



Clockwise: For luxurious accommodations and pampering, stately Blantyre, once a private home, is the place to be; The Old Mill Restaurant is housed in a former blacksmith shop; The Berkshires have long been a draw for artists and craftspeople.

To spend the weekend as if you were the owner of a baronial mansion with attentive servants, come to **Blantyre**, in Lenox. You know you're in for something special from the moment you start up the private, tree-lined driveway. The *Relais & Chateaux* property, built in 1902, offers acres of woods to explore. Eight rooms on the second floor of the Main House are super spacious with giant bathrooms to boot, lavishly decorated with rich fabrics and antiques, and come with views of giant evergreens; many have working fireplaces. Each of four cottages has a living room, kitchen, a few bedrooms, and an outdoor terrace or patio. The ten-room Carriage House is less formal and lower priced. Downstairs rooms—many with canopy beds—have private patios facing flower gardens; upstairs rooms have balconies. A staff of 70 attends to your every need. You'll be greeted with champagne, cheese, fruit, home baked cookies, and fresh flowers. Bountiful and scrumptious breakfast, in your room or in the sunny conservatory facing the terrace and gardens, is served on homey Irish pottery and is included in the room fee.

Evergreens surround the heated outdoor swimming pool, while the Potting Shed Spa features an indoor whirlpool with plenty of windows to see outside, fitness area, sauna, and steam room, all exclusively for hotel guests. Spa treatments include massage, facials, and body scrubs, \$125–\$200; full or half-day packages include lunch, \$400–\$650. Complimentary activities include croquet and tennis in summer (bring your whites), as well as bocce, shuffleboard, basketball, and, in winter, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and skating. The 18-hole Cranwell Golf Course is nearby. You need never leave the grounds to have a glorious time. Complimentary transportation to and from the airport or Tanglewood can be provided, rooms \$600–\$2,000, 16 Blantyre Rd., Lenox, 413-637-3556, www.blantyre.com.

At the edge of the town of Great Barrington and within walking distance to shops, theater, and restaurants, the Wainwright Inn is imbued with history and charm. Built in 1766, it served as a fort and colonial

armory during the Revolution. The house looks like a wedding cake decorated with baskets of pansies. Its rooms come with antiques, oriental rugs of impeccable style, WiFi... and stories. Thomas Edison spent time in the Edison Room; his partner stayed in the Mr. Pope room (they brought electric lights to Great Barrington). The Carriage House offers bedroom suites and Pullman kitchens. The inn can go 13 days without repeating a breakfast menu. Munch on homemade Irish soda bread, scones, and sticky buns, or dive into crunchy apple or corn fritters. Perfectly poached eggs accompany turkey bacon, cheese, and home fries. Another morning they might offer bacon, onion, and cheese soufflés. This place is hugely popular, so book well ahead. Complimentary airport pickup can be arranged with advance notice, rooms \$139–\$329 (Jun–Oct), \$100–\$225 (Nov–May), 518 S. Main St., 413-528-2062, www.wainwrightinn.com.

Children are welcome at the white clapboard colonial **Windflower Inn**. The 19th-century inn has a swimming pool, spacious rooms (most with fireplaces), and friendly innkeepers. Rooms include bountiful traditional American breakfasts and afternoon tea with fresh cookies, cakes, or pastries. Across the street, the Egremont Golf Club serves lunch 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Innkeeper John Ryan was a pilot himself; the Ryans will pick you up at the airport for free, rooms \$100–\$225, 684 S. Egremont Rd., 413-528-2720 or 800-992-1993, www.windflowerinn.com.

Monument Mountain Motel offers good basic lodging run by friendly, accommodating locals without a chain atmosphere. Play

basketball or horseshoes, or enjoy a dip in the outdoor pool, \$60–\$220, 247 Stockbridge Rd., 413-528-3272 or 888-592-7314, www.monumentmountainmotel.com.

Where to Eat

A meal at **Blantyre** is so outstanding that if you don't have a special occasion, dream one up. The food here is on par with a two- or three-star restaurant in Paris or New York City. Their menu changes regularly. The *amuse-bouche* has many small tastes; it is a walnut scone with fruit chutney, pork head cheese croquette with potato base and *crème fraiche* and dill. It is accompanied by Cristal champagne if you choose the wine pairings for each course. Tuna tartare tastes pure and fresh; adding grapefruit pearl caviar imparts a unique twist. Tender, sweet scallops, slightly caramelized, come with crisp, earthy black truffles and a celery root purée, exquisite with chervil and little cubes of parsnip. Dover sole is subtle, set off by citrus butter. Lamb is meltingly tender, sparked with colorful peppers and onion. Blantyre supports local farms as much as possible. Finish your meal with New England cheeses and a choice of ports. Or



Courtesy Empulse/James Brown