

Winter In New Hampshire

A season of country comforts in New London

by John Sedgwick



RITA GRASSO

New London, New Hampshire, built on a high ridge, looks out in winter over a broad, snowy landscape of farms, frozen lakes and thickly wooded hills, which spreads to the far horizon like a rumpled patchwork quilt on a four-poster bed. Unlike the state's heavily industrialized southeast, or the rugged mountain ranges to the north, the Lake Sunapee region surrounding New London, in the foothills of the White Mountains in southwestern New Hampshire, is nature at its calmest and most peaceable—as gentle as the inclines of the low-slung hills. And the town itself is virtually unchanged since the pioneer Moses Trussell, who later lost an arm to a British cannonball at Bunker Hill, cleared New London's first farm more than two centuries ago. Consequently, a wonderful snug feeling prevails, making the town's many rustic inns ideal places to escape the cares of winter, to put your feet up by a fireplace or Franklin stove, to fall asleep under a mound of blankets, or to dig into a hearty New England breakfast of blueberry pancakes dripping with genuine New Hampshire maple syrup. Although only two hours from Boston,

THE DREAM BECOMES REALITY.

A WORLD-CLASS RESORT ON AN EXCLUSIVE BAHAMIAN BEACH.

A new era of resort excitement dawned in November when the spectacular Cable Beach Hotel & Casino opened its doors. All 700 rooms and suites have private balconies overlooking the sea. Leisure-time facilities are awe-inspiring from the 20,000 square foot casino to the

shopping mall, restaurants, lounges and nightclubs, the fully-equipped sports complex, the pools and golf course, the private pier for water sports. Until now, this resort was merely a dream. The reality begins, for you, with your reservation. Make your plans today.



The Cable Beach Hotel & Casino

"THE ULTIMATE BAHAMAS"

THE CABLE BEACH HOTEL Sales & Reservations Office • 5775 N.W. Eleventh Street, Suite 400 • Miami, Florida 33126
TOLL FREE 800-327-3305; in Florida 305-262-1397 • Telex: 525891

A WYNDHAM HOTEL

WYNDHAM SOUTHPARK, AUSTIN - WYNDHAM AT THE DALLAS MARKET CENTER AND NORTH PARK INN, DALLAS - WYNDHAM AT GREENSPPOINT AND WYNDHAM AT TRAVIS CENTRE, HOUSTON - WYNDHAM AT SEA WORLD, ORLANDO - ROSE HALL BEACH HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB, MONTEGO BAY - THE CABLE BEACH HOTEL & CASINO AND THE AMBASSADOR BEACH HOTEL, NASSAU

New London is New Hampshire's out-back. Modernity has made few inroads here, as you can tell during a stroll along Main Street, where sturdy and attractive white clapboard houses, almost all of them dating back to the early 19th century, line the road at respectful intervals. Horses are still used to work the fields and to pull hay wagons along some of the back roads. The largest buildings in the countryside are still barns.

Colby-Sawyer College, founded in 1837, takes up much of New London proper. Its high Georgian brick buildings form a semicircle off the main drive, but the real centers of attention are two stately inns—the New London and the Edgewood. With stylish restaurants and taverns (and, in the case of the Edgewood, small shops for artisans' wares and cooking supplies), as well as many guests, they provide most of the bustle in this otherwise slow-paced community.

New London owed its popularity in the second half of the 19th century to the summer steamers that paddled across Lake Sunapee, a few miles to the south. Trains would arrive from Boston and New York, and then steamboats would ferry visitors across to their summer places in the many coves and harbors around the lake, or to Lakeside Landing on the far end to connect with horse-drawn buggies for the long climb up the ridge to New London.

The crowds thinned drastically with the advent of the automobile in the Thirties, yet many of the hotels and nearly all of the splendid Victorian vacation houses remain, now winterized for year-round use. Owing to a postwar revival, the region continues to thrive in summer. And it's nearly as busy in winter.

While many people come solely to relax, there are those who feel the need to earn their rest, even on weekends. For them, New London has all the usual forms of outdoor recreation, and then some. Mount Sunapee, which rises 2,700 feet over the far side of Lake Sunapee from New London, is the most challenging ski mountain in the area and one of the finest in the state. It has seven lifts and 20 trails, including one, the Beck Brook, that runs 1½ miles. Nonskiers can ride the gondola to the top for the view from Summit Lodge, then ride back down. To reach Mount Sunapee Ski Area, drive south from New London on Route 103A, then west on Route 103. (Lift tickets cost \$15; for information, call 603-763-5868.)

King Ridge, in New London, is easier for skiers to handle. It has seven lifts and 16 runs, most of them pitched fairly gently for the intermediate skier. The facility is located on King Ridge Road, Exit 11 from Route 89. (Tickets cost \$15; 526-6966.)

For convenience, nothing matches

Which
Innisbrook
is for you?



The golf Innisbrook, with 63 holes on 3 championship courses, plus the Innisbrook Golf Institute? The tennis Innisbrook, with our million-dollar Tennis & Racquetball Center, and the Australian Tennis Institute to bring your game along? There's also the swimming, Spa Experience and relaxing Innisbrook, plus nightly entertainment and suites instead of rooms. At Innisbrook, Tarpon Springs, Fla. See your travel agent or call 800-237-0157 (in Fla., 1-800-282-9813).

Innisbrook. So many great Floridas in one.

In Colorado, there's Tamarron.

A Beach House By The Sea, A Grand Hotel At Your Service.



Perfect for your winter holiday. A sparkling fresh, private Villa by the Sea, and a host of very likeable people to serve you.

Golf and tennis at your doorstep, Key Biscayne's lovely uncrowded beaches. All in a truly unique, quietly civilized little enclave on our Island Paradise.

Six miles seaward, or a ten

minute drive from Miami. American tropical living as it was meant to be.

Seventy-five Villas and one hundred Bedrooms to choose from.

For reservations and information, phone (305) 361-5431.

Outside Florida call toll-free (800) 327-6220.

The
Key Biscayne



HOTEL & VILLAS BY THE SEA.

Managed by R. J. Everingham Co.
Rep. internationally by HRI — Leading Hotels of the World.

At the new Le Rivage 701 Ocean Drive, Key Biscayne, Florida 33149 Tel. (305) 361-5431

An important message for the top ranked golfer who came to play the course at Sandy Lane and stayed 6 weeks.

We found your gold putter.

Barbados is simply the most glorious vacation spot in the Caribbean. It is only fitting that one of the world's great hotels should be on that exquisite isle. Sandy Lane. A place of myriad diversions, extraordinary cuisine, brilliant days and soft summer nights.

Sandy Lane's championship par 72 course is the only 18 hole golf course on Barbados. For tennis enthusiasts, there are 5 Laykold courts with 2 illuminated for night play. Come to Sandy Lane. The joys are endless.

Ask your travel agent or call Trusthouse Forte at 800-223-5672; in N.Y. 212-541-4400 or *The Leading Hotels of the World* at 800-223-6800; in N.Y. 212-838-3110.

Sandy Lane Hotel BARBADOS
ELEGANCE IN THE CARIBBEAN

Everything You Have Heard is True.

This may well be the finest hotel in the New World.

Boston Globe

The staff is among the best trained in the country.

New York Post

L'Ermitage is the Nation's best.

Dallas Times-Herald

L'Ermitage has been recognized with more than praise... it is one of only four hotels to be the recipient of both the Mobil Travel Guide's Five Star and AAA Five Diamond awards and the only hotel in Southern California to be so honored.



L'ERMITAGE
hôtel de grande classe
BEVERLY HILLS

(800) 282-4818 in California
(800) 421-4306 Nationwide

We make St. Thomas a breeze.

Everything you want to see and do in St. Thomas is right outside your bedroom window at the Windward Passage. The hotel with the picturesque waterfront location in Charlotte Amalie that makes getting around the colorful capital of St. Thomas a breeze. Near Magen's Bay Beach. Near freeport shopping. Near everything.

For reservations or information see your Travel Agent or call toll free (800) 524-7389.



Box 640, St. Thomas, USVI 00801

New London continued

cross-country skiing out the back doors of many of the area's inns. Because of the relaxed inclines of the valley walls, and the 360-degree views from the many saddleback ridges, New London's countryside is well suited to Nordic skiing. Dexter's Inn, overlooking Lake Sunapee from the south and located on Stagecoach Road in the nearby town of Sunapee, has trails that run by several beaver ponds on 600 acres of woodland. The Lake Sunapee Country Club and Inn operates the Norsk Ski Touring Center, which maintains 20 miles of groomed trails on the club's 18-hole golf course and deep in woods along logging trails. The Norsk Center stages races and special moonlight tours, and it has a recuperative sauna for après-ski. The Pleasant Lake Inn, which looks out, appropriately, on little Pleasant Lake, also has cross-country skiing.

There's usually good skating on the clear black ice of Lake Sunapee, so pack your skates just in case. Iceboating is another, perhaps more dramatic possibility, involving catamaranlike craft outfitted with twin runners.

To view the Victorian summer houses hidden away in the trees, drive by Blodgett Landing on Lake Sunapee, or in a loop on Lake Avenue and Burkehaven Road by Sunapee Harbor. However, New London is best suited for a quiet sojourn in the gentlest wilderness imaginable. Find the nearest fireplace, pull up a rocking chair, and, as they say in the country, take a load off your feet—and off your mind. ■

How and Where

WHERE TO STAY: There is a surprising number of attractive, comfortable inns in New London and its environs. Three are particularly recommended.

The **Pleasant Lake Inn** (603-526-6271) is about two miles north of New London's center on Pleasant Street. A former farmhouse with its shingled barn still standing, the inn is a snug hideaway in a lovely spot on the shore of Lake Pleasant, with a fine view of towering Mount Kearsarge behind. From its sharply peaked gables to the modern chrome-and-wicker chairs of the dining room on the glassed-in sun porch, the inn offers the usual country comforts with a touch of class. The 13 guest rooms are cheery, with Colonial antiques and old-style flowery wallpaper. The price for a double room is \$37.

There's a well-stocked bar, and the food served in the dining room is ambitious and successful, ranging from veal piccata, sautéed in lemon-wine sauce, to a house special, chicken Pleasant Lake, a boneless breast of chicken stuffed with scallops and asparagus. The wine list is good, too. Dinner for two costs about \$40.

The **Lake Sunapee Country Club** and

Inn (526-6040), off King Ridge Road on New London's eastern flank, recently has been remodeled into a spiffy resort that, with the Norsk Ski Touring Center, is particularly appealing to cross-country skiers. The rooms (\$42 for a double) are clean and modern, and the Velvet Green restaurant is well appointed, with a few stylish wicker chairs fit for royalty. Diners are standard fare—New York sirloin, broiled lamb chops, veal Marsala—but prepared with some care. Dinner for two costs \$35.

The **New London Inn** (526-2791) is very much an old-style hostelry. Built in 1792 and much added-to since, it has 24 varied rooms (\$30-\$40 for a double) off long hallways on the upper two floors. Each is decorated with period wallpapers and at least a few pieces of antique furniture. The sitting room and front parlor are comfortable in the manner of an old friend's house. There is a lounge called Nelson's Tavern and a charming dining room that serves such dishes as veal Gruyère and tourmedos of beef—with a modest wine list. Dinner costs about \$40 for two.

WHERE TO EAT: The dining rooms of the inns mentioned above are certainly worth sampling, but for an unusual meal, head west on Main Street and fork left onto Newport Road to the **Millstone Restaurant** (526-4201), an elegant establishment housed in a modern frame house. A millstone serves as the front doorstep. Inside, however, an understated Bauhaus style predominates, its spare surfaces and clean lines setting off the handsome, shining potbelly stove that stands rather imperiously at the room's center. The restaurant usually lists nearly a dozen specials on top of an extensive regular menu that contains such dishes as fillet of sole amandine, baked stuffed quail, and pork tenderloin Orientale, which is served with apricot-plum sauce. The wine list is impressive, and the desserts are varied. The price for two is \$35 to \$40.

For pleasant dining in a more rustic atmosphere, try the **Gray House** (526-6603) at the opposite end of town, on King Ridge Road to the left off Main Street. With a spacious, high-ceilinged interior and picture windows all around giving excellent views of Mount Kearsarge, the restaurant dabbles in a wide variety of international cuisines to produce tasty meals at reasonable prices. Among the entrees are shrimp Cointreau, paella and barbecued ribs—something, in other words, for everyone. There's a modest wine list. Dinner will add up to \$35 for two.

HOW TO GET THERE: From Boston, take Interstate 93 past Concord, then turn off at Exit 12 for Interstate 89. New London is reached from Exit 11; follow the signs for the town. The trip takes about two hours.



Destined to join the first rank of the world's great hotels.

Home of the world-famous

REGINE'S

Premier Season



Grand Bay Hotel

2669 South Bayside Drive,
Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida 33133 (305) 858-9600
For information or reservations see your travel agent
or call TOLL FREE (800) 327-2788.
Telex: 441370-GBH-UI

Operated by The Continental Companies, Miami, Florida

You'll treasure Sonesta's Island.



It's a gem. The Sonesta Beach Hotel, a tropical hideaway in Key Biscayne, Florida. A deluxe resort with a magnificent private beach. Lighted tennis courts. Olympic-size swimming pool. Championship 18-hole golf course nearby. A variety of superb restaurants. A completely supervised Just Us Kids program.

And villas, each with its own private heated pool. Key Biscayne also offers shopping, fine restaurants, a spectacular state park, and the privacy of a secluded tropical island that you can drive to and never want to leave. From just \$70.00 per person, per day, double occupancy. Effective through April 30, 1984.

Sonesta Beach Key Biscayne

Sonesta Beach Hotel, 350 Ocean Drive, Key Biscayne, Florida 305-361-2021.
Call a travel agent or Sonesta at 800-343-7170.

Sonesta Hotels in Cambridge (Boston), New Orleans, Portland (Maine), Amsterdam, Bermuda, Egypt, Israel.