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July 2007

**Weekends**

**The great escape**

By Catalina Margulis



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The great escape



Looking to get outta town? Just beyond the city, there's an oasis waiting to be explored. Here are three great weekend escapes out East.

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## Prince Edward County, Ontario

Nestled between Toronto and Ottawa, PEC's 500 miles of sandy shoreline aren't the only reason city slickers flock here. Farmers have long been attracted to PEC's lush green land and limestone soil, and now winemakers and high-end chefs are putting the County on the map of foodies everywhere. (Toronto celeb chef Jamie Kennedy is even rumored to be opening up shop here in the future.)

The best way to explore the County is with the **Taste Trail**, a self-guided gourmet tour with stops like **Waupoos Estates Winery** – a vineyard tucked within apple orchards, directly on the shores of Prince Edward Bay. At another stop, **Buddha Dog**, fuel up on mini gourmet frankfurters, and be sure to top your dog with the handmade cherry ketchup.

Dine at **Harvest** for a sophisticated experience, where chef Michael Potters has worked personally with local farmers to create dishes (named after his partners) like Flintshire Farms Guinea Fowl Terrine and Dana Vader's County Lamb.

Tuck in for the night at regal **Claramount Inn** – which boasts the area's top spa – or the elegant **Merrill Inn**, with chef Michael Sullivan (formerly of **The Fifth** in Toronto) at the helm. On your way home, grab some artisanal homemade ice cream from **Slickers**, where flavors run the gamut from Pumpkin Pie to Concord Grape.



HARVEST

## The Hamptons, New York

While *Sex and the City*, P. Diddy parties and celebrity homeowners like Jerry Seinfeld have upped the Hamptons' jet-setting quotient, the South Fork of New York's Long Island is still known for its white-sand beaches and quaint, upper-crust towns.

Starting with old-money Southampton, take a break from the area's chic shops and stop in at the **Southampton Publick House** microbrewery for a refreshing pint of Double White Ale, a Belgian beer spiced with coriander and orange peel. For a cultural pit stop, tour the **Pollock-Krasner House**, once the rural home and studio of Abstract Expressionist painters Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner.

Lunch at **The American Hotel** affords a view of Sag Harbor and includes high-end seafood like Oak-Smoked Scottish Salmon Garni and Hibachi Scallops. Or do as the locals do and hit up Amagansett's **Lobster Roll** to nosh on the eponymous sandwich.

For sleepovers, nothing beats East Hampton's **1770 House**, with six exclusive suites and a private carriage house, all fitted with plush Frette bed linens. **Mill House Inn** has cozy-luxe rooms and popular breakfasts that feature delicious twists on American classics like the crayfish and andouille étouffée and the chicken sausage and wild mushroom hash.

## Eastern Townships, Quebec

Bordering Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, and less than an hour's drive from Montreal, Quebec's Eastern Townships have long attracted outdoor and culinary enthusiasts alike. Its **Follow the Fields** routes are comprised of dozens of foodie stops, including orchards, sugar shacks and vineyards. To work off the calories, cyclists can embark on some of the 300 miles of **groomed trails** in the area, while taking in rolling hills and lakes.

Book a table at the stately Victorian inn **Auberge Georgeville** for a sit-

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