

BEST OF NEW ENGLAND

BEST BARGAINS

35 Don't-Miss
Summer Savers

WHERE TO GO

120 Best Fairs,
Festivals, and Events

BEST DINING

21 Local Foodie
Destinations

YANKEE

NEW ENGLAND'S MAGAZINE

2013
TRAVEL GUIDE TO
NEW ENGLAND

SPECIAL ISSUE

3 DOWN-HOME
COUNTRY STORES

14 HISTORIC
INNS AND B&Bs

1 PERFECT
CABINET *(p. 170)*

*(Rhode Islanders know
what we mean)*

317

**EDITORS' CHOICE
WINNERS!**

**ISLANDS
YOU'LL
LOVE**

MAY/JUNE 2013
U.S./CANADA \$5.99



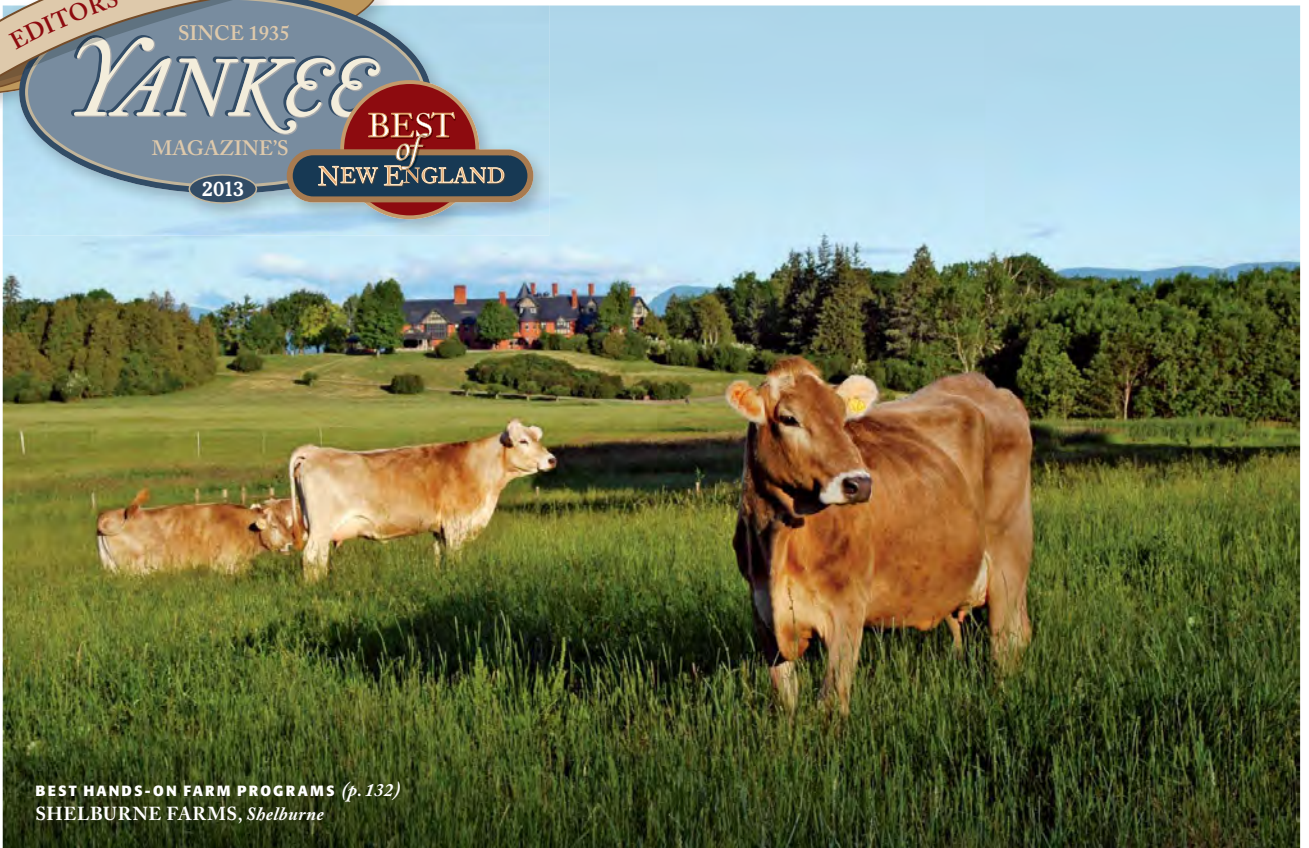
YANKEEMAGAZINE.COM

6 ISLAND DAYTRIPS—DAWN TO DARK *(p. 54)*

UNFORGETTABLE CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS *(p. 72)*

ISLAND FARE: 5 RECIPES FROM NORTH HAVEN *(p. 40)*

VERMONT



BEST HANDS-ON FARM PROGRAMS (p. 132)
SHELBURNE FARMS, *Shelburne*

ATTRACTIONS

BEST INDOOR WATERPARK

JAY PEAK WATERPARK, *Jay*

The Pump House is glass-walled, with a retractable glass roof, and always 86 degrees. The choice of watery ways to cool off include “La Chute”—a 65-foot-high slide with a twisty 45mph descent—and Big River, a deceptively lazy run until you hit the waves. 830 *Jay Peak Road*. 802-988-2611; jaypeakresort.com

BEST MOUNTAIN VISTAS

MOUNT ASCUTNEY, *Windsor*

A “parkway” snakes up from the entrance of Mount Ascutney State Park to within a mile of the 3,144-foot summit. Climb the fire tower for a spectacular 360-degree panorama from this mountain that stands alone by the Connecticut River. 1826 *Back Mountain Road (Route 44A)*. 802-674-2060; vtstateparks.com

BEST DOWNHILL RIDE

TIMBER RIPPER MOUNTAIN COASTER, *Ludlow*

At Okemo Mountain Resort, drivers control the speed of sled-like cars as they whizz down 3,100 feet of track on a scenic trip through alpine forest, bringing them up close to Okemo’s Jackson Gore. 77 *Okemo Ridge Road*. 802-228-4041; okemo.com

BEST MUSIC HALL

CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS, *Randolph*

This restored 1907 Music Hall offers concerts and live shows in a 575-seat theater with great acoustics. Films are screened and “intimate” performances are in the Upper Gallery. Labor Day Sunday is the annual New World Festival, celebrating Celtic and French Canadian heritage. 71-73 *Main St.* 802-728-6464; chandler-arts.org

BEST BAKERS' HAVEN

KING ARTHUR FLOUR BAKER'S STORE & BAKERY/CAFÉ, *Norwich*

The home of America’s oldest family-owned flour company (since 1790) has morphed into a “campus” with a vast store stocked with baking ingredients, cookbooks, and kitchenware. The Baking Education Center offers classes (beginner to expert), and a café serves the flakiest of croissants, pastries, and pizzas. 135 *Route 5 South*. 800-827-6836, 802-649-3361; kingarthurfLOUR.com

BEST ARCHITECTURAL REVIVAL

PARAMOUNT THEATRE, *Rutland*

Débuting in 1914, the Paramount was restored in 2000 after 35 years of ruin. Detailed craftsmanship, balanced acoustics, and direct-sight viewing make all 838 seats worthy of a ticket for varied live performances or a regular film series. 30 *Center St.* 802-775-0903; paramountvt.org

and rock-'n'-roll, admission is free and it's a local favorite. Snow Farm wines, local beer, and food can be purchased on site; outside alcohol isn't allowed, but picnic food is welcome. 190 West Shore Road. 802-372-9463; snowfarm.com

BEST HISTORIC STONWORK EXHIBIT

HOPE CEMETERY, Barre

Featuring Barre's legendary granite, this well-known cemetery serves as a museum of sorts of the immaculate detail and artistic expression that this famous stone helped inspire. Best of all, it's free to visit. Maple Ave. (Route 14). 802-476-6245; central-vt.com/web/hope

BEST ARTY ESCAPE

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART, Middlebury

This museum offers a treasure trove of Asian, European, and American collections from 4000 B.C. through the present. Free admission only adds to the richness of the experience. Middlebury College, 72 Porter Field Road. 802-443-5007; museum.middlebury.edu

CLASSICS

BEST "CABINET OF CURIOSITIES"

FAIRBANKS MUSEUM & PLANETARIUM, St. Johnsbury

Victorian cabinets in the Grand Hall display hundreds of stuffed animals, from mice to an 1898 moose, plus reptiles, fish, insects, and birds galore. Don't miss the 19th-century cultural exotica on the balcony, and check out the weather station, home of VPR's *Eye on the Sky*. The local night sky is on view in the planetarium. 1302 Main St. 802-748-2372; fairbanksmuseum.org

BEST PRESIDENTIAL CHEESE

CALVIN COOLIDGE STATE HISTORIC SITE, Plymouth Notch

The visitors' center exhibit uses Coolidge's own words, objects from his life, and interactive media to relate the story of how this farm boy became our 30th president. His white-clapboard village is frozen in the 1920s, and the cheese factory his father built now produces exceptional granular curd cheddar. 3780 Route 100A. 802-672-3773; historicites.vermont.gov/Coolidge; plymouthartisancheese.com

BEST SCIENCE CENTER

MONTSHIRE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, Norwich

This major science center demystifies natural phenomena, from fireflies to fog, and offers movies and images from the Hubble space telescope. Outside, explore the museum's 110 acres, including Science Park, Woodland Garden, and several miles of nature trails. Outdoor exhibits



BEST SCIENCE CENTER (below left)
MONTSHIRE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, Norwich

include the Wind Wall, Musical Fence, Water Rill, and Mist Fountain. 1 Montshire Road. 802-649-2200; montshire.org

BEST HISTORIC REPLICATION

HILDENE, Manchester

American history shines in the splendid story of Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's first son, who built Hildene in 1905, 41 years after vacationing in Manchester as a boy. Tours span the estate buildings and grounds, the latter available for picnicking and walking. 1005 Hildene Road. 800-578-1788, 802-362-1788; hildene.org

BEST HANDS-ON FARM PROGRAMS

SHELBURNE FARMS, Shelburne

A National Historic Landmark located on a

1,400-acre working farm with inn and restaurant, Shelburne Farms has become a leader in the local-foods movement with farm-based education programs for both children and adults. The children's farmyard attraction is one-of-a-kind. Farm meats, cheeses, and maple syrup are all available for purchase. 1611 Harbor Road. 802-985-8686; shelburnefarms.org

OUTDOORS

BEST OUTDOOR CENTER

CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER, Craftsbury Common

Rated among the country's best running and sculling programs (for beginners and pros), this is also a place to walk and mountain-bike, swim and sail. The rustic complex is set above Hosmer

ANDREW WELLMAN/MONTSHIRE MUSEUM (MUSEUM)