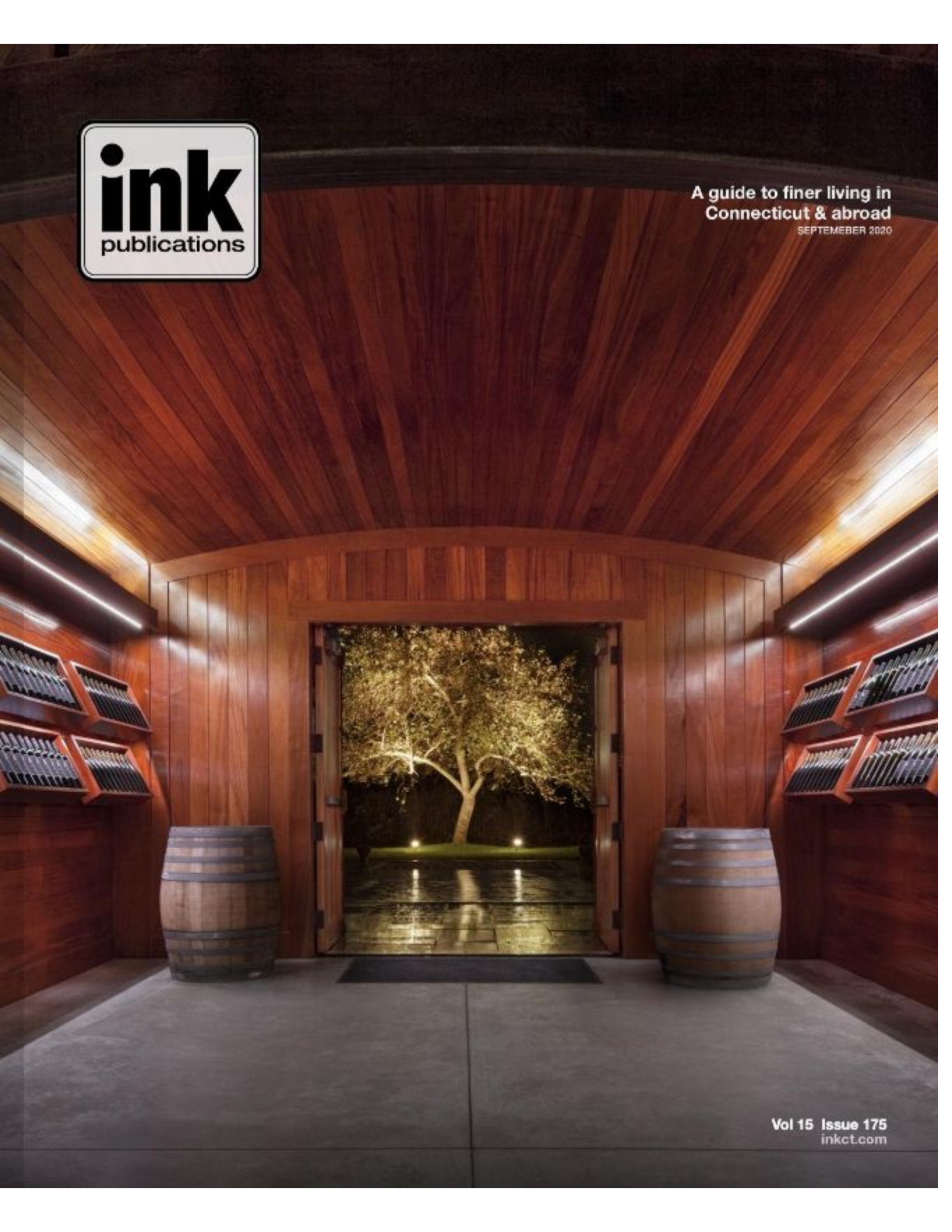




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THE PRESERVE

WHERE THE WILD WEST MEETS THE EAST

Profile and Photos Caryn B. Davis and Courtesy of the Preserve

I don't know why I am being such a sissy when it comes to zip lining. I mean I have parachuted out of an airplane before, and I reckon it can't be as scary as that. I am actually afraid of heights, but I really want to try this. So with some tips and gentle coaxing from my instructor, I jump off the 45-foot tower and find myself delightfully flying through the trees! By the time I reach the end, I am wishing it had been longer.

I am hooked. But there are too many other activities at this four-season adventure resort to try, so I choose not to repeat my performance. Instead, I opt for a round of clay shooting and then target shooting at the longest, underground, automated range in America. I have no idea what I am doing, but with help from experts, I catch on quick and even manage to score a few bullseyes.

I am at The Preserve Sporting Club & Residences at Boulder Hills in Richmond, Rhode Island. It's a 3500-acre preserve specifically designed for outdoor enthusiasts. It was established in 2013 when Rhode Island native and developer, Paul Mihailides, acquired one thousand acres along with a defunct golf course.



His dream was to create a quiet sportsmen's club for a community of like-minded individuals who had a penchant for adventure and a reverence for nature.

"I wanted to create a legacy, a place families could return to for generations," said Mihailides, The Preserve's Chairman.

Having visited nearly every specialty sports club worldwide, Mihailides knew what worked well and what didn't. While many clubs have similar activities such as biking, hiking, canoeing, horseback riding,

fishing, hunting, paddleball, snowmobiling, rock climbing, tennis, pickleball, and a variety of shooting sports, there was no singular facility with it all...until now.

"There are many places that enjoy proximity, but they have shooting down the road or equestrian up the street or biking a few miles away. I put everything under one roof so you never have to leave the compound," said Mihailides.

As interest and membership grew, Mihailides purchased more land and has recently partnered with Ocean House

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Management (OHM), New England's leading luxury hospitality company, located in the nearby seaside village of Watch Hill. They have since added luxury condominiums, townhomes, cozy cabins that are reminiscent of tiny houses, and single-family residences, available for purchase or for overnight or short-term stays.

"One of the things I wanted to help with my legacy was to have a connection to the land and the sea, and the Ocean House has the finest beach in Rhode Island. They had a need to give their guests a broader experience, and we had a need to give our guests the beach," explained Mihailides.

The impetus for this venture started with the development of a nine-treatment room spa, modeled after the Forbes Five-Star Spa at the Ocean House. But as discussions ensued, both parties realized they each had something beneficial to offer the other. The rustic Preserve needed a bit of first-class luxury and service for which the Ocean House is so well known; while the Ocean House wanted to provide their guests with a wider range of activities that could also be enjoyed year-round, long after summer fades to winter.

"They are the best hotel in the region, and we have the nicest sporting club in America. It's the joining of the titans," Mihailides said.



"I believe every hour you spend out in the field you should spend two hours trying to conserve nature for our children, our grandchildren and humanity. Here, we are ecological, responsible, and give back."

"This collaboration affords our hotel guests the opportunity to experience a variety of world-class activities, while we deliver OHM's elevated level of personalized service to The Preserve guests and members, set against a stunning natural backdrop," added Daniel A. Hostettler, President and Group Managing Director of Ocean House Management. Additionally, anyone staying at The Preserve, the Ocean House, or the Weekapaug Inn, (another OHM property), can use the facilities at

all three locations which are in an easy driving distance to one another. This also includes the onsite restaurants, swimming pools and spas, and special events such as the cooking classes, wine tastings, clambakes, and more.

As a builder for over 40 years and a conservationist, Mihailides has taken great care to ensure that the design of the property and dwellings pay homage to the surrounding landscape. Utilizing natural materials and working with local tradesmen, much of what has been cultivated from the land has been put back in. Blasted rock has been repurposed into waterfalls, stonewalls, fireplaces, and decorative elements inside some of the homes. Stacks of wood used to block biodegradable clay traps will become firewood once seasoned. Working in conjunction with the National Forest Foundation and the National Tree Service, ponds were created and lined with white sand to reflect the sky above, and trees have been replanted where they were once cut to make room for the 18-hole, par 3 golf course. Bird, insect, and animal habitats have been re-established and with that, bears, bobcat, rabbits, raccoons, foxes, fisher cats, and reptiles have returned.



There has even been a luna moth sighting! Fields are laden with beans and corn. Bees thrive in hives to produce sweet honey. Maple syrup is harvested from the trees. Eggs from the resident flocks of quail, pheasant and ducks are pickled and sold in jars, along with the rest, at the onsite Sporting Shoppe which also sells hunting and fishing gear and garments, camping equipment, boating accessories, high powered optics and a selection of exquisite, handcrafted rifles.

"I have always been an avid outdoor enthusiast and a hunter and fisher. But I believe every hour you spend out in the field you should spend two hours trying to conserve nature for our children, our grandchildren and humanity," Mihailides said. "Here, we are ecological, responsible, and give back."

Mihailides has also planted literally 100,000 flowers so every two weeks something new is in bloom, and there is color and greenery year round, even in the dead of winter.

"We have 3500 acres but our carbon footprint is small. Everything is in clusters on 20 acres, and most of our land is in conservation," said Mihailides. "It's all about the outdoors and how it ties together. It's all intertwined."

In addition to cornering the market on unsurpassed luxury and service, the Ocean House excels at creating one-of-a-kind experiences for their guests. For example, Mihailides built a hobbit house into a small hillside. This unique space has been re-imagined by Hostettler and turned into a culinary experience. Partnering with a bourbon company, dinner is served on a bourbon barrel table from a bespoke menu that may feature steak or salmon in a bourbon barbecue glaze, for example.

"Each course is paired with bourbons you can taste. But if you prefer wine you can still have the bourbon experience in the food. It's a fun group activity," said Hostettler. After dinner, S'mores can be enjoyed outside by the fire pit with blankets for extra warmth. Another decadent culinary event that is apropos to the environment is eating dinner inside a glamping tent while enjoying cocktails in



another. The tents are set up on a wooden platform in a secluded area of The Preserve, with a treehouse on an adjoining upper deck suitable for overnight stays.

The Preserve is conveniently located between Boston and New York and in proximity to several small and international airports, but it also has a helipad for those with their own wheels.

For more information, log onto www.preservesportingclub.com

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