



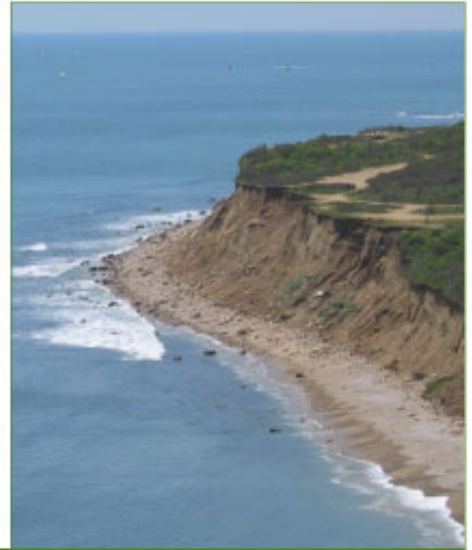
the cultural roadmap for the city girl

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# GETAWAYS



WINE AND WAVES: YOUR GETAWAY AWAITS YOU

## NY'S GREAT ESCAPES

Burned out from all the Pride fun? New York's Hudson River Valley and the East End of Long Island have become legendary as a gay-friendly refuge for artists, wine aficionados and urban dwellers craving an escape; and Cherry Grove has been our favorite homo-hangout since the 1930s. So, slip on the flip-flops, dust off the cooler and hit the road with GO NYC as your guide!

### Hudson River Valley

Running alongside the west bank of the Hudson River, a mere 90 miles north of Manhattan, New York's Ulster County and Catskills region has been a consistent favorite among city-folk seeking nature without sacrificing culture. A world of artist colonies, environmental preserves and world-class dining awaits—not to mention some of the state's most outstanding vineyards.

Spend a carefree day winding through the **Shawangunk Wine Trail**, named after the mountain range that provides the picturesque landscape of the area. The network of 11 family-owned wineries scattered across the Hudson Valley follow the fine wine-making tradition of the area's early French Huguenot settlers. Make sure to stop at the 70-acre **Whitecliff** in

Gardiner, featuring a tasting room facing the Shawangunk mountains. For details on individual wineries, info about special events (such as the June 17 and July 29 Food & Wine Festivals) and a map of the trail, refer to [shawangunkwinetrail.com](http://shawangunkwinetrail.com).

After a lovely summer day meandering through grape fields, catch a local theatre production or rock out at the many live music venues in the creative capital of Ulster County—legendary Woodstock. **The Maverick Concert Hall** (Maverick Rd @ Rt 375, 845-679-8217, [maverickconcerts.org](http://maverickconcerts.org)) presents classical, jazz and special events from June through September in their rustic music chapel, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

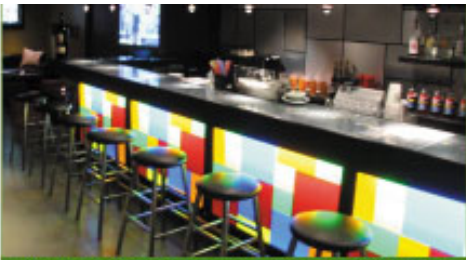
The nearby **Woodstock Playhouse** (Rtes 212 & 375, 845-679-4101, [woodstockplayhouse.org](http://woodstockplayhouse.org)), the oldest

continually operating summer stock theatre in the state, is another favorite arts destination. See the website for their remarkably varied lineup.

Belleayre Mountain has devised a summer use for their defrosted slopes with the **Belleayre Summer Concert Series** ([belleayremusic.com](http://belleayremusic.com)). Their 2006 season features Roseanne Cash, Isaac Hayes and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. A complete summer schedule is provided on their website.

For women seeking to unleash their primal urges, the **9th Annual Catskill Mountain Womyn's World Drum and Percussion Happen'n** (June 29–July 2, [drumcentral.net](http://drumcentral.net)) is the place to be. The Happen'n is an extended weekend of multicultural community, drum workshops, technique demonstrations and performances in many traditional styles. Host venue, the **Full Moon Resort** (Valley View Road, Big Indian, 845-254-5117, [fullmooncentral.com](http://fullmooncentral.com)) is a 100-acre site that includes a New American-fare café, outdoor concert tent, roadhouse-style music venue, campfire jam sessions and versatile accom-





PUBLIC LOUNGE: HUDSON VALLEY HANGOUT; DANCE ON THE BEACH WITH THE CENTER IN THE HAMPTONS



outdoor concert tent, roadhouse-style music venue, campfire jam sessions and versatile accommodations from B&B-style cottages to campsites.

Make **The Roxbury** (2258 County Hwy 41, Roxbury, 607-326-7200, [theroxburymotel.com](http://theroxburymotel.com)) your roost for a rural retreat with all the city-slicker amenities. The retro-renovated motor lodge is bursting with charm and unexpected extras (including DSL, gourmet breakfast and customized packages). Mention GO NYC for a 10% discount off your stay. Also, be sure

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BY KIM ZONCA, EDITED BY NICOLE DEGENNARO



SPEND A NIGHT AT THE TRANQUIL EAST HAMPTON VILLAGE B&B OR THE CHARMING ROXBURY IN HUDSON VALLEY; HIKE THE NEW PALTZ SHAWANGUNKS

to stop in for a nightcap across the river at the sleek 'family'-friendly **Public Lounge** (2318 County Hwy 41, 607-326-4026, [publiclounge.net](http://publiclounge.net)).

Grab a quick bite at local favorite, the **Quarter Moon Café** (53 Main Street, Delhi, 607-746-8886, [quartermooncafe.com](http://quartermooncafe.com)), or for a more entertaining evening, dine at **Colony Café** (22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock, 845-679-8639, [colonycafe.com](http://colonycafe.com)), with live bluegrass, spoken word or nightly DJs. For a romantic night, treat your lady to dinner at **Peekamoose Restaurant & Tap Room** (Rt 28, Big Indian, 845-254-8373, [peekamooseresaurant.com](http://peekamooseresaurant.com)), with a tasting menu that is purported to have aphrodisiac properties. *Bon Appétit!*

For more info: [ulstertourism.info](http://ulstertourism.info), [woodstockchamber.com](http://woodstockchamber.com), [catskillguide.com](http://catskillguide.com), [hvnet.net](http://hvnet.net)

**Long Island's East End NORTH FORK**

The North Fork region of Eastern Long Island is a pastoral wonderland, more laid-back than its counterpart, the South Fork (which includes the happenin' Hamptons). Recently, the North Fork has become increasingly popular with LGBT urbanites seeking a slower-paced getaway. Here, the **East End Gay Organization** (631-324-3699, [eego.org](http://eego.org)) and the **North Fork Women For Women Fund** ([nfwfwf.org](http://nfwfwf.org)) sponsor various events throughout the summer and all year round. Don't miss NFWFWF's benefit on June 10, with performances by Vickie Shaw and Suede. Check their websites for more info.

The main reason to visit the area is the **North Fork**

Cutchogue winemakers proclaim their town is the sunniest in New York State. There you will find at least nine wineries, all known for light Chardonnay and well-balanced Merlot, among others. **Bedell** is a recommended stop not only for the premier quality wines, but also for their state-of-the-art facility including a tasting room art gallery showing contemporary works by Cindy Sherman, Sam Taylor Wood and Uta Barth.

The trail concludes at **Temhaven Cellars** in the seaside town of Greenport. Steadily growing in popularity among gay vacation-home owners, Greenport is the charming highlight of the North Fork and is easily accessible by ferry or bus. Plan for dinner at one of the delicious restaurants including **The Fifth Season** (45 Front St, 631-477-8500), a Slow Food concept eatery (local, fresh-picked ingredients); or **The Frisky Oyster** (27 Front St, 631-477-4265, [thefriskyoyster.com](http://thefriskyoyster.com)), a welcoming New American bistro with a seasonal menu and legendary key lime pie...Save room!

Greenport also has a variety of comfy places to stay. Check into gay-owned **Stirling House** (104 Bay Ave, 631-477-0654, [thestirlinghouse.com](http://thestirlinghouse.com)), an 1880s Victorian B&B that offers dramatic harbor views from every room and a wraparound porch. GO NYC readers get a 10% discount. Be sure to ask about their **Wine Camp**, a hands-on tour into the world of wine. The retro-modern **Greenporter Hotel & Spa** (326 Front St, 631-477-0066, [thegreenporter.com](http://thegreenporter.com)) offers luxurious in-room spa treatments and over 45 wines by the glass in their French Bistro. Before leaving town, take a nostalgic spin on the beauti-

the **SAGE Hamptons Event** (July 15, 212-741-0375, [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org)); the **Hamptons Bike Ride for LGBT Immigration Equality** (Sept 16, 212-714-2904, [immigrationequality.org](http://immigrationequality.org)); an afternoon reception for **Lambda Legal in the Hamptons** (Aug 6, 212-809-8585, [lambdalegal.org](http://lambdalegal.org)); and the **Empire State Pride Agenda 14th Annual Hamptons Tea Dance** (July 8, 212-627-0305, [prideagenda.org](http://prideagenda.org)), being held on the amazing grounds of **The Ark Project** (30 Millstone Rd, Bridgehampton, [thearkproject.com](http://thearkproject.com)), the Hamptons' 100-acre nature preserve, sculpture park and art center.

Save some energy for the pièce-de-résistance of the party season: **Dancing On The Beach 6** (41 Two Mile Hollow Rd, East Hampton, [tix.gaycenter.org](http://tix.gaycenter.org)), on Saturday July 22, a benefit for the **LGBT Community Center** in NYC. Hosts Kim Cattrall and Terrence McNally will join hundreds of revelers swaying to the beats of renowned DJ Susan Morabito. Last year's event drew 950 guests and raised over \$200,000 to support The Center's vital programs.



are Doty; Courtesy Public Lounge; Courtesy The Center; Courtesy East Hampton Village B&B; Courtesy Roxbury; Courtesy Michelle Chamney; Devon Kirkpatrick

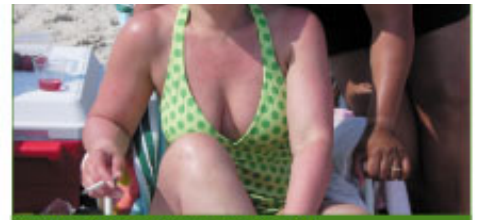
Courtesy Beidel Winery; Kate Doty

The main reason to visit the area is the **North Fork Wine Trail** ([iwines.com](http://iwines.com)). During the past 30 years, Long Island's wine industry has grown to 3,000 acres of sprawling vines and over 30 wineries producing world-class vintages. If you happen to be visiting the weekend of June 17, be sure to stop by the **Mattituck Strawberry Festival** ([mattitucklionclub.org/StrawberryFestival.html](http://mattitucklionclub.org/StrawberryFestival.html)), an old-fashioned country fair celebrating all things strawberry.

45 wines by the glass in their French Bistro. Before leaving town, take a nostalgic spin on the beautifully restored 1920s **Greenport Carousel** (in Mitchell Park, Front St, weekends only).

**THE HAMPTONS**

For an ultra-chic, action-packed holiday, the Hamptons are where you want to be for some partying with a cause. This season is loaded with fundraisers for our favorite LGBT causes, including



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COOL OFF AT THE ICE PALACE ON LESBIAN-FRIENDLY FIRE ISLAND

After all that excitement, you'll need a real comfy place to crash. The **East Hampton Village B&B** (172 Newton Ln, East Hampton, 631-324-1858, [easthamptonvillagebandb.com](http://easthamptonvillagebandb.com)) is a friendly turn-of-the-century Victorian with inviting garden grounds and antique-filled rooms. Plus, it's located within walking distance to restaurants, boutiques, bicycle rentals and the beach. For more pizzazz, check out the hotels of **Hampton Resorts and Hospitality Group** ([hrhresorts.com](http://hrhresorts.com)): the **Atlantic**, **Bentley** and **Capri**, all in Southampton. Guests are pampered with fine European linens, Aveda bath amenities and in-room spa treatments.

Score your morning-after hangover helpers at **John Papa's Café** (18 Park Pl, East Hampton, 631-324-5400), offering an extensive breakfast menu all day and providing robust coffee. The Hamptons' LGBT set gives **Babette's** (66 Newton Ln, East Hampton, 631-329-5377) high marks. This funky café serves healthy international fare with an imaginative twist. For a front-row seat of the breathtaking sunset, splurge for dinner at **East Hampton Point** (295 Three Mile Harbor Rd, 631-329-2800, [easthamptonpoint.com](http://easthamptonpoint.com)).

For more info: [hamptonvisitorscouncil.com](http://hamptonvisitorscouncil.com), [funonli.com](http://funonli.com), [longislandlodging.com](http://longislandlodging.com), [savorlongiland.com](http://savorlongiland.com), [northfork.org](http://northfork.org)

**Fire Island**

It just isn't officially summer until you hit the beach at Cherry Grove, our own

is just one of the many reasons why you'll love Cherry Grove, our own little lesbian paradise on Fire Island. Only 50 miles east of NYC, the petite island is the perfect nearby getaway whether you're seeking a quiet peaceful day at the beach or non-stop revelry. Cherry Grove offers plenty to see and do for visitors of all interests: surfing, swimming, boating, hiking, shopping, dancing, dining and of course flirting.

The natural beauty and wildlife on Fire Island are some of the most interesting in New York State, including a sunken forest and rare species of birds. The island is also famous for another kind of wildlife, found at the popular clubs: **Cherry's** (631-597-6820, [gaynitelife.com](http://gaynitelife.com)) especially on women's night, "Cherry-girl," every other Saturday; and at the fabulous house of cabaret and cocktail, lesbian-operated **Tides** (631-597-3744, [tidescherrygrove.com](http://tidescherrygrove.com)) which draws a diverse crowd nightly and a Saturday BBQ popular with the ladies. For the best uninterrupted sunset view right on the bay, aptly-named **Sunsets** (631-597-9663, [gaynitelife.com](http://gaynitelife.com)) presents amazing drag shows, comedy and events.

Watch the Pride fireworks (June 24) or make some of your own at the **Ice Palace**, located inside the **Grove Hotel** (631-597-6600, [GroveHotel.com](http://GroveHotel.com)), Fire Island's largest hotel. If you'd rather splurge on cocktails than a fancy room, **Holly House** (631-597-6911) is a good no-frills place to crash on a budget.

Cherry Grove dining options range from quick 'n casual to *al fresco* elegant. The best fast bites are at **Cherry Grove Pizza**, **Burger Queen** and **Floyd's** for breakfast or gourmet sammies. Upscale **Top of the Bay** (631-597-6699) and **The Island Mermaid** (in nearby Ocean Beach, 631-583-8088, [islandmermaid.com](http://islandmermaid.com)) both have menus almost as stunning as their ocean views. ■

For more info: [CherryGrove.com](http://CherryGrove.com), [AsTheGroveTurns.com](http://AsTheGroveTurns.com), [FireIslandQNews.com](http://FireIslandQNews.com)

Kate Doty



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