emergency services. In case of a medical emergency, the region is served by several hospitals, including Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie and Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck. For non-emergencies, urgent care centers are widely available throughout the valley. Additionally, most towns have police and fire departments that can be reached by dialing 911.



Local Etiquette

The Hudson Valley is known for its friendly and welcoming residents, but it's always helpful to be aware of local customs. Tipping is customary in restaurants, with 15-20% of the bill being standard. When visiting farms, vineyards, and distilleries, remember to respect private property and follow any posted guidelines, particularly in agritourism settings.

By keeping these practical tips in mind, you'll be well-equipped to explore the Hudson Valley with confidence. Whether you're navigating scenic roads, enjoying a seasonal festival, or simply relaxing in a charming inn, being prepared will help ensure that your visit is as enjoyable and stress-free as possible.

Goodbye For Now

The Hudson Valley is a region that truly has something for everyone. Whether you're drawn by its rich history, stunning natural landscapes, vibrant arts scene, or its burgeoning food and beverage culture, the Hudson Valley offers a wealth of experiences that make it a unique and unforgettable destination. From the rolling hills of Millbrook to the bustling streets of Beacon, this region invites you to slow down, explore, and savor the best that upstate New York has to offer.

As you plan your visit, Millbrook stands out as a particularly inviting stop. This charming village captures the essence of the Hudson Valley's blend of rural tranquility and sophisticated charm. Millbrook is not only home to Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery, where you can experience the farm-to-bottle process in a picturesque setting, but it also offers delightful dining options, quaint accommodations, and a gateway to the region's many attractions. Whether you're sampling spirits at Shady Knoll Orchards & Distillery, enjoying a meal at Millbrook Inn, or taking a peaceful walk through Innisfree Garden, Millbrook provides a perfect base for your Hudson Valley adventures.

But the Hudson Valley's appeal extends far beyond Millbrook. The entire region is a mosaic of small towns and scenic landscapes, each with its own unique character and charm. Whether you're hiking through the stunning trails of Minnewaska State Park, exploring the historical grandeur of the Vanderbilt Mansion, or immersing yourself in contemporary art at Dia, the Hudson Valley offers countless opportunities to create lasting memories. Its diverse attractions, from outdoor adventures to cultural treasures, ensure that every visitor will find something to love.

Moreover, the Hudson Valley's commitment to sustainability and local production is evident in its thriving farm-to-table dining scene and the growing number of wineries and distilleries that dot the landscape. As you explore the region, you'll not only enjoy its delicious offerings but also gain a deeper appreciation for the land and the people who work to preserve its beauty and bounty.

In conclusion, the Hudson Valley is more than just a destination—it's an experience. It's a place where the past and present coexist harmoniously, where natural beauty is complemented by human creativity and craftsmanship, and where every visit offers something new to discover. Whether you're here for a weekend getaway or an extended stay, the Hudson Valley promises a rich, rewarding experience that will stay with you long after you've left. So pack your bags, set your itinerary, and get ready to explore all that this remarkable region has to offer. The Hudson Valley is waiting to welcome you with open arms.

