

New England Travel



PHOTOS BY NECEE REGIS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

WELLFLEET — The new kid on the block in Wellfleet is in fact a beloved old kid on the block.

Those familiar with The Inn at Duck Creeke, located just off Route 6 along the main road into town, will notice a new sign announcing The Wagner at Duck Creek. In January, new owners Erica Chapman and Leo Wagner took possession of the five-acre property — complete with pub-like tavern, 80-seat restaurant and 27-rooms housed in several buildings — and moved their family from Jamaica Plain to the Cape. In addition to dropping the final “e” in Creeke, the new owners are channeling their many years of fortune 500 corporate experiences into systematically renewing, updating, sprucing-up and reinvigorating the business.

“It’s a work in progress. We went from no employees to 35 in six months,” said Chapman.

Something old, something new

BY NECEE REGIS | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT



Chapman, 37, admits they enjoyed a cushy life in Boston, she as vice president of global real estate and workplace productivity for Akamai Technologies, and Leo, 54, a former Marine and police officer who worked in the corporate world for 25 years. The couple wanted a different life for their four adopted daughters — all sisters — now ages 11, 9, 8, and 6.

“We wanted the kids to learn a work ethic, to train them for the future. We started thinking about what to do, and how to balance our careers with running our own business. It had to be a big enough operation for Leo to quit his corporate job,” said Chapman, who still works in Boston and commutes four days a week.

Chapman is no stranger to Wellfleet and the **WELLFLEET, Page M6**

A guest room and screened-in porch at the Wagner at Duck Creek in Wellfleet.



JODY DOLE

Drink it in at wineries on N.E.’s south coast

By Lauren Daley
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Wine-lovers, you don’t have to trek to Italy, France, or Napa to enjoy a great grape. Coastal New England’s maritime climate and unique soil conditions can produce some outstanding grapes, yielding wines with complex flavor and a terroir all their own. Whether you’re a self-proclaimed wine snob or just a fan who wouldn’t know a red from a white, grab a pal for a trip to taste some of the best wine in the region.

Note that these vineyards — and others — belong to a network of wineries, the Coastal Wineries of Southeastern New England. You can grab a passport at any vineyard, and get “stamped” at each participating winery you visit. No pat-downs, no luggage check. If you want, accumulate stamps for a raffle entry, or just sip the wine and enjoy.

Set on some 75 acres of preserved farmland on Aquidneck Island, the family-owned **Newport WINERIES, Page M7**

NEW HAMPSHIRE

These coastal trails were meant for walking

By Marty Basch
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Trade the cityscape for enjoyable year-round water and woods walks on New Hampshire’s Seacoast. No matter the season, walkers, birders, nature lovers, runners, and snow lovers can get a break from the bustle.

Rye’s **Odiorne Point State Park** is a fine coastal slice with the Isles of Shoals offshore. The site of the state’s first settlement in 1623, it once contained stately homes and was used as a fort during World War II, as evidenced by the large concrete bunkers still there, albeit strewn with graffiti. It’s now home to the Seacoast Science Center and a myriad of trails, both wooded inland and along the ocean.

Though the trails aren’t well-signed, a little common sense and a map picked up at the toll house lead to a fun, approximately 1.5 mile foray from behind the science center to the breakwater at Frost Point and back.

The leisurely walk follows the stony coast for a spell. Handsome mowed lanes, stone walls, old cellar holes, and monuments are part of the trail network landscape. When the way heads inland, it’s possible to explore the military bunkers and walk over them, although views to the sea are often muted by tree growth. Eventually, grassy Frost Point with its picnic tables, once farm country, is reached. Short paths



MARTY BASCH

The Urban Forestry Center.

WALKS, Page M6

Saltwater Farm Vineyard in Stonington, Conn.

Something old is something new

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hospitality industry. She grew up spending summers in town from the age of 8, when her parents owned a small B&B, and worked cleaning cottages, as a lifeguard, and at local restaurants, including Moby Dick's and the Box Lunch. When the inn came up for sale, it seemed a perfect fit. They opened April 15 with a kick off party for the community.

Chapman and Wagner are aware of the property's long history dating back to the 1700s, from a Captain's house and family residence of the Price family, to its debut as an inn, The Holiday House (1930s-1980) and subsequent 35-year stint as The Inn at Duck Creeke.

"Our vision for the rooms involves a delicate balance. We want to compliment the history that exists here but bring it into the future. We didn't want floral wallpaper — but not contemporary, either. The plan is to invite as much light in as possible," said Chapman.

Return visitors will notice many changes this year, including all new fabrics, new mattresses and bedding (1,500 thread count sheets!), and upgraded common areas, including outdoor seating on the lawn overlooking the nearby bay marsh. The furniture is a mix of old and new and — perhaps the biggest change — each room has its own private updated bathroom. (No more putting on a bathrobe to sprint down the hall in the middle of the

night.) Amenities include Apple TV and WiFi, and they plan to have air conditioning in all accommodations before the summer season ends. Some suites offer kitchenettes with small refrigerators.

Accommodation choices include 18 guest rooms and suites in The Captain's House, sporting names like Harbor, Wharf, Sand, and Salt; the Carriage House's one suite and three deluxe rooms, each with its own entrance and outdoor grill; and The Cottage, a five-bedroom, 18th-century gambrel cape house with kitchen, living room, and dining room designed to be shared by one large family or group of friends.

New additions includes a modest "wellness room" with NordicTrack, step climber, hand weights, and hybrid trainer, and a small but stylish retail shop adjacent to the reception desk with snacks, sunscreen, water bottles, toothpaste, basic pharmaceuticals, hats and beach cover ups, as well as jewelry and crafts by local artisans.

A complimentary "enhanced continental breakfast" is offered daily.

"My vision is of a European style hotel breakfast," said Chapman. "We serve one or two special things each day — such as frittatas — plus charcuterie, cheeses, granola, local produce, pastries, and Iggy's breads."

The former Tavern at Duck Creeke has been renamed The Well. Originally, the couple had planned to lease out the space to another vendor before deciding to open it themselves. With its



Left: The Carriage House at the Wagner at Duck Creek. Below: The renovated reception desk and lobby area.



long rectangular bar, and stage for live entertainment, the tavern has in the past been a popular spot of tourists and locals, and its reopening has been greeted with enthusiasm by the community. The kitchen, helmed by Sarah Galdston and Maryann Lucas, offers eclectic and creative pub fare such as spicy barbecue wings, mussels steamed in dark beer, lobster mac and cheese, crab cakes, grilled shrimp burrito, pub burgers, and — what else? — baked Wellfleet oysters.

The owners had to hit the ground running to open this season, and are continually working to update the property. The inn recently hosted an author's meet and greet, and plans to sponsor events year round, including yoga retreats. Chapman and Wagner's future plans include the reopening of Sweet Seasons Restaurant as The Sail Loft, expansion of the wellness room, a full service spa, swimming pool, kayak and canoe rentals, room service, beach transportation, expanded concierge services, and a business center.

The inn expects to stay open year round.

"Our vision is to create jobs and be entrenched in community life. I love it here," said Chapman.

THE WAGNER AT DUCK CREEK 70 Main St., Wellfleet. Seasonal rates from \$110 (winter) and \$160 (summer). 508-349-9333, thewagnerat-duckcreek.com

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Hitting the coastal trails in N.H.

►WALKS
Continued from Page M5

head out to the shore, where a jetty extends into Little Harbor, a fine perch to see a marina and other maritime landmarks.

A short drive away is Portsmouth's **Urban Forestry Center**. Thanks to the bequest from John Elwyn Stone, a direct descendant of New Hampshire's first elected governor, it's possible to walk along the woodlands and salt marsh of Sagamore Creek complete with swaying grasses, islands and a faraway steeple. The center contains the family's historic cape, cottage, displays, classroom, community garden, old cemetery, arboretum, picnic tables, and trails. Maps can be found in mailboxes near the parking areas.

The short Tree Identification Trail near the cottage ambles by numbered stations and showcases beech, hemlock, and white ash.

The faintly white-blazed Goodwin Trail, formerly called the Brooks Trail, provides a number of glances at the large marsh while winding through pines. The way begins rather easily but becomes a more moderate undertaking with several loop options available. Trek over wooden bridges and by stone

walls. A small pond can be found by wandering away from the shores and using trails closer to Elwyn Road.

A few miles away in Newington is an unlikely spot for a peaceful ramble and a pleasant look at the water — the **Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge**.

The refuge was once part of Pease Air Force Base, and that presence is readily seen across from the informational kiosk and rest rooms with a fence around a former weapons storage area. Pease closed in 1991, and a year later the refuge, with two loop trails, was created on a portion of the base.

The easy Upper Peverly Pond Trail is a half-mile wheelchair accessible boardwalk trek through the hardwoods and ferns. The pond is a relaxing place to welcome any refreshing breeze and perhaps get a gander at the comings and goings of winged wildlife.

The two-mile William Furber Ferry Way Trail is a tad more moderate undertaking. It first skirts the fence before delving into the forest. A beaver pond, wooden bridge, shrubby field, and wetlands are reached along the wide, grassy trail. Spend time at the observation deck on the edge of the bay. Peering through the viewing bin-



PHOTOS BY MARTY BASCH

Top: A view in the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Above: a trail in Odiorne Point State Park.

oculars allows for a close look at Great Bay islands, moored boats, passing watercraft, and the University of New Hampshire Jackson Estuarine Laboratory.

If you go ...

Odiorne Point State Park, 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, N.H., nhstateparks.org, 603-227-8722. Adults \$4, children 6-11 \$2 in season. Park unstaffed in the off-season.

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Arboretum Drive, Newington, N.H., fws.gov/refuge/great_bay, 978-465-5753.

Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, N.H., nhdfi.org, 603-431-6774. (cq)

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Rhode Island

SOUTH COUNTY TOURISM COUNCIL

Photo: John Woodmansee

- Sept 2 – 4 Rhythm and Roots Festival
- Sept 3 Lobster Boil and BBQ at The Ocean House
- Sept 10 Endeavor Open House
- Sept 11 Kayaking and Shorebird Birding at Charlestown Breachway
- Sept 16 – 18 Annual Folk Art Quilt Show at South County Museum
- Sept 16 – 18 Misquamicut FallFest Weekend
- Sept 23 Brews and Blues Beer Tasting
- Sept 24 – 25 Harvest Festival at Smith's castle
- Oct 1 Yankee Steam Up
- Oct 1 – 31 RI Lighthouse Cruises
- Oct 7 – 9 11th Annual Cowboy Rendezvous

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