

GREENWICH

Lin-Manuel Miranda

As **TALENTED** and **PASSIONATE** as he is **EMPATHETIC** and **KIND**, this **MEGA STAR** is proof that good things happen to great people

PLUS

GREENWICH STATE OF MIND

GTP welcomes music legend **BILLY JOEL**—along with a host of talented performers set to rock the stage

MAY 2022 | \$5.95

105 Ways to Live the Good Life

Whether you're a newcomer or lifelong resident, you'll want to check out these gems in design, dining, fashion & family fun

Lin-Manuel Miranda,
Greenwich International
Film Festival's 2022
Changemaker Honoree

The Good Life

as seen in
GREENWICH
magazine

THE GOOD LIFE TEAM

JANEL ALEXANDER
VENERA ALEXandroVA
LIZ BARON
GARVIN BURKE
TIM CARR
MARY KATE HOGAN
JILL JOHNSON MANN
JULEE KAPLAN
CRISTIN MARANDINO
DONNA MOFFLY
DIANE SEMBROT
LISA SERVIDIO

We're all on the hunt for new and creative ways to **LIVE LIFE BETTER HERE.** And the fun doesn't stop at our borders. We explore what our town *and* our neighbors have to offer



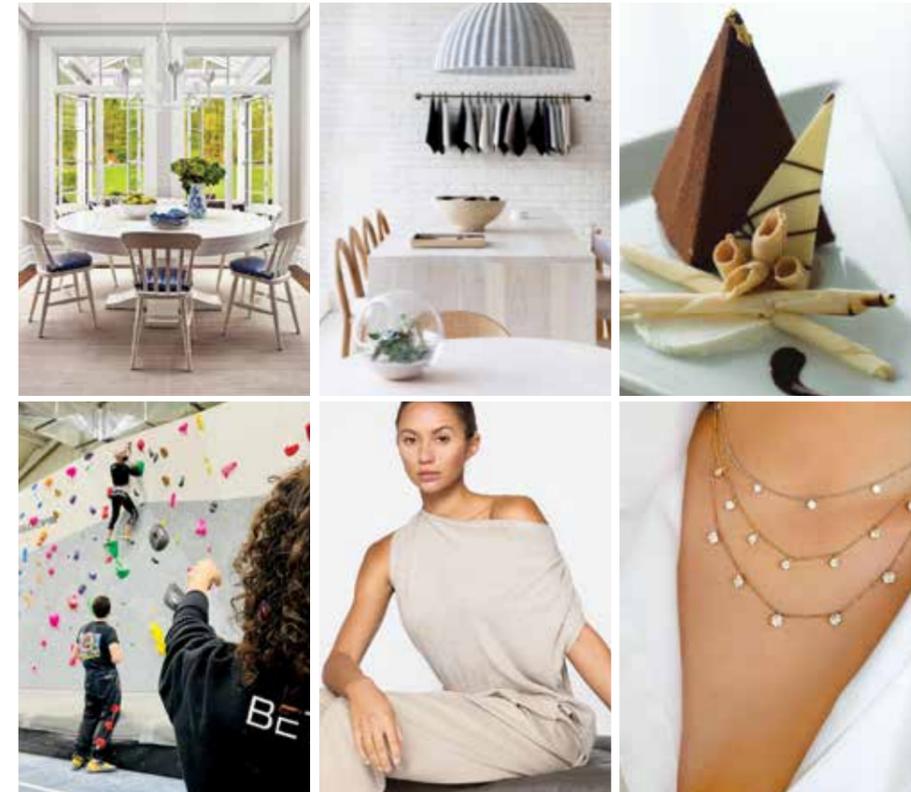
AT HOME || HOME DECOR || DINING || FAMILY || FASHION || JEWELRY

105 Ways

to live, play, relax and dine in Fairfield County

Who doesn't like a little guidance on where to go and what to do? Maybe you're a part of the new wave of residents who discovered our little corner of the world during Covid (if so, welcome!). Perhaps your memory needs to be jogged after a few years of limited activity (so much for two weeks to flatten the curve). Or possibly you just need some intel on the new places and faces that now call Fairfield County home. Whatever the case, there are plenty of gems waiting to be discovered.

Here we offer up some great ways to bring your living spaces to the next level, enjoy family time, take advantage of the booming dining scene and, of course, shop gorgeous fashion and jewelry finds. After all, isn't that what makes for a good life? »



OPPOSITE PAGE: WASSANA - STOCK.ADOBE.COM; THIS PAGE COURTESY OF DESINGER/BRAND

Home Work

The kind we like, that is. Experts weigh in on some spectacular ideas to bring your escape from the world to the next level

There's no place like home ... to relax, work, entertain, be pampered, play sports, sunbathe, or do almost anything. In changing times, people turn to the comfort of their dwellings, and local architects and designers say they're outfitting high-end houses like never before. They shared some inspiration and advice for living your best life in your home zone. **BY MARY KATE HOGAN**



With stunning views like this, who wouldn't want to work from home?

1 OUTSIDE IN CHARLES HILTON ARCHITECTS hiltonarchitects.com

With work from home becoming the norm, people are putting major resources toward their home offices. Some create one-of-a-kind dedicated workrooms with beautiful views, while others prefer a space that does double duty as a sitting area, library or a place for guests. The key is to incorporate the functionality of a corporate office, including the best lighting technology and WiFi, while keeping the décor suitable and stylish enough for a residential setting.

"People look for comfortable, generous-sized workspaces where they have a main desk and built-in storage, file drawers, shelves and cabinets that hide the office equipment when it's not being used," says Chuck Hilton of Charles Hilton Architects.

His firm has designed many upscale offices, including one with views so exceptional it may be hard for its owners to stay focused on work. This office is set in a shingle-style house right on the Sound, overlooking Tod's Point. "It's light, bright and clean and fits in with the house, yet it makes reference to the waterfront with a nautical theme," says Chuck. "They are boaters who love to be on the water."

Designed as a his-and-hers office for husband and wife, the twin mahogany desks with brass hardware are built into a bowed space with windows, recalling the bow of a boat. Pull-out storage space between the two desks keeps office supplies and equipment from competing with the views. The ceiling is decked with bead board and mahogany beams. Opposite the desk area there's comfortable seating for four by a mahogany-trimmed fireplace, perfect if one of the homeowners wants to host a meeting or if they're looking for a spot to relax after a long day at the "office."

CHARLES HILTON PHOTOS BY ROBERT BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

2

GAME ON! CHARLES HILTON ARCHITECTS

Families who play together will never get bored in the latest well-appointed game and hobby rooms. Some are installing kitchenettes for kids who love to bake, dedicated arts-and-crafts rooms, painting studios, custom pool tables, deluxe ping-pong tables and home theaters. For outdoor "gaming," in addition to amazing pool houses, certain athletics-minded homeowners are even making room for basketball, squash or tennis courts. One racket-sports-obsessed client of Charles Hilton Architects requested a one-of-a-kind tennis pavilion on their Georgian estate in Greenwich. It has special details such as rackets carved into stone and windows that reference tennis balls.



above: Tennis anyone? This impressive pavilion on a private estate in Greenwich rivals some area clubs.

3

SPA RETREAT SBP HOMES sbphomes.com

"The ultimate good life is when your house is a vacation place," says Doron Sabag of SBP Homes. To that end, his clients are building luxe spa features—spaces to retreat and relax. "We see more and more people asking for infrared saunas in the basement and sauna rooms attached to the master bathroom," he says. "We're doing that in almost every [client's] house."

At one waterfront home in Old Greenwich designed by SBP and Turner-White Architecture, the spa is so unique and spacious that the owners won't be checking into Miraval anytime soon.

The couple, who are Scandinavian and South African, view sauna time as not just a private health treatment but also a social activity and something to benefit the whole family. So their new sauna can accommodate ten to twelve people and the steam room up to five. The steam room is finished in a beautiful Negra Marquina marble, selected by interior designer Amy Hirsch, with curved chaises, radiant heat, niches, benches and a ceiling covered in fiber-optic lights that illuminate constellation patterns. The sauna is lined in a light aspen wood and kept to precise temperatures using a special heater from Finland.

Both have floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Long Island Sound with sunset views. There's a terrace off the spa with radiant heat and a fire pit, so they can sit outside even in the colder months. Says Doron, "It was designed to be very soothing, to take away the stress of the day." »

as seen in
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magazine

4

GLASS HOUSES
VANDERHORN
ARCHITECTS
vanderhornarchitects.com

Our desire to spend time close to nature and boost our vitamin D levels is driving projects like sun rooms, conservatories and interior spaces that connect to the outdoors. At one client's house in midcountry Greenwich, Vanderhorn Architects created a backyard patio with stone fireplace and a glass roof that has its own heating system. "It extends the year. You can even use it in the rain, crank up the heaters, turn on the fireplace," says Doug Vanderhorn. To refresh the family's breakfast room—already a sunny spot with glass doors leading the patio—the team replaced its normal shingle-style roof with a glass top that connects to the patio roof. "It was like adding a piece of greenhouse," he says. Now the family can start any day of the year feeling like they're eating al fresco.



This bright and airy breakfast room brings the outdoors in, offering the best of both worlds.

BREAKFAST ROOM: ROBERT BENSON/PHOTOGRAPHY
WINE WALL: PETER BROWN/PHOTOGRAPHY



above: A high-tech wine wall provides state-of-the-art storage for the most selective of connoisseurs.

5 WE'LL DRINK TO THAT

VANDERHORN ARCHITECTS

For collectors, some type of wine storage is a must-have. At a waterfront estate designed by Vanderhorn Architects, the concept has gone high tech with a James Bond-esque wine wall. The wall storage, which is three bottles deep, keeps the wine at precise temperatures and has built-in security. There's a touchpad next to the wall, and only the right fingerprint will unlock the bottles.

6

HEALTHY HARVEST HOMEFRONT FARMERS homefrontfarmers.com

An organic vegetable garden can turn part of your backyard into a bounty for the kitchen, yielding the freshest produce available. But not everyone knows how, what and when to plant. That's where Homefront Farmers can help. The company designs, plans and plants attractive veggie gardens. Clients are assigned a homestead manager, who will visit and tend to the garden at least once a week from April through late November. The gardens are planted three times during the growing season, bringing in new crops that will thrive in different seasons.

"The trick is to grow the right things at the right time," says John Carlson, who founded Homefront Farmers ten years ago. "You may start out with snap peas, and when they burn out in June you might put in beans and then grow those for a few months and replace those with spinach for the fall."

His team makes the most of space, growing tomatoes in columns and cucumbers or beans up the fence, using vertical space when possible. Clients can pick unusual varieties like beautiful heirloom tomatoes in different hues, dozens of types of peppers, potatoes and squashes (pattypan and French rond de Nice), pumpkins, beans and greens, plus watermelons, cantaloupes and other fruits. All of the organic plants are grown from seed on an eleven-acre farm in Redding.

Many clients like to help with the harvest and be active in their gardens. "They want to get their kids involved and show them where food comes from," says John. "We help people to experience the joy of growing their own food."



Even for those not blessed with a green thumb, a backyard garden bursting with color and fresh vegetables is within reach.

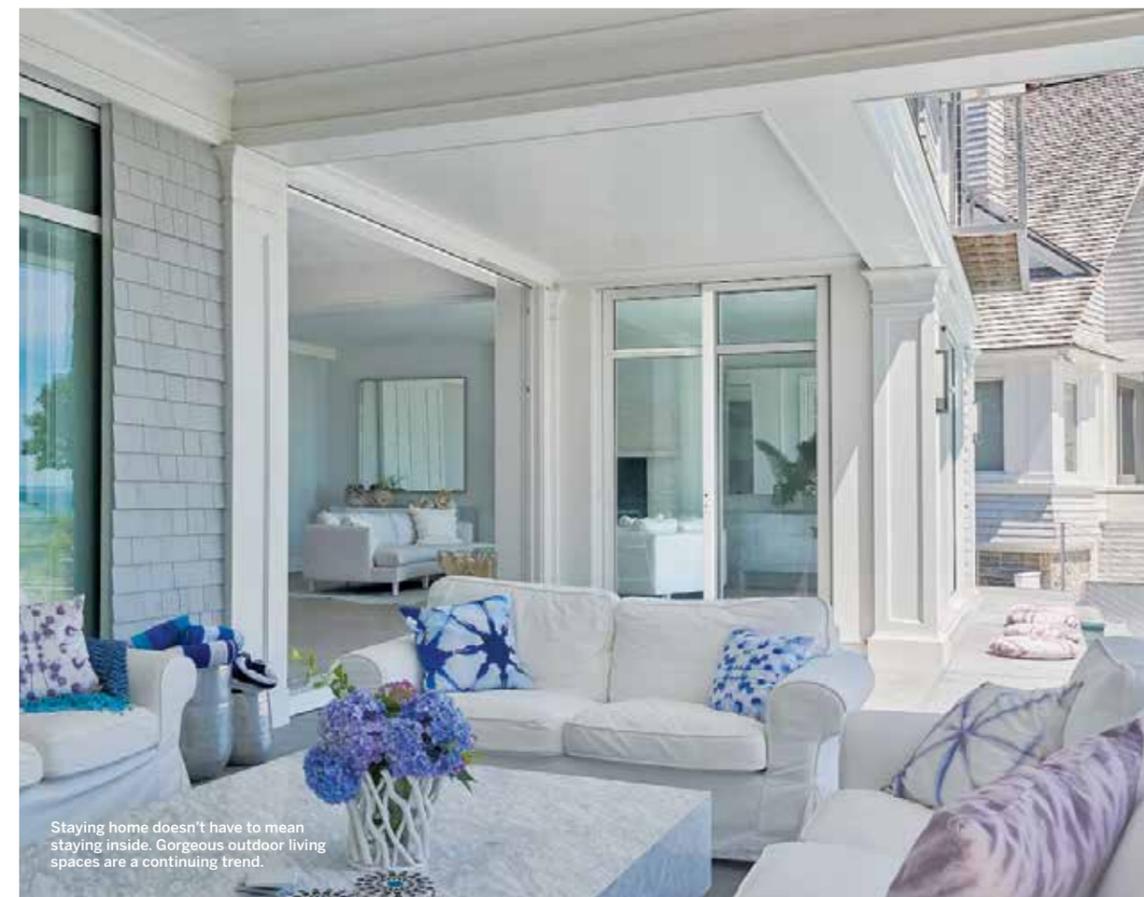
7

OUTSIDE OPTIONS
ROBERT CARDELLO
ARCHITECTS
cardelloarchitects.com

More homes are blurring the lines between indoor and outdoor living with rooms that have seamless transitions to decks, patios and yards. Think banks of retractable glass doors, large windows that tuck into pocket walls and motorized bug screens that enable the entire back of a home to open to nature.

"People are making outdoor rooms with all the attributes of an indoor room," explains David LaPierre of Robert Cardello Architects, who says that indoor-outdoor blending is a continuing trend. He designed this waterfront home in Rowayton that opens completely to a multi-level terrace. The outdoor family room features all the comforts of inside, with upholstered seating, flat-screen TV, fireplace and ceiling fan—plus views to the pool, spa and beach beyond. "The only thing missing is walls," he says.

ROBERT CARDELLO: JANE BEILES; HOMEFRONT FARMERS: CAM GOULD



Staying home doesn't have to mean staying inside. Gorgeous outdoor living spaces are a continuing trend.



as seen in
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magazine

Home Improvement

An impressive list of interior stores and designers have popped up in our area over the last year

BY JANEL ALEXANDER



8

CALM & COLLECTED CALIFORNIA CLOSETS californiaclosets.com

"It's calming to have your house in order," says designer Mary Jo Fornshell of California Closets, who says she's seen an influx of people wanting to get organized. "It's a way to take control over your space and improve day-to-day living." Even in a yoga-pant world where every day is casual Friday, people still care very much about their wardrobes, she says, and a beautiful, custom dressing room is high on people's wish lists. It's one spot in the home that is completely tailored to the individual.

What's inside the dream closet? She's installing shoe walls with mirrored backing, glass shelves for handbags, lots of lighting and mirrors and, yes, wine fridges. Recent projects include a particularly chic all-black closet with black and gray wallpaper and light carpet. Lighting and mirrors keep the space from looking too dark. It has a boutique feel, says Mary Jo, a place to shop your closet and enjoy the ritual of getting dressed up again.

One thing is certain in the fashion world: Boutique-inspired closets will never go out of style.

CONTRIBUTED

Clean lines and organic materials are Stowed's signature design.

as seen in
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9

SKANDI CHIC
STOWED
stowedhome.com

Restraint is a skill in interiors that is harder to achieve than it might seem. Clients in search of that modern clean vibe should head on over to Stowed. Elissa Sigalow was looking for high-quality Scandinavian-inspired pieces when she was designing her own home. Unable to find what she wanted, she took matters into her own hands. The result was a combination of dining, accent and lounge chairs created in supple leathers, natural woods and clean textures with a minimalist design. She wanted to create items that she would not tire of over time and were like “that effortlessly cool best friend that sticks with you through it all.” We think she has achieved that and more in this Nordic meets California-inspired space in the heart of Westport.

10
A QUINTESSENTIAL MIX
FOUND AND DESIGN
foundanddesign.com

If you're passionate about curating the right mix of new and vintage items, Found and Design in New Canaan is a place you need to check out. Christine Keane is a master curator and opened Found's doors in 2016 to share her passion for a unique mix of furnishings and home décor. An eclectic array of vignettes on constant rotation with a combination of art, lighting and tabletop items will inspire you to redesign a small space or tackle that larger project. Found and Design offers custom design services for timeless interior style.



Above: Chic vignettes offering design inspiration fill the space at Found and Design.



Above: Vintage furniture and accessories at McGrath 2

11
CLASSIC MEETS BROWNSTONE
MCGRATH 2 McGrath2.com

Suzanne and Lauren McGrath have a knack for seamlessly blending classic interiors with a masterfully layered Brooklyn townhouse vibe. This mother-daughter team embraces vintage artifacts while seamlessly blending in some of their favorite artisans and artists. This year they expanded to open a studio shop (adjacent to their studio on West Putnam Ave. in Greenwich) to display some of their most treasured pieces. Table linens and special serving pieces are mixed in with muted-toned pillows and vintage finds. Suzanne worked for ten years as the style editor and producer for Martha Stewart before teaming up with her daughter Lauren to found McGrath Interiors. Their style mixes sophistication with an easy, relaxed approach that's worth checking out.

12
LA MODA LUCENTI ITALIAN INTERIORS Lucentiinteriors.com

Biagio Lucenti has a lineage in interiors and the design that is an integral part of his DNA. His grandfather and father understood the importance of combining beauty in interiors with pieces that would be functional and stand the test of time. Biagio carried this methodology forward and has created a worldwide resource for architects and builders. He brought his love of Italian modernist design from NYC to Greenwich in October of 2021. Entering the bright and airy space is like being transported to the center of Milan. Biagio's love of Italian fashion, as well as art and design, translates into his custom millwork and is reinforced by the lines he carries such as Flexform, Flos and Pacini & Cappellini. Biagio and his team relish the client experience and set themselves apart by truly understanding clients' lifestyles and their vision.

Left: Custom millwork is offset by a living wall and inviting seating.



greenwichmag.com



Left: The sleek interior Right: The welcoming cottage-style exterior

13
MODERN DAY WORLD
WEST OUT EAST westouteast.com

The new West Out East now joins its counterparts in NYC and the Hamptons with its stylish location in Westport. This small space packs a big punch with chic resources nestled inside the cottage-style space. Inside you'll find indoor and outdoor options, storage systems and lighting from brands such as Living Divani, Davide Groppi, and Kasthall. West Out East invites its clientele to “Live Well. Live Modern.” The current collection represents a design philosophy of modern elements that are both functional and stylish—perfect for the suburbanite who appreciates unique and clean design.

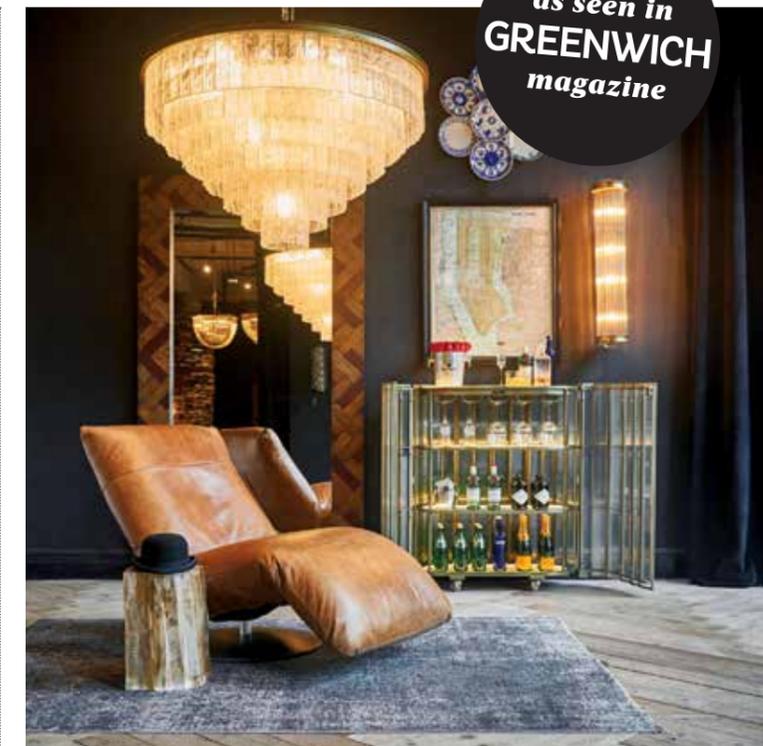


14
A STORY TO TELL
LÉRON LINENS leron.com

Léron Linens is a fourth-generation luxury linen company that knows a thing or two about heritage. Founded in 1910, the company has weathered the Spanish flu, Depression, World War II and now the Covid pandemic. It has serviced a wealth of “who's-who” in the entertainment industry, royalty and first families like the Kennedys and Reagans. Owners David and Dale Foster are no strangers to custom creations. There's the client who asked that her guests names (in their own handwriting) be embroidered on her holiday tablecloth at each setting. And the husband who asked to have his wife's favorite sheet music embroidered on their bedsheets. Léron carries high-quality bed, bath and table linens as well as an assortment of brands that reflect its standards. The New Canaan shop is also excited to bring beautiful comfortable linens to the new ground floor space on 140 Elm Street coming in June.

WEST OUT EAST COURTESY OF MARCO PETRINI; PETRINI STUDIO; COURTESY OF TIMOTHY OULTON

FOUND AND DESIGN BY ERIN KESTENBAUM; MCGRATH2 PHOTO BY READ MCKENDREE; CONTRIBUTED



Above: Bay Swivel Chair and Shimmer Bar Cabinet
Below: Westminster Button Jack'd N Brok'n Sofa



15
FEAST FOR THE SENSES
TIMOTHY OULTON timothyoulton.com

Timothy Oulton will soon bring his British Westerfield sofas to Main Street in Westport. Formerly housed in the Norwalk Lillian August space, this new gallery will be stocked with his eclectic mix of furniture, lighting, home décor and vintage pieces. Oulton looks to create “story filled spaces” that began for him as a boy at his father's antiques store. His love for the past, combined with an appreciation of today's modern lifestyle has made him a go-to for his trendy mix of hand-finished leather, ornate lighting and sophisticated fabrics. Guests can enjoy a sip of champagne or tea from vintage English china, while they utilize modern technology like Oulton's 3D room-planning service. Here, twenty-first century glam meets modern traditionalist. »

16

FEATHERED NEST GRAYSON DE VERE graysondevere.com

When you enter Grayson De Vere's store, you immediately know you're in for a feast of the senses. Julia Grayson launched her design studio in London before relocating to Greenwich in 2017. The design studio and store are now located on Greenwich Avenue, offering Grayson's selection of pure and sustainable design. Julia Grayson stocks organic wood bowls, natural textures in linens and upholstery, with an interesting array of dried organic branches, feathers and natural textures to fill your favorite vessel. Her curated selection of wellness and beauty also make this the perfect spot for that hard-to-find gift. Grayson says her unique style of sourcing and design is due to her belief that wellness and happiness are influenced by how a space impacts one's senses. And impacted we are!

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MARCO RICCA

Good Taste

Part of enjoying the good life in Fairfield County is taking advantage of the stellar food scene. Here are a few restaurants, markets and more to add to your agenda

BY JILL JOHNSON MANN

If you've survived the last two years with your taste buds intact, we have found a plethora of places that will excite them. Get out there and try them all. Restaurants could use the boost, and what a pleasure it is to once again soak in the ambience of eateries, enjoy the buzz of conversation and be served artfully prepared cuisine. A sweet potato taco washed down with a "Smokey Lafleur," an acai bowl or a cold-pressed juice, an omelet and artisan coffee, a wellness shot or superfood latte, brick-oven pizza or dry-aged NY strip steak, local striped bass or duck breast, lobster sliders and caviar, sashimi and a juicy burger, Oreo cheesecake or the best bagel in the world, refreshing kombucha in every flavor or an entire bakery of gluten-free goods—the options are endless. Looking for a view, charm or even an altruistic theme rather than just cuisine. There is an eatery here for every craving. Delivery options await those still attached to their sofas, and caterers are here to revive party planning with real live guests mingling outside their Zoom boxes.

KYLE NORTON

17 SOMETHING DIFFERENT
TACO DADDY/THE LILA ROSE
tacadaddystamford.com

Follow @tacadaddyandthelilarose, and two things will happen: First, the food and cocktail photos will make you salivate and immediately call to make reservations at this popular pair of Stamford restaurants. Second, the captions will charm you and crack you up. It's clear Taco Daddy is not your father's Mexican joint. Just take a look at the pic of their mighty Crunchwrap. Traditionalists will find loaded nachos, quesadillas, fajitas, meat and fish tacos (each a work of art), but adventurers may go for a sweet potato taco with yogurt, cilantro and pickled cabbage or a cheeseburger taco complete with caramelized onions and special sauce. If you aren't in the mood for Chicken Tortilla Soup, Birria Ramen with your choice of protein may fit the bill. Craving a cocktail as the DJ begins to spin? From a Smokey Lafleur (mezcal, tequila, lime, hibiscus flowers) to a Missed My Flight (Mi Campo Reposado tequila, housemade pomegranate grenadine, lime) you're going to want to try them all and then cap off the night with a Fam Boy or Fruity Pebbles shot. Come back for brunch to soak that up.

To put on something flashy and feel like you are in Hollywood, visit The Lila Rose. The decadent decor will lift your spirits—gold trees!—and get you in a pretty-in-pink mood, no rose-tinted glasses required. The whimsy carries over into a menu of cheeses, tapas, mains, desserts and chocolates to die for. (The "to die for" is meant to modify all of the aforementioned nouns, not just the one that includes an "eight-pound truffle filled with dark chocolate ganache.") Unusual, tantalizing specials ensure you will never ever get bored at either of these Towne Street establishments. »

18-20 GRAB & GO

ORGANIC KRUSH organickrush.com

Organic Krush has hit Westport, by way of the Hamptons and Virginia, and it has brought its pesticide-GMO-hormone-free menu of organic food and cold-pressed juices to town. Whether you are on a gluten-free, paleo, vegetarian or regular diet, Organic Krush has delicious options: family dinner specials (BBQ salmon, gluten-free chicken parmesan, steak kabobs, mac & cheese), an irresistible breakfast-all-day menu, made-to-order bowls/wraps/tacos/salads with endless ingredients to pick from, soups (including various bone broths), acai bowls, a kids' menu and gourmet to-go meals.



ADA'S KITCHEN & COFFEE heyoost.com

Generations of kids have known Ada's as the sweetest spot in town. This Riverside institution began as a penny candy store and has been transformed by Greenwich natives Mike and Krista Pietrafesa into an eatery offering breakfast, lunch and to-go dinners, as well as locally roasted artisan coffee.

The menu features seasonal food "scratch-made" with fresh ingredients from local farms and purveyors. Salads, sandwiches, omelets, soups, smoothies, kid fare—Ada's has it all. Top off your meal with an espresso or a tasty treat special, like Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Bread, or go old school with a handful of "penny" candy.

BARVIDA thebarvida.com

This Darien juice bar and cafe promises only 100 percent organic, plant-based products with no sweeteners, chemicals or additives. It's the kind of clean food a Division 1 athlete like founder and Darien native Brennan Branca considers the optimal fuel for his body: cold-pressed juices, superfood smoothies, wellness shots, superfood lattes, acai and smoothie bowls, wraps, rice bowls, salads, toasts, healthy bites (like Paleo Brownies). Barvida takes the doldrums and second-guessing out of healthy eating. Cleanse enthusiasts can choose from one of three programs to reset the body and mind.



ORGANIC KRUSH: CONTRIBUTED; ADAS BY JULIE BIDWELL; BARVIDA BY VENERA ALEXANDROVA; THE VILLAGE BY KYLE NORTON; SOUTH END BY RUTH STEIFEL

as seen in
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magazine

23-25 CATERING ROCK STARS



DIANE BROWNE CATERING (BROWNE & CO.) dianebrowne.com

Lavish weddings, intimate dinners, corporate lunches—Diane Browne has been catering all kinds of Fairfield County events for the past twenty-five years. Named "Preferred Caterer" by The Darien Community Association, Diane Browne Catering's corporate clients range from Westport Country Playhouse to Bank of America. Browne vows with exquisite details and planning prowess but prides herself on an easy-going style that puts clients at ease. She uses the freshest local, organic ingredients to create simple yet elegant cuisine that is both beautiful and delicious. Browne & Co., which incorporates Diane's shop, cafe and catering business on the Post Road in the heart of Darien, is the realization of her longtime dream. Customers can stop in the Browne & Co. shop and browse the home decor, fashion accessories, jewelry and gifts for all ages, and then enjoy a pastry and coffee, soup, salad or sandwich at the cafe, or pick up a quiche, pot pie or beef bourguignon to take home. Go to her website to read the rave reviews.

DIANE BROWNE BY PHIL NELSON; SELDEN BY BRUCE PLOTKIN; FOOD DESIGN BY CAILYN MCGARTY; LAPLAGE, CONTRIBUTED; LESCALE, CONTRIBUTED



MARCIA SELDEN CATERING marciaselden.com

Even if you have no intention of hiring a caterer, check out Marcia Selden's artful website. You will find yourself inspired, drooling and likely on the phone to book an event or at least put in an order for a weekly delivery of delectable pre-packaged meals. Orders are delivered every Thursday, from New York to New Haven (the Hamptons included). This Stamford-based family-run business began in Marcia's kitchen forty years ago. The food is top-notch, the theme is fun and the service is personal—check out the team on the "About" page, and you'll be charmed. Marcia's son Jeffrey was executive director of catering for the New York Palace Hotel before joining the family biz (he was also Julia Child's TA in college). Marcia's daughter Robin is executive chef and "visionary-in-chief" responsible for the creativity of the company and its cuisine. From casual clambakes to ritzy weddings, Marcia Selden's events—held at The Norwalk Art Space, Bartlett Arboretum, Bruce Museum, Graybarns, The Glass House, among other unique venues—are always memorable. Want a curated experience with plant-based cuisine? Check out the Naked Fig Catering arm of the business; Matthew Kenney Cuisine has got you covered.



FOOD DESIGN CATERING fooddesigncatering.com

Chef Michael Batt, a frequent Food Network guest chef, has been hailed as "ingenious" by *New York* magazine's Hal Rubenstein, and his catering clients agree. From wedding guests who are still raving about the food years later to hosts who are forever grateful for the service, professionalism and innovative dishes that made for legendary dinner or cocktail parties, the raves are endless for the catering company that husband-wife team Michael and Gallia have created. Drawing on his training at the Culinary Institute of America and years of work at top New York City restaurants (Patron, Lespinasse, The Royalton, Windows on the World) as well as executive chef experience at City Hall, Thom and Terrence Brennan's Seafood & Chop House, Batt personally designs the menu with each catering client. He seeks out the freshest and finest ingredients and prides himself on continually creating new culinary delights. Chef Batt's own food brand, Purest Foods, received an Instagram rave from actor/director Ron Howard after a delivery of delectable short ribs cheered him up during Covid quarantine.

26-27 FOOD WITH A VIEW



LA PLAGE laplagewestport.com

Westport's prime waterfront restaurant spot in the Longshore Inn is now home to La Plage. The sweeping views of Long Island Sound and casual-chic vibe complement a menu focused on locally harvested seafood and shellfish and garden-fresh produce. The oyster bar offers seven types of oysters. Fairfield Cheese Shop stocks the Farmstead Cheese platter, and appetizers include Crispy Goat Cheese and Artichoke Barigoule. Langouste fans can go with a lobster roll or lobster risotto. Burgers or steak frites await those who prefer the farm to la plage. If white chocolate crème brûlée and chocolate lava cake don't leave a sweet enough taste, there's always the Dutch chocolate espresso martini.



L'ESCALE lescalerestaurant.com

Dinner in France, anyone? At l'escala, at the Delamar Greenwich Harbor Hotel, French chef Frederic Kieffer promises to transport diners to the Côte d'Azur with his seasonal Mediterranean cuisine. A lovely waterfront terrace, charming wood-burning fireplace and authentic 200-year-old terra cotta tile flooring from Provence assist in teleporting guests to their favorite French village or seaside resort. There, they can savor shellfish galore. Tsar Imperial Caviar, tuna tartare, bouillabaisse and roasted lamb chops. An additional Market Menu offers the best of seasonal entrées, and "Les Snacks" tempt with finger foods like Maine lobster sliders and Andouille pigs in a blanket. The dessert menu will land chocolate lovers in heaven, and the wine list will do the same for connoisseurs. »

21

VIEW & ORGANIC THE WHEEL & CISCO BREWERS thevillagewheel.com thevillagestamford.com/cisco-brewers/

The creative juices flow throughout Stamford's industrial-chic work/play superspace, The Village, and the kitchen of its anchor restaurant, The Wheel, is no exception. Here, fresh ingredients from over forty local farmers, fisherman and purveyors, and from the rooftop garden, are the artistic tools with which chefs and mixologists create masterpieces. The menu covers everything from pizza to a dry-aged NY Strip or vegetarian Cauliflower Steak. East Coast oysters and a lobster roll are fitting choices to complement the waterfront view. The Root Beer Float and Pistachio Cheesecake beckon from the dessert menu, amid other mouth-watering options and fancy digestifs from mezcal to cognac.

Nantucket-based Cisco Brewers brings a relaxed vibe to its new CT outpost at The Village, complete with pet-friendly outdoor patio dining, live music and Cisco seasonal brews and cocktails. In the chilly months, Cisco moves inside to The Wheel bar, where cult-favorite beers and a bar menu are available Wednesday to Sunday.



22 MODERN TAVERN SOUTH END thesouthendgroup.com

This rustic, lively tavern in New Canaan offers farm-to-table fare that promises to electrify taste buds. Chef/owner Nick Martschenko uses local, organic ingredients in his creative dishes. There's white truffle kale Caesar and rock shrimp chowder, fried baby artichokes and Nonna's meatballs, local striped bass or duck breast, and other salads, seafoods, meats and pasta dishes (including gluten-free options). South End also serves brunch. Hangover Hash—braised short ribs, crispy potatoes, cherry peppers, green onions and sunny-side eggs—may be just the ticket after an evening indulging in South End's coveted cocktails and live music. »

