



Left DC: Escape To Providence, Rhode Island

Aug. 29, 2024



The seatbelt clicked into place and I aimed the car north. This getaway is an escape to Providence, Rhode Island to see what it's all about.

It is the biggest small city that I can think of. Somehow, It has a cultural and food scene up there with the ranks of Boston and New York. It's loveliness feels almost spiritual with an attitude. It also doesn't want to be as big as its neighbors because it knows exactly who it is.

This is Providence, Rhode Island. And get used to it.

Read on to find out what to do when here:

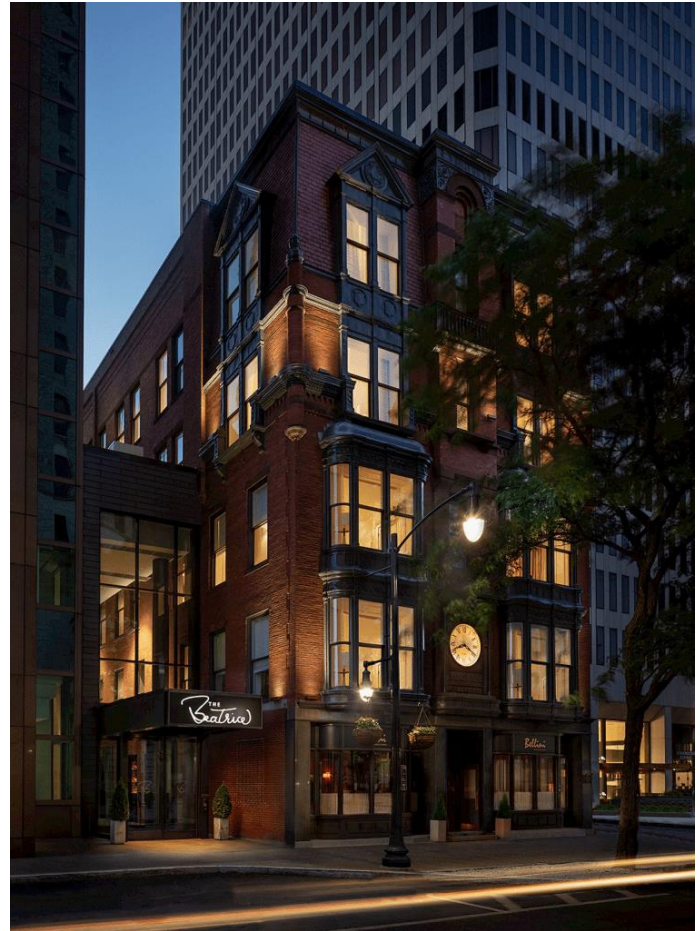
Day 1:

Beatrice Hotel:

Start your stay by checking into this chic downtown property, just a short walk from all that Providence has to offer. Each room boasts a sleek, minimalist design, creating a perfect blend of comfort and luxury that guarantees a refined experience.

First up, head to the Bellini Rooftop, where you'll find a rooftop bar with a breathtaking skyline view. The warm and welcoming setting is ideal for spending some time sipping their house special, the Peach Bellini. Trust me, I made it my mission to serve as the unofficial "Peach Bellini Testing Department." If you enjoy peaches, you might as well order this drink throughout your entire stay. It's so splendid that I half-expected to find a mini halo floating in my glass. But I didn't find that. I only found alcohol. Which is a bit like a halo, I guess.

Book here: <https://www.thebeatrice.com/>



The Beatrice Hotel, Credit: Beatrice Hotel

Dinner at Bellini:

For dinner, simply head downstairs to this swanky Italian masterpiece of a restaurant. Bellini's menu honors traditional Italian recipes while blending them with modern flavors and inventive twists on Italian cuisine.

The Filet Mignon here is a true work of art. Every bite offers a satisfying, lingering finish that makes you want to savor each moment. To complement the meal, I continued my Peach Bellini indulgence—after all, it's the signature drink of the entire hotel.



The Peach Bellini in which I was obsessed with

Day 2:

Bowen's Wharf:

The next morning, after a leisurely start, make your way to Bowen's Wharf in Newport. This charming, historic waterfront district is known for its cobblestone streets, boutique shops, galleries, and waterfront dining. As you stroll

through the area, you'll enjoy splendid harbor views, maritime activities, and a variety of year-round events. Sailing tours and boat charters offer a glimpse into Newport's rich maritime heritage.



Bowen's Wharf, Credit: Visit Rhode Island

Just a heads up: if you're with a shopping enthusiast, consider yourself warned—this place will captivate them like a cat chasing a laser pointer.

Midtown Oyster Bar:

For lunch, check out Midtown Oyster Bar, a hip spot in Newport that serves up fresh seafood, an extensive raw bar, and a lively atmosphere. With two stories and different bar areas, it's a popular spot for both locals and tourists alike. In Newport, it's hard to find a better place to enjoy top-quality oysters and other seafood delights.

Midtown Oyster Bar is particularly enticing in the evening when you can feel the true vibe and essence of downtown Newport while slurping an oyster out of its shell and sharing a drink with good friends.

Newport Mansions Tour:

If you can't resist indulging in the finer things in life, a tour of the Newport Mansions is a must. The Breakers mansion, once owned by the Vanderbilt family, is the crown jewel and the first stop you should make. With over 62,000 square feet of opulence, it's a great way to relive the grandeur of the Gilded Age—and to measure how many of your own homes could fit inside.



Make sure your phones are completely charged for this tour. The Breakers Mansion is extremely Instagram-worthy.

Newport Vineyards:

Rhode Island may not be famous for its wines, but after a visit to Newport Vineyards, you might start to wonder why. I was particularly impressed by the white wines, which had a crisp, clean finish superior to many others I have



Newport Vineyards, Credit: Visit Rhode Island

experienced. One sip, and I could almost taste the sunbeams and morning dew from the vineyard. One of the winemakers mentioned that Newport Wines often surprises people at competitions, leaving them stunned that it doesn't hail from California. In fact, they receive numerous orders from wine lovers on the West Coast, which only affirms my praise for this gem.

Rooftop Bar at The Beatrice:

As the day winds down, you must return to the rooftop bar at The Beatrice Hotel. Spending a couple of hours here has almost magical redeeming qualities. You get to soak in the downtown view of Providence, a small but influential metropolis. And yes, it is your duty to continue sipping those Peach Bellinis because, quite frankly, no one else

makes them as well. And once you leave, you won't taste them as good again.

Plant City:

I wasn't feeling like meat, so for dinner I decided to switch things up and opt-in to a meatless experience at Plant City vegan food hall. Their vegetarian pizzas are some of the best I've encountered in the veggie game—a delicious way to end the day.

Day 3:

Coast Guard House for lunch:

For lunch, head over to the Coast Guard House in Narragansett. This place isn't just a restaurant. It's a Rhode Island icon balanced right on the edge of the Atlantic. You'll find yourself dining with a splendid view that's so hypnotic, it might just make you forget about the food. But don't worry—the food is more than capable of impressing you. The menu is seafood-centric, as it should be, given the location. For starters, I began with the clam chowder, a warm bowl of comfort with just the right amount of creamy goodness. For the entree, I went for the lobster roll, which was practically overflowing with tender, buttery lobster meat.



The only downside? I may have gotten a little too into my meal and began to covet my fellow travel writer's food. It's hard to blame me when the combination of fresh seafood and ocean views is as divine as this.

Coast Guard House

Dinner at Massimo:

As evening falls, make your way back to Providence for dinner at Massimo, an Italian Trattoria that consistently earns its title as one of the best restaurants in town. At this point, you'll need to look no further than the short rib gnocchi. This dish is exceptional, with gnocchi so light and tender it practically melts in your mouth, while the short rib adds a rich, savory depth that makes you want to relish in each bite.

The atmosphere at Massimo is heartfelt and alluring, perfect for a cozy dinner that feels like a big Italian hug (and everyone hugging you smells good). By the end of the meal, you might just find yourself planning your next visit before you even leave the table.