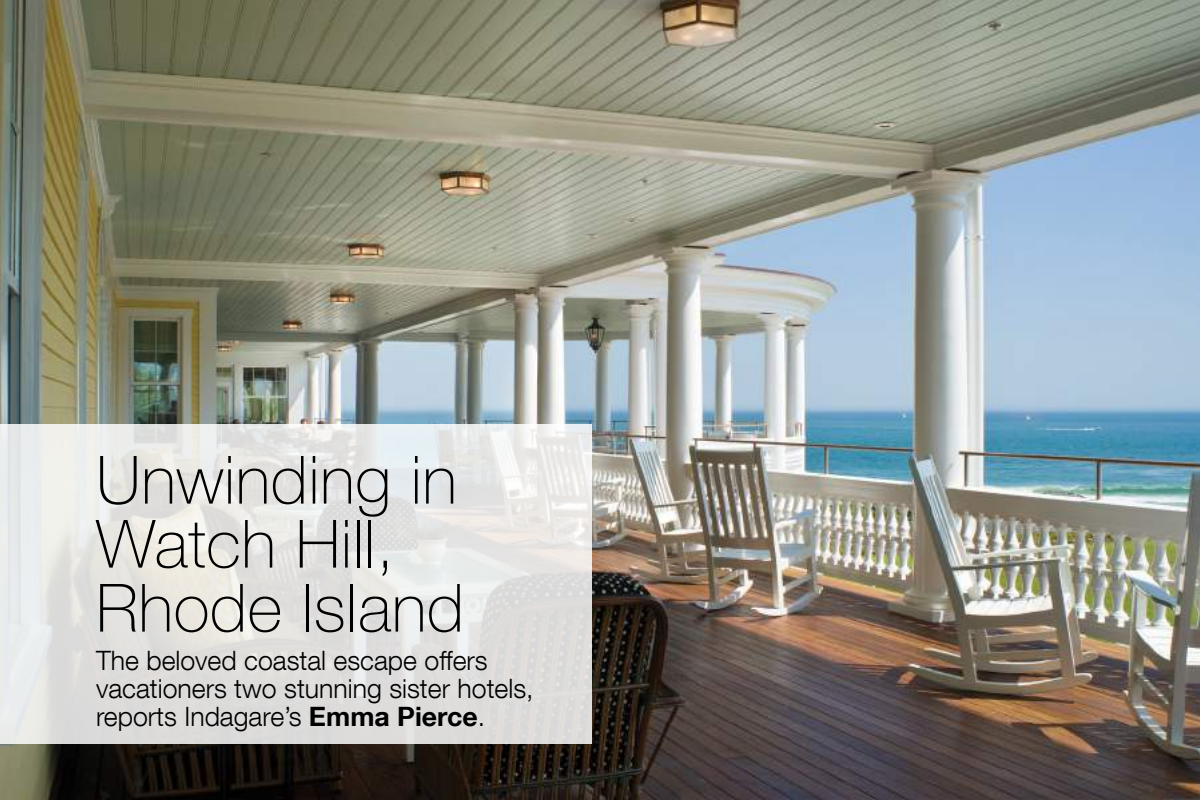




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Unwinding in Watch Hill, Rhode Island

The beloved coastal escape offers vacationers two stunning sister hotels, reports Indagare's **Emma Pierce**.



Clockwise from top: the porch and tower suite at Ocean House; an idyllic scene at Weekapaug Inn

Rhode Island's coastal village of Watch Hill rose to prominence in the late 19th century, when it was the summer destination of choice for many of the East Coast's elite. Today, it boasts a status as one of the country's most private summer enclaves, in contrast to the buzz and gilded grandeur of nearby Newport. For visitors, there are two lovely but very different properties of note in the area.

Classic American Retreat: Ocean House

In the decades after it opened in 1868, Ocean House was a beacon for moneyed aristocrats who frequented the resort for its prime location on the Atlantic, subdued glamour and discreet privacy. And while parasols have given way to blue and yellow beach umbrellas and cabanas complete with butler service, the Victorian-style Ocean House remains a nostalgic reminder of the past, with all the modern amenities to ensure a five-star experience.

After nearly a century and a half in operation, the property closed in 2003, was knocked down and then rebuilt in nearly exactly the same style, reopening to guests in 2010. Now slightly expanded, the huge building, which is decorated with more than 5,000 artifacts from the original property, looms large from its perch on a pristine stretch of private beach.

The grand hotel still manages to feel cozy, however, with just 49 rooms and 18 suites. The former are all done in varying shades of pastels and channel a seaside cottage vibe that is comfortable yet modern.

The resort has a plethora of luxe amenities, including a billiards room, spacious fitness center, indoor pool, two squash courts, the hotel's own Center for Wine and Culinary Arts and 12,000-square-foot Oh! Spa. There is a shuffleboard court, croquet green and beach club, where any number of water sports can

be arranged. The on-property dining options, from the formal Seasons restaurant to the more casual Bistro serving classic American fare, are so diverse that guests can enjoy a wide variety of meals without ever leaving the grounds. [Read Indagare's hotel review.](#)

Charming Hideaway: Weekapaug Inn

If the Weekapaug Inn were located on the coast of Florida, it might be appropriate to deem the resort "barefoot casual." But thanks to its location in rural Rhode Island on the banks of Quonochontaug Pond, the property channels something more akin to "New England waterfront chic," with Wellies topping sandals as the footwear of choice. While the inn has ample water sports, bikes and a pool, it also encourages guests to explore the natural beauty of the region, be it through naturalist walks, fishing excursions or landscape painting lessons.

The 31-room Weekapaug originally opened in 1899, but a 2012 renovation outfitted the resort with modern amenities while still maintaining a homey charm. The interiors reflect this contemporary yet rustic mentality, and each cozy room features a cream color palette. The inn also boasts three Fenway Suites that feature outdoor patios with bathtubs, which are the accommodations of choice for couples.

Days at the Weekapaug can be spent boating, kayaking, playing bocce or unwinding at the pool or private beach a quarter mile from the resort. Dining options abound, with four on-property restaurants and Thursday night clambakes followed by s'mores at the fire pit. [Read Indagare's hotel review.](#)

Book this trip with a Watch Hill specialist. Contact the Indagare Team: bookings@indagare.com | 212-988-2611