



**USA
TODAY
TRAVEL**

NEW ENGLAND

GO ESCAPE

SUMMER 2016

Explore

Savor the sites, sounds
and tastes of summer

CULTURE & CUISINE

Maine lobster, Boston history,
Hartford museums & casinos

ISLAND APPEAL

Artsy Martha's Vineyard
or nautical chic Nantucket

ALONG THE SEASHORE

Enjoy hiking, camping, scenic drives



COOL HOSPITALITY: NEW ENGLAND

Searching for a hotel that has some unique people catering to your every quirky need? Check out these five cool (and coveted!) positions.

By Janene Mascarella



BEER CONCIERGE

Native **Matt Canning** is Hotel Vermont's beer concierge, a job he has spent 30 years preparing for. Canning helps guests navigate the hops and malts of the best brews. "Everyone is aware of the reputation that comes with Vermont craft beer," says Canning. "My role involves ... communication with guests on where and when to buy Heady Topper or other hard-to-find brews, events and beer releases, and staying abreast of the local draft lineups."

► 41 Cherry St., Burlington, Vt.; 855-650-0080; hotelvt.com



DIRECTOR OF PET RELATIONS

If **Charley** isn't greeting guests and their dogs at the boutique hotel Onyx near Boston's TD Garden, she's likely out nosing around. The 5-year-old lemon-and-white beagle loves her director gig, says owner Travis Breen, a marketing director for Kimpton Hotels, which operates Onyx. "She sits patiently at the front desk or in the lobby, greeting all human guests as they check in," Breen explains. Then she escorts dog guests (and their owners) to their room and is on call, ready to "walk with them, 'pet-sit' or assist with any of their canine needs."

► 155 Portland St., Boston; 617-557-9955; onyxhotel.com; contact Charley at charley@onyxhotel.com



NATURALIST

The Weekapaug Inn, a quaint 27-guestroom property in coastal Weekapaug, R.I., has a staff naturalist, **Mark Bullinger**, who offers complimentary, seasonal classes for guests. Be it guided kayak outings, van tours or beach walks, Bullinger is your man. He also sets up a computerized telescope on Friday nights to examine the moons of Jupiter or rings of Saturn. "I love helping people discover this amazing shoreline, where I grew up, and even more, introducing kids to the wonders of nature."

► 25 Spray Rock Rd., Weekapaug, R.I.; 401-637-7600; weekapauginn.com



CHIEF TYPEWRITER TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

The Press Hotel in Portland, Maine, housed in the former building of the *Portland Press-Herald*, keeps the art of writing and typing alive. Working manual typewriters are found throughout the lobby and the chief typewriter technology officer is in charge. He changes ribbons, restocks hotel paper and offers tutorials. "Did you know that old typewriters don't have the numeral '1' because a lower-case 'l' does double duty?" says **Josef Kijewski**, the current office holder. Guests can write letters, which the hotel mails. "It's one of many ways The Press Hotel connects with the building's history."

► 119 Exchange St., Portland, Maine; 207-808-8800; thepresshotel.com



STYLE & EXPERIENCE CURATOR

Not your typical art curator: In Boston, at the uber-stylish Nine Zero hotel, Style & Experience Curator **Ricardo Rodriguez** selects lifestyle retailers such as cosmetics guru Tavi de la Rosa and the award-winning Mario Russo Salon, among others, to offer guests exclusive experiences. "Ricardo has created and curated a 'Live Like a Local' program that affords guests of Nine Zero the opportunity to shop, dine and experience the city of Boston like only Bostonians do," says Michal Penek, general manager.

► 90 Tremont St., Boston; 617-772-5800; ninezero.com