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KIM & JAMES TAYLOR'S RETURN

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WELCOME There are many options for staycationers, like The Guest House at Field Farm, 33 Main, Briarcliff, and the Old Inn on the Green.

Staying at the Guest House at Field Farm is all about connecting with nature—and art. Edwin Goodell Jr. designed the 1948 Bauhaus-inspired house for Lawrence and Eleanor Bloedel, avid modern art and furniture collectors, most of which is still there intact.

The inn, in the middle of 316 acres with a sculpture garden, four miles of hiking trails, and sweeping views to Mount Greylock, is owned by the Trustees of Reservations. It also includes The Folly, a pinwheel-shaped guest cottage designed in 1965 by Ulrich Franzen overlooking the pond.

The Guest House welcomed guests back on the first of July, and only half of the six rooms

are now occupied at a time.

“It was nice to know that there isn’t any real chance of overcrowding here,” says innkeeper Ole Retlev. “We’ve taken out some breakfast tables, and we don’t have our breakfast buffet. The meals are to order—scrambled eggs with

cheese and scallions, omelette with bacon, yogurt, cereal, juices, fresh fruit.” Retlev says he looked forward to MASS MoCA and the Clark Art Institute reopening the following weekend. “We have the museums, hiking, and sitting under the birch tree to read.”

If a motel is what you’d like, 17-room Briarcliff is a great option. The small lobby has remained closed so it doesn’t become a gathering spot. Guests connect with innkeeper Jenni Hallock by text or email the night before, and in the morning she shares their room number and door code. If they want linens or towels changed, they leave them outside the door. They’re given vouchers to use toward meals at sister property Red Lion Inn.

“They’re not pressured to go into lobby, or to get food, which would make them feel awkward,” says Hallock. “People are hyper-vigilant about the distancing.”

Guests hike at Monument Mountain, or walk around downtown Great Barrington. They bring outdoor activities to play in the motel’s backyard.

“They’re coming to chill out and not worry about anything,” says Hallock. “I’m

thrilled to have people back.”

It was a slow start after re-opening at the eight-room 33 Main, conceived and curated by home furnishings entrepreneur and Lenox resident Annie Selke. There have been a lot of calls, people asking if they were taking reservations. And the inn is ready for them; like many businesses across the Berkshires during the closure, they were doing jobs on site that weren’t so easy to get done with guests around.

“Anything that people brought up, we fixed it,” says innkeeper Becca Lilley, who stayed in all the rooms to work out any kinks. (Lucky her.)

Built in 1836, the luxury inn was first a residence, then the Lilac Inn, and then a halfway house for Austen Riggs. Most guests come from New York and Connecticut, as well as Boston and New Jersey. They are emailed an app specific to their room, with information for their stay. Many have friends and family here. That and the natural surroundings still make the trip worthwhile.

“People ask about hiking trails and whether shops are open,” Lilley says. “We just tell them what we like to do during this time.”



Drum Roll, Please

The long-awaited opening of Wyndhurst Manor and Club and Miraval Berkshires at the old Cranwell site in Lenox is here. With COVID guidelines in place, GM Vic Capadonna says it’s never been a better time to do what they do. “We’ve always been committed to health, wellness, and mindfulness; now we’re doing it with heightened awareness.” miravalberkshires.com