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Chasing Waterfalls

A Hudson Valley boutique hotel offers peace and serenity on the water's edge



When you're ready to slow down your hectic pace and relax, head to Saugerties, N.Y., in the lower Hudson Valley. Take a scenic drive up 9W and discover why the Lenape Indians embraced the region, calling it "Esopus," meaning "flowing waters and high banks," and why artists and poets have been inspired by its natural beauty for hundreds of years.

While spending the weekend visiting local wineries, antiquing, hiking or simply enjoying the scenery, find respite at the diamond Mills Hotel and Tavern. The boutique hotel is situated along Esopus Creek, a 65-mile-long tributary of the Hudson River. The hotel’s red brick façade, stacked stone foundation and paned windows complement the natural beauty of its surroundings, which include picturesque waterfalls. Inside, the 30 guest rooms, a 7,000-square-foot ballroom and a dining room and bar are decorated in neutral tones that blend vintage and modern touches with reclaimed wood. Every room has a balcony and a view of the falls, and a step outside offers the soothing sound of rushing water. Little touches, like a nightly turndown service and truffles and fresh flowers left on your pillow, make the stay extra inviting.

When hunger beckons, head to the hotel’s equestrian-inspired restaurant to enjoy a meal on the patio overlooking the waterfalls. Executive Chef Giuseppe Napoli blends traditional and contemporary American cuisine with an emphasis on farm-to-table ingredients, high-quality meats and fish and house-made artisanal pastas and breads. Even the cocktails are indigenous to the region, with local craft brews, spirits from local distilleries and the finest wines from New York. Dishes like lobster truffle mac and cheese are every bit as refined as they are comforting. Save room for dessert, and try the decadent chocolate tortellinis with spiced ganache, raspberry relish and white chocolate ice cream. —Lisa Dawson

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