

The Breakers, built in 1895 is a National Historic Landmark,
©Hawk Visuals, Photo Courtesy Newport Mansions.

RHODE

New England's
coastal gem filled
with discoveries

PARADISV16N39

By
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The Oliver Hazard Perry is a tall ship named after American Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry (1785–1819), the hero of the naval Battle of Lake Erie. A grass-roots nonprofit based in Newport, Rhode Island.

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Rhode Island is one of six states that make up New England in the Northeastern corner of the USA and the smallest by land size.

As one of the 13 original colonies, it is packed with history, old towns, winding trails, miles of coastline, grand mansions, and an eclectic mix of contemporary attractions spanning from yachting, vineyards, and parks to artsapes.

Landing at **T. F. Green Airport (PVD)**, we made our way to the **Hotel Viking** in Newport, a member of the prestigious Historic Hotels of America, located in the heart of downtown, steps away from monuments, tour companies, boutiques, eateries, and bars, and a few minutes' walk to the sea.

Meeting in the lobby's bar for pre-dinner cocktails, we got updated by the hotel's concierge on the top attractions to discover in the local area. A short drive away we dined at **Newport Midtown Oyster Bar** where plates of shucking oysters with a range of sauces were enjoyed with opening shots of martinis.

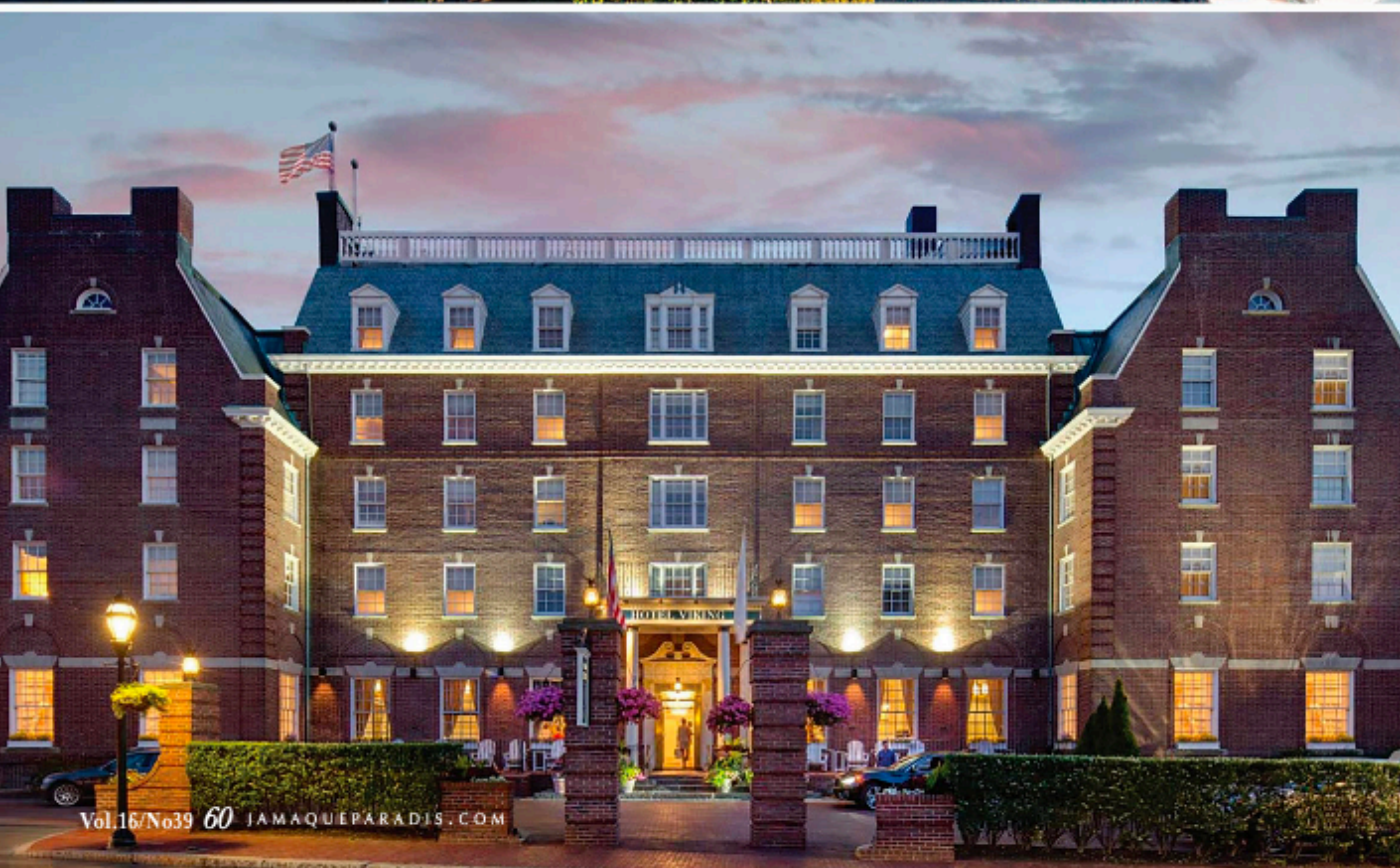


*Rhode Island
boasts 400 miles
of coastline
teaming with
historic charm.*

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Top Left: Cliff Walk at The Breakers, Photo ©Corey Favino Courtesy of The Breakers; Left Bottom: Hotel Viking at Dusk, Courtesy of The Hotel Viking; Top right: Newport Sight Sailing, ©Sight sailing Newport; Centre right: Cliff House seen by Charter Excursion, ©Photo Courtesy of Discover Newport Bottom right: Cliff Walk, ©Photo Courtesy of Discover Newport.



Newport Vineyards — an award-winning wine, beverage, and culinary destination that blends together wine, artisanal crafted beers, and farm to table dining experiences and unique events situated on over 100-acres of preserved farmland.



*Opposite page: Guests enjoying house wines in the vineyards,
©Photo Courtesy of Newport Vineyards*

At a city by the sea, I ordered a delicious pan-seared halibut with sea bean fennel, paired with a smooth Turncoat Cider made from heirloom apples grown at a 350-year-old local farm with colonial roots in nearby James-town.

Newport's Mansions & miles of coastline

The next morning, we set out to tour one of Newport's most celebrated mansion's dating from this city's gilded age in the late 19th century, when wealthy business tycoons built elaborate 'cottages' by the sea. **The Breakers**, considered America's greatest summer home, is one of about 10 historic mansions under the management of The Preservation Society of Newport County. Built by the Vanderbilt family with its railroad fortune, entire rooms were designed and handcrafted in France then shipped and assembled in Newport, with interiors made from gilded wood, marble, and bronze. It has the most lavish of furnishings and manicured gardens reminiscent of a chateau in the French countryside.

A number of mansions including **The Breakers** face the sea taking advantage of the refreshing salty coastal air, wide open views, and calming sound of crashing waves. **The Cliff Walk**, hugging the rugged hilly coastline for over 3 miles, is the perfect trail to experience one of Newport's most beautiful coastal views. Starting at the 'Forty Steps' section of the walk, making our way towards Easton's Beach on its North End, we filled our lungs with fresh air while pausing often to take in the arresting vistas of the sweeping shoreline. Nearing the end of our walk we stopped for refreshments at **The Chanler** at Cliff Walk, a Forbes rated 5-star hotel, with a decor mirroring the elegance of the nearby mansions, a perfect setting to relive the days of Rhode Island's gilded age. Joining a walking tour of downtown Newport — host to the America's Cup some 12 times between 1930 and 1983 — I jumped at the opportunity to visit the **Sailing Museum** to see the America's Cup Hall of Fame digital interactive installation, celebrating sailing legends who contributed over the years to make this the most prestigious regatta in the world.

Vineyards meld into urban chic

We then set off for a tour of **Newport Vineyards** located on 100 acres of farmland. This beverage and culinary destination blends award-winning wine, craft beers on tasting tours, that offers farm-to-table dining experiences in unique settings. In wine tastings, their Cabernet Sauvignon with boysenberry, blackberry, and tobacco flavours was my favourite, and Imperial Pumpkin Ale — matured in bourbon barrels — was heavenly. Sourcing food items from a dozen nearby farms/suppliers, meal menus are constantly changing with availability of seasonal produce. Dining on Narragansett Bay Quahog Chowder for starters and the BBQ Brisket Sandwich, offers numerous wine and beer pairing opportunities to savour over a late lunch. After stocking up on wines and beers at their gift shop we head off to Providence the capital of Rhode Island, checking into the swanky **Beatrice Hotel** in the heart of downtown close to a myriad of the city's attractions, that includes the famous **RISD Museum**.

As the dusk set in we headed up to the hotel's rooftop bar with sweeping views of the city skyline, to enjoy flutes of champagne as we mapped out our activities for the next few days. Dinner that evening was downstairs

Downtown Providence is the perfect base from which to enjoy the many cultural attractions of the city:



Opposite page: The Beatrice Hotel, ©Photo Courtesy of the Beatrice Hotel, This page left top: Garden walk View from the Bellini Rooftop, an Exclusive Members Club; Centre top: Summer at The Chanler at Cliff Walk, ©Photo Courtesy of the Chanler Hotel; Centre bottom: Wedding at the Rosecliff Mansion, ©Photo Courtesy of the Rosecliff; Right top: Exterior of the Elms Mansion, ©Photo Courtesy of the Newport Mansions; Right bottom: Enjoying Calamari and Clams from Coast Guard House Restaurant.

**Stunning
coastline on
our drive to
one of the fin-
est Sporting
Club's in the
nation**

at **Bellini's Italian Restaurant** with tables set with crisp white linens. There I dined on a delectable tomato-based pasta expertly paired with a Sangiovese wine with its earthy tones.

Art, History, Architecture, and Cuisine

The following morning we joined a walking city tour passing art-nouveau WaterFire installations on Providence's 3 rivers installed to lift the spirits of residents and entertain visitors, as we headed to our first foodie stop @dunebrothersseafoodshack. There we ordered to-go beer battered sandwiches of pollack, cape shark, and whiting loaded with spicy piri-piri mayo and garlic aioli sauces. Continuing our city discovery walk we stopped to look at large artworks displayed on bridges and the sides of buildings some depicting New England's rich marine life by @kiaraxcosta, and Indigenous Indian art by @gaiastreetart entitled 'Still Here' created in collaboration with the Tomaquag Museum. Hot and thirsty, we snuck into the Malted Barley pub renowned for their seasonal craft beers sourced from small local breweries and gourmet hand rolled and

stuffed pretzels dunked in home-made sauces. Heading back on a walking tour, shopping was on the agenda, so we headed to the **Providence-Westminster Arcade**, a historic shopping centre built in 1828 and the first enclosed shopping mall in the USA designed to look like a temple in the Greek architectural Revival style. Home to vintage sellers of accessories, local crafts, apothecary hand ladled products, essential oils, and so much more, it's a curiosity mall catering to the adventurous shopper.

Returning to the **Beatrice**, we got ready for a night on the town, heading to dinner at **Il Massimo Restaurant** whose menu was inspired by the regional cuisines of Italy. We paired wines bursting with flavours with our gourmet dishes — the short rib gnocchi my favourite. The night was young and we set off to the **Roger Williams Park Zoo & Carousel Village** with a "Jack O'Lantern Spooktacular" display



Launched in 2019, The Preserve Sporting Club was conceived as an unparalleled luxury resort focused on shaping guest experiences within a natural setting. The Preserve is located on 3,500 acres of pristine forested land in Richmond, Rhode Island.



Opposite page: The Bentley Bentayga Off-Road Driving Experience on the grounds of the The Preserve Sporting Club, ©Photo Courtesy of Bentley USA, This page-left top: America's Cup Hall of Fame, Herreshoff, ©Photo Courtesy of Discover Newport; left bottom: Clay Shooting at the Preserve Sporting Club, ©Photo Courtesy of the Preserve Resort & Spa; Centre: Touring Newport Vineyards, ©Photo Courtesy of the Newport Vineyards; Right top: OH! Spa at the Preserve Resort, ©Photo Courtesy of the Preserve Resort & Spa; Right bottom: Hobbit Hut, ©Photo Courtesy of The Preserves Shooting Club.



made up of thousands of carved illuminated pumpkins set along about a mile of walkway depicting scenes from wildlife safaris, the pyramids of Giza, trips down route 66, and so many more.

The next day we had a late start and set out driving along the coastline towards Richmond when we slowed down to enjoy its stunning views in the Pier Districts' historic Narragansett Bay. We were then engulfed by the aromas of mouthwatering seafood dishes from the nearby waterfront eatery **Coast Guard House Restaurant**, which was too tempting to pass by. There we feasted on scallops, langoustines, lobster, clams, mussels, and crabs over craft ales and beers on tap while enjoying endless ocean views.

Continuing on to Richmond we pulled into the forested **Preserve Sporting Club & Residences**, located on 3,500 acres of parkland described by Forbes as "Arguably the Finest Sporting Club in America", with an endless array of adventures in its outdoor oasis. There is a choice of activities to meet varied interests curated across all four seasons of the year where staff customise one-of-a-kind experiences, including children's activities with its picturesque Hobbit Houses creating fairytale adventures and unforgettable moments filled with smiles and laughter. Guests can take it

slow with carriage rides, gourmet dining and treatments at the OH! Spa, to luxe tent camp pairings of cigars with scotch, then break into a sweat with clay shooting. Also on offer are fly fishing, golf, upland hunting, equestrian, cross country skiing, mountain biking, and shooting in the longest indoor range in the country — to name just a few. My favourite activity was the Bentley Bentayga Off-Road Driving Experience with expert coaching from the Bentley driving team, guiding me on how to manoeuvre challenging ascent and descent gradients on a specially designed experiential course. On this ultimate outdoor enthusiast driving experience I applied newly learned driving skills on 200-foot elevation changes, hairpin turns, and challenging terrain over 2 miles set within The Preserve's magnificent landscapes, bringing to a thrilling finale this most memorable of trips to Rhode Island — the gem of New England! | **JP**